

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714  
ZOOM**

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Telephone Conference Call

Dial In: 646-558-8656

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May 9, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on May 9, 2023, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

**MAYOR**

Darnell Waites

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by City Attorney Fabre.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to move the resolution authorizing preparation and submittal of an application to the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, and Agency for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for lead service line replacement grant up on the agenda, so that it falls after Recognitions.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 18, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. Recognize Leroy and Delores Brown for a leading a healthy lifestyle exemplified by their bountiful, greenleafy garden (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant recognized Leroy and Delores Brown for leading a healthy lifestyle exemplified by their bountiful, greenleafy garden.

2. Recognize volunteers for their participation in the annual Love the Boot and

Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keepers Initiative to Keep Baker and Louisiana Beautiful campaign (Vincent)  
Council Member Vincent recognized volunteers for their participation in the annual Love the Boot and Councilman Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keepers Initiative to Keep Baker and Louisiana Beautiful campaign.

*Resolution authorizing preparation and submittal of an application to the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, and Agency for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for lead service line replacement grant (Mayor)*

Representatives from NSG Management and Consulting provided an overview of the proposed resolution and explained the importance of the city preparing and submitting an application for the lead service line replacement grant.

Discussion followed.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

Discussion resumed.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adopt the resolution.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Introduce Ordinance 2023-6, an ordinance to designate and declare certain City of Baker assets to be surplus and scrap and for related matters (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the items to be declared surplus was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2023-6.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

2. Discuss possible time limits on council members when speaking under Non-Agenda Items (Young)

Council Member Young initiated discussion regarding placing a time limit of five minutes on council members when speaking under Non-Agenda Items. However, he did recommend allowing more time for comments/discussion should the matter warrant such discourse.

Council Member Vincent stated his main concern is council members having ample time to speak about the issues brought before the council.

Council Member Bryant said she feels that everyone's voice should be heard whether that be council members, those physically present, or those on the conference call. She stated she is not for putting a time limit on anyone.

Council Member Jackson stated the city's charter says council meetings can go up to two hours.

Council Member Young asked that his colleagues be mindful of other's time and consider limiting their comments to those things relevant to city business.

3. Update on quality and fair housing in the City of Baker for all tenants, landlords and homeowners (Bryant)  
Mission Statement
  - A. To provide a healthy lifestyle through community gardens and exercise availability.
  - B. To provide a safe environment through communication with each other & law enforcement – Police and Fire Departments.
  - C. To provide all neighborhoods with a sense of pride & integrity.

Council Member Bryant read the mission statement. She thanked the Browns for their participation tonight, for promoting a healthy lifestyle by having their garden and growing green, leafy vegetables. She said Chief Dunn is in the process of hiring more officers. She also said the Fire Department attended an active shooter seminar recently. Council Member Bryant announced the application process for the program to repair your home has been opened up to all residents of Baker, not just those living in the Leland College area.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Resolution authorizing preparation and submittal of an application to the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, and Agency for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for lead service line replacement grant (Mayor)

This agenda item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. Proclamation declaring May 2023 Lupus Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Mayor said he is working to solve problems in the city, and reminded everyone that they must work together respectfully in their efforts to address the issues brought forward by residents.

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Pamela Turner, 3305 Baker Boulevard, expressed her concerns and frustration regarding activity next door to her commercial property on Baker Boulevard, activity that has been going on and reported since October of 2022. Ms. Turner also stated there are issues regarding servitude and encroachment on the other side of her property that require the city's attention. She said she is a hardworking Black woman and asked the City Council to help her resolve these issues.

Mr. Wackett, 14305 Felicity, expressed his concerns and disappointment regarding the activities and behavior allowed in the City of Baker and the lack of police response to calls made by citizens reporting same.

Vera Daniels, 201 Charles, thanked the Mayor and Public Works Director Timmie Sept for reaching out to her following several rain events to check on the situation after she expressed her concerns regarding flooding in the area.

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, expressed his concerns regarding garbage pick-up in the city, saying the situation, as it exists, is a problem. He also asked if the city has a noise ordinance and if anyone ever writes any tickets, because the current situation is ridiculous and a tremendous problem. Mr. McCastle asked that the Mayor find out what is going on and address the issues, as ultimately, he is responsible for the city.

Sheila Anderson, 4504 Fausse, asked for information regarding the canal that runs behind her property in Meadows of Chaleur subdivision.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to extend the council meeting to 8:15 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent thanked the volunteers who came out on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the city-wide clean-up event. He reported 38 bags of trash and almost 200 pounds of litter was picked up. He suggested contacting Mrs. Ursula Brown, a resident of District 1, for all of your party rental needs. Items such as tables, chairs, tents, and more are available. Council Member Vincent asked Chief Pease about the significance of the different colored tops on the city's fire hydrants. Chief Pease explained the different colors indicate what size wye is connected to the hydrant, thus telling them how many gallons per minute can be utilized at that location.

Council Member Dunn thanked Council Member Vincent for his work on the city-wide clean-up. She also thanked her constituents who came out and participated. She thanked the Mayor for giving Leland College subdivision the first opportunity to participate in the home rehabilitation program. Council Member Dunn provided an overview of the rehabilitation program and its requirements. Applications will be taken in the Municipal Auditorium on May 10, 2023, and May 13, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Council Member Bryant wished all the nurses in the community of Baker Happy Nurses Week. She asked for information regarding rental fees for the auditorium. She also stated she has requested several items and has yet to receive them. She would like a list of all the contracts the city is engaged in, and a list of all the bank accounts the city has as well. She also asked for a list of businesses with an occupational license in the City of Baker. Speaking of economic development, Council Member Bryant said with all of the bicycle lanes to be built in Baker, a bicycle shop would be an ideal addition to the city.

Council Member Young commended his colleagues for keeping their comments under five minutes. He said he is extremely competitive, and he wanted everyone to know District 4 had the most volunteers at the city-wide clean-up, he said they represented.

Council Member Jackson announced Miracle Place Church is having a car and motorcycle show on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 2080 Main Street. The event is open to all, and the registration fee is \$25.00 which includes a t-shirt and dash plaque. For more information contact Dennis at 225-610-8698 or at [bigd10888@gmail.com](mailto:bigd10888@gmail.com). She also announced a community crawfish boil is being held at Miracle Place Church on Sunday, May 28, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., and everyone is invited to attend. Council Member Jackson thanked the Finance and Payroll Departments for honoring her request to have her salary remain the same.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
2. 2235 Chamberlain (Mayor)
3. 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
4. White house next door to 1984 Chamberlain (Mayor)
5. 2845 Groom Road (Mayor)

6. 1637 Robinson Street (Mayor)
7. 12979 Wedgewood (Mayor)
8. 2165 Chamberlain (Mayor)
9. 1752 Clark (Mayor)
10. 1905 Alabama Street (Mayor)
11. 4341 Burgess (Bryant)
12. Chamberlain Avenue at John Marks (Mayor)

**ANNEXATIONS**

**REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

1. Planning and Zoning Commission
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees
5. ABC Board
6. Other Special Committees
  - a. Buffalo Festival
  - b. Prayer Breakfast
  - c. Strategic Planning Committee
  - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement
  - e. Main Street District Committee

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on May 9, 2023.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HILLCREST MEMORIAL GARDENS  
CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
May 9, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on May 9, 2023, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Glenda Bryant  
Rochelle Dunn  
Brenda G. Jackson  
Dr. Charles Vincent  
Darnell Waites  
Robert Young

**CALL TO ORDER** – Commissioner Waites presided.

**DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 18, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS**

1. Monthly Business Report

Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for April 2023.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the sales report submitted for April 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

2. Other Reports

3. Items Requiring Action

**ADJOURN**

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on May 9, 2023.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BAKER CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES SYSTEM  
CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
3325 GROOM ROAD  
BAKER, LA 70714  
May 9, 2023**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for the Baker Consolidated Utilities System, met in regular session on May 9, 2023, with the following members attending:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Glenda Bryant  
Rochelle Dunn  
Brenda G. Jackson  
Dr. Charles Vincent  
Darnell Waites  
Robert Young

**CALL TO ORDER** – Commissioner Waites presided.

**DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 18, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS**

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

**ADJOURN**

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.



**CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on May 9, 2023.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council