

**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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June 13, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 13, 2023, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

ABSENT

Brenda G. Jackson

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Dunn.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

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 May 23, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Bryant to move item “2. Presentation on problem gambling (Dunn)” up on the agenda, so that it follows the disposition of the minutes of the previous meeting.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Vincent to add attorney John Brown to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Vincent to move all six items under Public Meeting up on the agenda, so that it follows Planning and Zoning Matters.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Robert Henson, Louisiana Department of Health, gave a presentation regarding the resources available to individuals with gambling disorders. Mr. Henson stated the Department of Health hopes to raise awareness about treatment options offered free of charge through the state, and that rehabilitation and ongoing support are goals of the department's program. The Louisiana problem gamblers helpline is 1-877-770-STOP.

A question-and-answer period followed Mr. Henson's presentation.

The Baker Rotary Club asked the City Council for their support in having the Baker Workforce Development Center named after Ginger Vann. The Rotary Club asked that the City Council adopt a resolution which would dedicate and name the building for Ms. Vann, in honor of her tireless efforts for and unwavering dedication to the center. Ms. Vann was instrumental in the center's creation, development, and was responsible for its ultimate success. The Baker Rotary Club will place a plaque recognizing Ms. Vann, and her accomplishments, in the lobby of the Baker Workforce Development Center following the adoption of the proposed resolution.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve final plat for Trinity Estates subdivision (Mayor)

The project manager for Trinity Estates provided an overview of the proposed subdivision.

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2023-5
Seam 25, LLC

Location – 248 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Approve Business License Request – 2023-6
Fashion Stop

Location – 14512 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana

This agenda item was tabled, as no representative was present.

4. Approve Business License Request – 2023-7

Adventures Childrens Learning Academy

Location – 3101 Singletary Drive, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2023-7, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/23/2023)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2023-7.

Council Member Bryant asked Finance Director Mary Sue Stages to repeat the statement she made earlier regarding elected officials and raises. She asked that she state for the record that no elected officials would be getting a raise through this year's budget. Finance Director Mary Sue Stages stated that was correct.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2023-8, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/23/2023)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2023-8.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2023-9, an ordinance to adopt the capital budget and capital program of governmental funds City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/23/2023)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2023-9.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Adopt Ordinance 2023-10, an ordinance to adopt the budget of utility fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/23/2023)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2023-10.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

5. Adopt Ordinance 2023-11, an ordinance to adopt the budget of cemetery fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/23/2023)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2023-11.

Council Member Vincent asked Finance Director Mary Sue Stages if they've moved towards a new addition in terms of employees at the cemetery. The Mayor stated there are currently four outdoor employees at the cemetery and one indoor employee.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

6. Adopt Ordinance 2023-12, an ordinance to adopt the budget of sewer revenue fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor) (Introduced 5/23/2023)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2023-12.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 did not read the mission statement. However, she reminded everyone of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including exercise, as well as the importance of communicating with both the police and fire departments. She went on to say that the Rotary Club's presence at tonight's meeting is an example of community pride and integrity.

2. Presentation on problem gambling (Dunn)

This agenda item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring June 2023 Alzheimer's and Brain 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 Bryant to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Proclamation declaring June 2023 Cataract 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 Dunn to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Proclamation declaring June 2023 Juneteenth 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 Dunn to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced the Prayer Breakfast will be held Friday, June 30, 2023, in the Municipal Auditorium. Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome will be the guest speaker. The event begins at 6:30 a.m. and tickets are available for \$6.00.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent asked about the status of the portable building on Plank Road. The Mayor said he plans to work with the City Attorney on a strategy to have the building removed. Council Member Vincent expressed his concerns regarding the bench at the corner of Epperson Street and Groom Road, saying it blocks the view of traffic for those turning onto Groom Road. The Mayor assured him that the bench will be removed.

Council Member Dunn announced that the City of Baker School System and Baker City Council will host a school supply drive for community students. She asked that anyone interested in participating contact her. The event will feature free school supplies, such as clear backpacks, along with hamburgers, hot dogs, snow cones, and various food trucks.

Council Member Vincent stated the school supply drive has his support, as does the event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, as well as the annual back to school give-away he hosts in District 1.

Council Member Bryant reported that the tree at the corner of Jefferson and Alabama has been trimmed down. She asked again that a new "No Dumping" sign be placed at the end of Bodo and Burgess. She also asked that anyone using the gate be sure to close it behind them, in order to deter dumping in the area. Council Member Bryant referenced the LSU Coastal Sustainability Study and the work they did in the city following the flood. She offered the following list as ideas/possibilities for businesses in the City of Baker: Buc-ees, Hi Nabor Supermarket, Ideal Market, Aldi, Checkers, Rally's, Ollie's, Chick-Fil-A, El Pollo Loco, and the Bullfish Bar and Kitchen.

Council Member Young recognized Steve Smith with Republic Services for working with the city and being at the meeting to answer any questions and address any concerns residents may have. Council Member Young said the Mayor was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club meeting today and his presentation and comments were inspiring. He stated he plans to begin actively seeking new businesses for the City of Baker once again and apologized to the Mayor for becoming lax in this endeavor.

The Mayor thanked his staff for their hard work and dedication.

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)

Council Member Bryant asked about the status of this agenda item. The Mayor stated the structure will be demolished, as this property is a safety issue.

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

Council Member Vincent asked about the status of the Blairstown property in Feliciana subdivision. The Mayor said it is an adjudicated property, and as such, the city cannot raze the structure. He stated the city is working with East Baton Rouge Parish in an attempt to improve communication between the entities.

ADJOURN

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

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 June 13, 2023.

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
June 13, 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 June 13, 2023, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

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

ABSENT

Brenda G. Jackson

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 May 23, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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 Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Waites to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

**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 June 13, 2023.

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
June 13, 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 June 13, 2023, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

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

ABSENT

Brenda G. Jackson

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 May 23, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

**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 June 13, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council