

**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 27, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 27, 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 Council Member Vincent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2023.

Council Member Bryant clarified the minutes of the previous meeting by stating it is not the Baker Rotary Club’s intention to have the Baker Workforce Development Center building dedicated to Ginger Vann, they wish to place a plaque of recognition in the building’s lobby.

The vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Dr. Amber Jarrell – Pediatrician (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson recognized Dr. Amber Jarrell, pediatrician, for her many accomplishments, her educational endeavors with local schools and youth, and for the distinct honor of being selected as a “Doctor’s Doctor” inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2023-6

Fashion Stop

Location – 14512 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda items was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Fashion Stop.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Approve Business License Request – 2023-8
Options Galore Store
Location – 13307 Alba Drive, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda items was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Options Galore Store.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Approve Business License Request – 2023-9
KIINGZ Custom Detail & Events
Location – 4038 Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana

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

4. Approve Business License Request – 2023-10
Face Odyssey Esthetics, LLC
Location – 1002 Shilo #A, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda items was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Face Odyssey Esthetics, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of FY2023 audit engagement (Mayor)

Council Member Vincent said it is his understanding that Mr. Akanji is not the CPA as such. The Mayor stated he is not the CPA, but he is working the audit.

Council Member Bryant stated that the name Bruno & Tervalon was purchased, along with the firm, and there is no longer a member of the Bruno family at the firm. She also asked if council members would be able to speak with the person responsible for conducting the audit, as nowhere in the engagement packet was Mr. Akanji listed.

The decision was made to table this agenda item until such time that council members can have their concerns addressed and questions answered.

*Approve Business License Request – 2023-9
KIINGZ Custom Detail & Events
Location – 4038 Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana*
Discussion regarding the agenda items was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for KIINGZ Custom Detail & Events.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. 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 announced Zumba classes are being held at the gym on Alabama Street and that daytime classes have been added as well. Council Member Bryant warned residents that individuals are trying car doors and reminded them to lock their cars and to not leave any valuables inside. She reported that several fire hydrants in District 3 need to have the weeds around them removed. Council Member Bryant said keeping up your yard and other property is a source of pride and integrity in the community. She asked that everyone be mindful of their neighbors and reminded residents that on street parking is prohibited in the City of Baker.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to place a plaque of dedication to Ginger Vann at the Workforce Development Center (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant provided an explanation of the proposed resolution.

Council Member Bryant read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Members Jackson/Vincent 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.

2. Proclamation declaring July 2023 Cord Blood Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent 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.

3. Proclamation declaring July 2023 National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn 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 it is that time of year again, when there is an increase in out of cart trash and brush piles, when the grass is growing and being cut at a pheromonal rate, when ditches need to be cleared and maintained, and trees are being pruned and cut down. He asked that residents do all they can to assist with keeping their neighborhoods and the city clean in the coming months.

The Mayor stated they would be picking up the pace with the removal of junk vehicles throughout the city.

The Mayor asked everyone to get involved, volunteer, and commit to working together to build a stronger community.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Anderson, 4504 Fausse, expressed her concerns to Council Member Jackson regarding the representation being provided to the residents of District 5.

Morris Anderson, 4506 Fausse, initiated discussion by asking who is responsible for maintaining the ditches if it's not the city's responsibility. Mr. Anderson expressed his concerns regarding grass cutting, ditch maintenance and the removal of debris once a tree has been pruned or cut down.

Council Member Vincent asked about the status of Millennial Park subdivision. The Mayor stated the city is waiting on submission of necessary paperwork. Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor for having the snowball stand, the abandoned building, on Plank Road removed. He asked about the status of the property on Blairstown as well. The Mayor said the property is adjudicated and cannot be torn down. Council Member Vincent asked the Mayor to look into the house right off Alabama Street with the blue tarp on the roof, as residents have expressed concerns.

Council Member Dunn said she is asking all local businesses to participate in and support the 2023 back to school event being hosted by Community Partners, the City of Baker, the City of Baker School System and Baker City Council members Dunn, Vincent and Young. The event will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, from Noon until 4:00 p.m. at the City of Baker School System office located at 14750 Plank Road. Council Member Dunn asked that the community come out and support the children.

Council Member Vincent stated his annual District 1 back to school giveaway is on Saturday, July 22, 2023. However, he wanted Council Member Dunn to know he will make a donation to the event being held on July 29th, as will the Baker Lions Club.

Council Member Bryant congratulated Walmart on the state of the store during her last visit, saying the floors were clean and the aisles free from boxes. She said raising standards affects the prosperity of the community. She encouraged everyone to strive to embrace a healthy lifestyle and advocated for having a hospital located in the City of Baker. She said there is a need for more minority doctors to service minority communities. New Beginning Baptist Fellowship Church had a health fair last Saturday and attendance was low. She said the city has to do better with letting citizens know what is available to them. Council Member Bryant reported the Debra Street well and surrounding area is a mess and asked that the situation be addressed immediately. She asked that the city do everything it can and work with the developers of Millennial Park subdivision to see the project completed.

Discussion regarding Millennial Park subdivision was held.

Council Member Young continued the Millennial Park subdivision discussion by stating he has not seen a swale at Millennial Park subdivision and the ditches at this site are not deep enough. He commended the Public Works Department for their hard work in

District 4 and expressed his sincere appreciation for all they do. He thanked the fire and police departments for all they did on Saturday when the tree was blown over on Alabama Street. Council Member Young reminded everyone he still holds the record for the largest back to school event held in Baker.

Council Member Jackson thanked the parents of Dr. Amber Jarrell for the outstanding job they did raising their daughter. She said it was a privilege and an honor to learn about Dr. Jarrell. Council Member Jackson closed with the following quote, "Letting people be wrong about you or a situation while keeping your peace and focus is the most misunderstood power move you will ever make."

Council Member Bryant asked if it is necessary to own a home in the City of Baker in order to serve on the Baker City Council.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of the auditor situation as it relates to Mr. Akanji. She said Mr. Akanji is working as a consulting partner on the audit.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to untable agenda item 1. Approval of FY 2023 audit engagement (Mayor) under New Business and approve FY 2023 audit engagement.

YEAS: Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Bryant

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint Mr. Morris Anderson to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the appointment of Mr. Morris Anderson to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Appoint Mr. Sailor Jackson to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board (Jackson)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the appointment of Mr. Sailor Jackson to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

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 Bryant asked if there was a report on economic development tonight.

The Mayor stated there was no report.

ADJOURN

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with 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 Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on June 27, 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 27, 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 27, 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 Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 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 Jackson to adjourn.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**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 27, 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 27, 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 27, 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 to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2023.

Commissioner Vincent stated there was a report from Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Bryant/Vincent to go back and open Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Council Member Dunn stated they also needed to go back and recognize Council Member Young as the new President of the Council beginning July 1, 2023.

Cemeterian Niketa King submitted a monthly sales report for May 2023

The motion was made by Commissioner Vincent to accept the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens sales report submitted for May 2023.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

The Mayor called to order the City Council meeting of the City of Baker.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add recognize Council Member Young as the new President of the Council beginning July 1, 2023, to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to recognize Council Member Dunn as the new Vice-President of the Council beginning July 1, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adjourn the City Council meeting of the City of Baker.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The Board of Commissioners returned to the Baker Consolidated Utilities meeting.

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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to adjourn.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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 27, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council