

**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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July 11, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on July 11, 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 Bishop Michael Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 27, 2023.

Council Member Bryant stated a word was used at the last council meeting that she found offensive, a curse word, and said its use was inappropriate. She asked that her colleagues remember these are business meetings and asked that everyone conduct themselves properly in a courteous and professional manner.

Council Member Bryant's motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 27, 2023, was seconded by Council Member Vincent.

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 Bishop Michael Smith for being elevated to the position of Apostle (Mayor)

The Mayor recognized Bishop Michael Smith for being elevated to the position of Apostle.

2. Recognize Desiree Collins for her work with GBR Interact Club (Mayor)

The Mayor recognized Desiree Collins and Gerald Collins, Jr. for their outstanding dedication, valuable contributions, and commitment to volunteering their time to the

GBR Interact Club.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve travel for Chief Carl Dunn to attend the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Marksville, Louisiana, July 24-27, 2023 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Bryant to approve travel for Chief Carl Dunn to attend the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Marksville, Louisiana, July 24-27, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent indicated he would like more time to review and process the proposed ordinances before taking action. It was decided that the ordinances would be tabled until the council has had adequate time to properly review the items.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to table agenda items 2. – 7. under New Business.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2023-13, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact, Part I Chapter 22–6 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

This agenda item was tabled.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2023-14, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact, Part I Chapter 22–9 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

This agenda item was tabled.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2023-15, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact, Part I Chapter 22–10 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

This agenda item was tabled.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2023-16, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact, Part I Chapter 22–11 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

This agenda item was tabled.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2023-17, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact, Part I Chapter 22–14 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

This agenda item was tabled.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2023-18, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact, Part I Chapter 22–15 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

This agenda item was tabled.

8. 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. Council Member Bryant stated she wanted a demonstration done by the Fire Department on how to properly use a fire extinguisher, as this is the time of year when there are lots of barbeques and people using grills. And most people do not know how to properly use their fire extinguishers. Council Member Bryant said it is her understanding the Fire Department was unable to get permission to conduct the demonstration at tonight's meeting. She stressed the importance of educating the community on safety matters and said the demonstration will be scheduled in the near future.

9. Schedule a work session (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said the city does not have an ordinance regulating Airbnb. She said this is important because these establishments will contribute to the city's tax base and enrich the community. She asked that a work session be scheduled to discuss Airbnb in the City of Baker.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to schedule a work session to discuss Airbnb in the City of Baker on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to adopt the FY2023 Compliance Questionnaire (Mayor)

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of the compliance questionnaire, a document completed yearly by the city as required by state law.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt the resolution.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Bryant, Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

2. Proclamation declaring June 23rd Dexter Dennis Day in the City of Baker (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young 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 Juvenile Arthritis 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.

4. Proclamation declaring July 28, 2023, World Hepatitis Day 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 announced that intake for the home rehabilitation program will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, from Noon to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

The Mayor asked that everyone support the many back-to-school giveaways being held in our community in the coming weeks.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Leon Spears, certified professional trainer, stated he is working with Perone McCastle and his PONY organization to bring resources and training to area youth. He said they plan to provide AED training, Stop the Bleed program, Narcan training, fentanyl test strips, STD education, intervention and treatment, and assistance with dealing with bullying. Mr. Spears stated they also plan to have social workers available to talk to students about problems they may be having. They also plan to teach students about imaging and conducting yourself properly and appropriately. Mr. Spears said by making these programs available to students, the community is empowering them and providing much needed support.

Perone McCastle announced the cost for CPR certification is \$50.00 and he asked each council member to support the child of their choice by paying this fee.

Morris Anderson, 4506 Fausse, provided suggestions for changes to be made to the subdivision ordinances. He advocated for green spaces, trees being planted in common areas and doing anything and everything that can be done to save the Earth.

Council Member Vincent expressed his concerns regarding the city's infrastructure, more especially the electrical infrastructure, such as transformers. He asked if the broadband lines had been run across Lavey Lane. The Mayor said he would set up a meeting with Entergy to discuss Council Member Vincent's concerns and that he would contact AT&T about the status of the broadband lines. Council Member Vincent also asked about the possibility of having council meetings available via ZOOM, as several of his constituents have expressed an interest. The Mayor said the city is working towards having the necessary equipment installed to host ZOOM meetings. Council Member Vincent asked that signage be placed on Lavey Lane advising drivers to be aware of pedestrians walking alongside the road. Council Member Vincent paraphrased the Bible saying – "To whom much is given, much is expected and required." He used this premise when establishing the Mwalimu Institute, an organization focused on community charitable and educational work, in 2000. He announced his Mwalimu Institute, in conjunction with Entergy, is implementing a city-wide program to provide visible municipal house numbers for Baker residents. One of countless programs implemented by the Mwalimu Institute over the years to help the citizens of Baker.

Council Member Dunn expressed her condolences to Council Member Young for the loss of his mother. She said he was a good son who always took care of his mother. Council

Member Dunn said she continuously strives to give back to, uplift and support the community. She announced the back-to-school event being hosted by the City of Baker School Board and Baker City Council members Dunn, Vincent and Young 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 Dunn said she plans to participate in Dr. Vincent's program and will submit a list of residences in her district in need of visible house numbers. She thanked her advisory committee for helping procure donations for the back-to-school event. She asked that anyone donating backpacks for the event purchase clear backpacks, as that is what is required by the schools. Council Member Dunn thanked the Mayor for continuing to work on the baseball field on N. Magnolia.

Council Member Bryant reminded everyone it is hurricane season and to take necessary precautions to protect themselves and their property. She suggested that the signs to be placed on Lavey Lane warn walkers to be careful. Council Member Bryant asked about the possibility of a food giveaway for the citizens of Baker. The Mayor said they have been unable to get the food. She read a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "We need leaders not in love with money, but in love with justice, not in love with publicity, but in love with humanity." Council Member Bryant shared her yearly Bible verse taken from the book of Luke, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Council Member Young announced Kay's Alterations on Main Street has closed. He shared the details of his mother's homegoing celebration – Saturday, July 15, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Faith, Hope & Love Worship Center located at 4055 Choctaw Drive in Baton Rouge. He thanked everyone for their encouragement and support and asked for continued prayer for him and his family.

Council Member Jackson expressed her condolences to Council Member Young for the loss of his mother. She expressed her concerns regarding the seemingly dead tree at Sandra and Coolidge and suggested that the city may want to have the tree removed as it poses a safety hazard. She assured Council Member Vincent that she would post the flyer regarding his house number project tonight.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

The Mayor stated that the house located at 4341 Burgess is a hazard and poses a threat to community safety. He asked that the council approve the demolition of the structure located at this address.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to demolish the structure at 4341 Burgess.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 bench at the corner of Epperson Street and Groom Road. The Mayor said the owner is currently out of the country, but every effort is being made to have the bench removed as quickly as possible.

Council Member Young repeated the name and address of the church where his mother's homegoing celebration will be held. Faith, Hope & Love Worship Center located at 4055 Choctaw Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent 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 July 11, 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
July 11, 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 July 11, 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 June 27, 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 June 2023.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to accept the sales report submitted for June 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 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 July 11, 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
July 11, 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 July 11, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 27, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on July 11, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council