

**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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**August 8, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on August 8, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Robert Young.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add recognition of Dexter Dennis 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 Bryant/Dunn/Vincent to allow State Representative Roy Daryl Adams – District 62 – to speak.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**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 July 25, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. Recognize the Baker High School football team and coaches for their participation in and support of the back-to-school event (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn asked that this agenda item be tabled, as no representative from the Baker High School football team was present.

*Recognition of Dexter Dennis*

The Mayor and City Council recognized Dexter Dennis, who recently signed with the Dallas Mavericks, for being an inspiration to the youth in our community as well as an outstanding representative of the City of Baker. Mr. Dennis was presented with the proclamation declaring June 23<sup>rd</sup> Dexter Dennis Day in the City of Baker which was accepted at the council meeting on July 11, 2023.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to move item “1. BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson to provide an update on Parks and Recreation (Mayor)” up on the agenda, so that it follows recognitions.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Jackson

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

State Representative Roy Daryl Adams – District 62 – introduced himself and provided an overview of his qualifications and platform.

*BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson to provide an update on Parks and Recreation (Mayor)*

BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson read and explained the importance of the organization’s mission and its daily impact on every aspect of what they do. Mr. Wilson provided an update on parks and recreation throughout East Baton Rouge Parish and specifically what has been accomplished in the Baker area. He also provided an overview of BREC’s plans for the future, and the possibilities of what proposed development and growth might look like for the Baker community.

Discussion regarding Mr. Wilson’s presentation was held.

Council Member Jackson arrived.

*Recognize the Baker High School football team and coaches for their participation in and support of the back-to-school event (Dunn)*

Council Member Dunn recognized the Baker High School football team and coaches for their participation in and support of the back-to-school event.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. **Rezoning Request:** Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana  
**Owner:** Dave V. Mays  
**Name of Applicant:** Dave V. Mays  
2545 Groom Road  
Baker, Louisiana 70714

**Lot:** X-1

**Subdivision:** Landry Place

**Property Zoned:** R-2

**Requested Zoning:** C-2

**Proposed Use:** Multi-Purpose Building

The Mayor stated signs were posted on the property as required by ordinance, and a favorable recommendation was forwarded to the City Council by the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding Mr. Mays’ rezoning request.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Bryant to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve

the rezoning request for Dave V. Mays.

Council Member Vincent asked to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to allow Council Member Vincent to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Vincent abstained from voting on this agenda item.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson asked to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson abstained from voting on this agenda item.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson to provide an update on Parks and Recreation (Mayor)

This agenda item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

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 gardening activities will resume as soon as the weather gets cooler. She stated LaTonya Rounds continues to hold Zumba classes at the gym on Alabama Street. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone of the statewide burn ban. She stated the police department has increased patrols at night. Council Member Bryant asked that everyone continue to maintain their property and remove any inoperable vehicles from their residence.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT: Councilman Charles Vincent's Mwalimu Institute project – "Help us find your house with visible municipal numbers" (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent reminded everyone that his Mwalimu Institute, in conjunction with Entergy, is implementing a city-wide program to provide visible municipal house numbers for Baker residents. He thanked the fire and police departments for their continued assistance with and support of this project. Residents can contact City Hall, their city council representative, the fire department, or police department to participate in this program. Council Member Vincent encouraged all who are in need of visible house numbers, especially the disabled and elderly, to take advantage of this program.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT: Councilman Charles Vincent's Mwalimu Institute project – Health screening at the Baker Branch Library on Friday, September 8, 2023, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. with the Southern University School of Nursing Jag Mobile – Please come out for free screenings (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent announced another of his Mwalimu Institute's projects. Free health screenings will be offered at the Baker Branch Library on Friday, September 8, 2023, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. with the Southern University School of Nursing Jag Mobile. Some of the screenings being offered are for BMI, cholesterol, and glucose levels. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation will also be on site offering free HIV screenings and other tests as well. Council Member Vincent assured everyone the facilities can accommodate their needs and their privacy will be respected. He encouraged everyone to come out and take advantage of this free public health screening.

### RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring August 2023 Children's Eye Health and Safety 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.

2. Proclamation declaring August 2023 National Breastfeeding 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, 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 a statewide burn ban has been issued.

The Mayor stated the city has applied for the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration grant. The grant is to be used to repair, rehabilitate, or replace the city's natural gas pipeline distribution system.

The Mayor distributed and went over a handout which highlighted various happenings in the city over the last seven months, as well as provided an overview of the city's strategic plan.

#### NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ron LeBouef, Precision Concrete Cutting, explained that they repair trip hazards on sidewalks and walkways. Mr. LeBouef stated they are ready to work with the city should their services be required.

Council Member Vincent distributed flyers for his Mwalimu Institute's program to provide visible house numbers for Baker residents. He expressed his concerns regarding the city recently cutting dental insurance for retirees over the age of 65. He asked that the Mayor and his staff research options that would allow these retirees to keep their dental coverage. Council Member Vincent referenced recent remarks made on Facebook

regarding a city-parish ditch located in District 1. He said every ditch in Baker is not the City of Baker's responsibility. He asked that residents refrain from making blanket statements without full knowledge of the situation, and that they research any topic on which they plan to comment.

Council Member Dunn thanked those who worked to make the back-to-school event a success: her church, Allstate, Mr. Leonard Benjamin, the Mayor, Chevron, Davis, Ms. Vera Daniels, the Baker Rotary Club, Council Member Vincent, Council Member Robert Young, Baker school board members Alteen Profit, Monique Butler and Joyce Burges, Sneaux Season, Lynette Mack, Mr. Ronald, Ms. Rachel, the Baker High School football team, and the Baker Lions Club. Council Member Dunn reminded her colleagues that everyone was invited to participate in the back-to-school event. She said the focus must be on our children and the community, as these are the things that are important. Council Member Dunn said city leaders must learn to work together. She said she had a great time at the LMA conference, and that it was a wonderful event.

Council Member Bryant thanked the LMA for the conference, saying it was very informative. She asked for an explanation of what happened when the Debra Street well went down. The Mayor stated a tree fell on a line and had to be removed. Council Member Bryant expressed her concerns regarding the safety and source of water for residents in these situations, saying brown water could be cause for concern. She asked that in the future, citizens be notified that a well is down so that they can make an informed decision about whether to use the water at that time. Council Member Bryant asked that the area around the Debra Street well be cleaned up. She also stated the Debra Street well used to be flushed every Monday morning and wonders why this is no longer the case. Council Member Bryant asked that the sewer lines in District 3 be marked to make maintenance and repair easier for residents. She announced a pipeline class is being held August 23<sup>rd</sup> and recommended that council members attend. Council Member Bryant also asked that the Mayor and his staff research options that would allow retirees to keep their dental coverage. She asked again that the vacant lot on Wimbish be cut, as it has been reported several times. Council Member Bryant asked City Attorney Fabre for an update on any pending lawsuits. He stated he was not prepared to give any updates on litigation, but there are cases currently pending in federal court.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Bryant reminded everyone a work session to discuss Airbnb is scheduled for Thursday, August 31, 2023, and stated council members will receive information regarding this subject prior to the work session.

Council Member Young stated Pastor Sharon Marshall asked to be placed on the next agenda to discuss various pastors doing the invocation at city council meetings. He also suggested the council consider having a student lead the pledge of allegiance at council meetings as a way of engaging young people in local government. Council Member Young said he realized at the LMA conference that cities all over the state are looking at Baker, that we are on the map. He commended the Mayor for a job well done. Council Member Young said city leaders must work together if the city is to move forward, and that everyone must have goals and a vision.

Council Member Jackson assured the residents in Parc Chaleur that the street light outage in their neighborhood has been reported and a work order for repair has been issued. She thanked everyone for coming out and wished them safe travels.

Council Member Bryant announced she will have an event for the children in the City of Baker at the end of September.

Council Member Vincent stated he did not attend the LMA conference because he had a family emergency, but Council Member Bryant brought him a bag back from the event.

Council Member Jackson asked for an update on the work being done at the corner of Chaleur and Rue Splendeur. As there was no representative from Public Works present, Council Member Jackson said she would call their office tomorrow.

**BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**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

**ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn 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 August 8, 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  
August 8, 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 August 8, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 25, 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 July 2023.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Bryant/Dunn/Vincent to accept the sales report submitted for July 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.

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 August 8, 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  
August 8, 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 August 8, 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 Jackson/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 25, 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 August 8, 2023.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council