

**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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October 10, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 10, 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 Dunn.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 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 Willie Brooks for his professional and personal accomplishments (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson recognized Willie Brooks for his professional and personal accomplishments. Mr. Brooks is the 2023 Louisiana DARE Officer of the Year and the first instructor for the Governor's Office Human Trafficking Prevention program.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. City of Baker Gas System Public Awareness Notice (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that council members concur with the notice that has been prepared so that it can be distributed to the public.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to concur with the City of Baker Gas System Public Awareness Notice so that it can be distributed to the public.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Stormwater presentation – Public Works Department (Mayor)

The Mayor asked that council members accept the information included in the stormwater presentation so that it can be distributed to the public.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the information included in the stormwater presentation so that it can be distributed to the public.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 said community gardens are a way of increasing good health in the community and it is important that children are taught the benefits of healthy eating. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and advocated for healthy eating along with regular exercise. She asked that the community continue to pray for our police and fire departments. Council Member Bryant reiterated that caring for your yard and maintaining your property enhances the sense of pride and integrity in the community.

4. Update on work session regarding Airbnb ordinance (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant provided an overview of the work session held on October 4, 2023, to discuss Airbnb in the City of Baker. She stated she hopes this will be something the city will profit from and that it will increase our economic value.

Discussion regarding Airbnb in the City of Baker was held.

Council Member Bryant reiterated that the city's goal should be to regulate Airbnb in the city, licensing those engaged in the enterprise and thereby facilitating the collection of taxes as a result.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring October 2023 Bullying Prevention Month in the City of Baker (Mayor) (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.

2. Proclamation declaring October 2023 Health Literacy Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stressed the importance of health literacy and its effect on a person's lifestyle and wellbeing.

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 provided an overview of resolutions regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program that will be addressed at the next council meeting. He asked that council members familiarize themselves with the material they've been given, so that the appropriate action can be taken. He stated the grant they are seeking would be used for improvements to the city's infrastructure.

Council Member Vincent asked that minority representation be present with regards to contracts awarded by the City of Baker and that the city always be aware of the availability of minority businesses and firms. He stated this is an issue he has championed since his first term as a council member.

The Mayor said City of Baker cemetarian Niketa King passed away this morning and asked that everyone pray for her family.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, said she will be delivering the Purple Box Project box to City Hall very soon. She also stated she would like to be a part of the upcoming discussions regarding Airbnb in the community.

Denise Stevenson, 717 Sherron, expressed her opinions regarding Airbnb and food trucks in the City of Baker.

Council Member Vincent announced October is National Archives Month and invited everyone to attend the open house being held at the Louisiana State Archives on October 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. on Essen Lane. He asked if Mr. Wackett's concerns regarding recycling pickup in Feliciana subdivision had been addressed. He also asked about the status of the Church's Chicken building on Main Street. The Mayor stated the issue is being addressed. Council Member Vincent asked that the shrubbery at the Greenwood Shopping Center be addressed as well. He asked that everyone join the Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative and pick up trash in and around their neighborhoods every third Saturday, or more often if possible. He stated the visible house number project is still going on. He stated he was alarmed about the used car sign he saw on Groom Road in front of the car detailing establishment near Buffalo Food Mart. The Mayor stated the situation has been addressed.

Council Member Dunn congratulated Misty Anderson, Public Works Department, on her recent promotion. She asked if the city plans to host any vaccination events and the Mayor said one will be held in conjunction with the Christmas parade and vaccines will be offered when SALT has their annual event later this year. Council Member Dunn thanked her mentee for giving her the opportunity to be involved in his life and reiterated the importance of mentorship in young people's lives.

Council Member Bryant asked about plans for the city's museum. The Mayor stated work is currently being done at the site. She reported Buc-ee's announced the opening of ten new locations in Louisiana and said again she feels the corner of Groom Road and Highway 19 would be an ideal spot for a Buc-ee's. Council Member Bryant said Airbnb is one way to combat blight in the community. She said she has noticed many garbage cans being left out on the curb, mainly in apartment complexes. She recommended management at these locations charge residents who do not bring their cans in as a

possible solution to the problem. She asked the Mayor when in 2024 Republic Services' contract would be renewed. He replied he is unsure. Council Member Bryant stated she feels the city should consider other options with regards to garbage removal. She announced the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum opened last weekend in New Orleans and it is truly incredible. She said we must know our history in order to stand together in love and move forward. She also thanked the police department for the work they did this weekend.

Council Member Young recommended research be done before the city considers replacing Republic Services, as communities all over the state are experiencing similar issues. One of the biggest issues facing companies across the state is maintaining an adequate workforce. Council Member Young reported he was recently attacked by a pitbull and was not pleased with the response from Animal Control. He said he has pulled the city's ordinance regarding dogs, and he would like to see changes in enforcement. He asked that further research and discussion about viable options be conducted. He encouraged everyone interested in bike riding to pursue this worthwhile activity. Council Member Young congratulated Council Member Dunn on her daughter's success, she recently passed the bar exam on her first try.

Council Member Jackson stated the council meeting has been very moving. She thanked BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson for the meeting that was held on October 6, 2023, saying it offered invaluable networking opportunities. Council Member Jackson said she is grateful to be able to listen to fresh ideas, she hopes it comes to fruition, and she is looking forward to the work session and the public input on Airbnb in the City of Baker, as she feels this is something that could benefit the city.

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

Council Member Vincent reminded everyone of the second annual Magnolia Masquerade "Sneaker Ball" Charity Event and Fundraiser being held Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 8:00 p.m. to Midnight in the Municipal Auditorium.

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 October 10, 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
October 10, 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 October 10, 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 September 26, 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

Kierra Winfield submitted a monthly sales report for September 2023.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the monthly sales report for September 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 October 10, 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
October 10, 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 October 10, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 26, 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 Commissioners Dunn/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 October 10, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council