

**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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September 26, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 26, 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 Dunn.

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

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2023-12
Serendipity Oasis Academy for Rising Stars, LLC
Location – 14020 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Serendipity Oasis Academy for Rising Stars, LLC.

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 – 2023-13

Social Co-Lab

Location – 3310 Baker Boulevard, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item 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 Social Co-Lab.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Schedule second work session to discuss ordinance for Airbnb in the City of Baker (Bryant)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to schedule a work session on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss ordinance for Airbnb in 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.

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 stated the city will have a community garden in the future. Council Member Bryant announced that in addition to the Zumba classes held at the gym on Alabama Street, fitness classes are also being held in the strip mall on Plank Road. Council Member Bryant asked that a prayer go out for the fireman fighting the wildfires, that they be protected from harm and remain strong. She thanked the residents of District 3 for keeping their yards mowed and picking up the trash.

3. Discuss the Purple Box Project (Jackson)

As October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Council Member Jackson introduced Dr. Toni Jackson and asked that she provide an overview of the Purple Box Project. The Purple Box Project focuses on gathering and distributing essentials for/to survivors of domestic violence and their children. Many survivors need our help in rebuilding their lives and caring for their children. To participate you need only drop your donation in any of the purple boxes located throughout the city. The organization is asking everyone to join their efforts, and participate in providing essentials for these mothers and their precious babies. For more information on how you can help, please go to @Asha1132 on Facebook, email asha1132oes@gmail.com, or call 225-681-3969.

4. 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 WAFB for their recent coverage of the initiative and assisting with getting the information out to those in need. 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.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring October 2023 Breast Cancer 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, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation declaring October 2023 Liver Cancer 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, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2023-20, an ordinance to fix the rate of taxation and levy a tax to defray expense or operation of city government for all general purposes for the year 2023 on all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 9/12/2023)

The Mayor provided an explanation of the proposed ordinance.

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2023-20.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Kenneth Wackett, 14305 Felicity Drive, stated recycling has not been picked up in Felician subdivision for a month. He asked what day recycling is supposed to be picked up in his neighborhood. The Mayor said recycling should be picked up on Friday. He did, however, say that Republic was having some issues. Mr. Wackett expressed his concerns regarding the trash behind Dollar General and asked who he needs to contact to have the situation addressed. The Mayor assured Mr. Wackett he would have someone there tomorrow.

Morris Anderson, 4506 Fausse, read a statement expressing his opinion of behavior exhibited at the council meeting held on September 12, 2023. In his opinion, certain council members were unprofessional and an embarrassment to the city. He feels that business and industry are not attracted to the City of Baker because of disorganization and confusion on the council.

Sheila Anderson stated her opinion regarding the representation of District 5 on the Baker City Council.

Council Member Vincent stated he will address Mr. Wackett's concerns as soon as he

returns. He thanked Council Member Jackson for attending the health screening he held several weeks ago and for placing the announcement for the event on Facebook which helped to reach more participants. He thanked all his colleagues for their continued support of his initiatives and programs. 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 thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for fixing the water leak at the corner of Alba and Anton. Council Member Vincent thanked Big Boy Food Mart for cutting their grass and picking up trash in the area. He also stated he is grateful for the work being done by Walmart to enhance the store inside and out. Council Member Vincent reiterated that he consistently does all he can, whether it be picking up trash himself or encouraging businesses to maintain their property, to keep Baker beautiful.

Council Member Dunn apologized to anyone she may have offended. However, she said she will continue to voice her opinions and she will speak when it's her turn to speak. She said it is never her intention to disrespect anyone or the City of Baker and reviewed some of the duties incumbent on members of the Baker City Council. Council Member Dunn said council members have got to learn to work together, they must come together in unity to move the City of Baker forward.

Council Member Bryant stated she considers herself a lady, but she has the right to speak, and she will. She said Mr. Edwards, 4504 Greenwood Lane, has been waiting for assistance with a sewer issue for nine months and at this point he feels as if the city has abandoned him. She said they attended a ribbon cutting at the Executive Suites hotel on Highway 19 and the owner asked that business be sent his way. She reiterated economic development is paramount to growth in the City of Baker. Council Member Bryant said there is a tremendous amount of bullying and disrespect that goes on at council meetings and it's not pretty. She said she has never been a part of anything like it, but she has a first amendment right to defend herself.

Council Member Young thanked the Public Works Department for the job they're doing fixing water leaks that have been reported and asked that residents continue to report any water leaks they see. He announced Rilei Douglas was voted Miss Baker Heights Elementary School and asked that everyone give her a big round of applause.

Council Member Jackson invited everyone to Barbara's Block Party for District 63 on Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Scotlandville Plaza. Council Member Jackson said she believes no matter what a person has to say, they are entitled to say it, she was raised that way and will continue to live by that. She said she feels that sometimes saying nothing is the best course of action and before you argue with someone, ask yourself is that person even mentally mature enough to grasp the concept of a different perspective, because if not, there is absolutely no point.

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 Jackson, seconded by Council Member 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 Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on September 26, 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
September 26, 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 September 26, 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 September 12, 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/Vincent 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 September 26, 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
September 26, 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 September 26, 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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 12, 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

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted a utility fund report – one month ended July 31, 2023.

The motion was made by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the utility fund report – one month ended July 31, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on September 26, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council