

**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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Dial In: 646-558-8656

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November 14, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 14, 2023, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

ABSENT

Mayor Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Baker City Council President Robert Young presided.

The invocation was given by Apostle Eric Williams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. James T. Stroder.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add James T. Stroder, Superintendent of the City of Baker School System, to the agenda, so that he is first under Recognitions.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

James T. Stroder – Superintendent of the City of Baker School System

Mr. Stroder stated the Louisiana Department of Education released the 2023 performance scores for the state's public schools and provided an overview of the accomplishments made by the City of Baker School System since last year's report was released. He reported that the City of Baker School System has moved from an F grade to a D, evidence of the hard work and dedication of the administration, teachers, and staff. Mr. Stroder said the implementation of planned changes and improvements will allow the system to continue making great strides toward academic excellence.

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Approve Business License Request – 2023-14
CenterWell Senior Primary Care (LA), P.C.
Location – 6404 Groom Road, Suite D, Baker, Louisiana
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for CenterWell Senior Primary Care (LA), P.C.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Approve Business License Request – 2023-15
E & M Transport, LLC
Location – 3228 Jefferson Street, Baker, Louisiana
Mr. McIntyre, E & M Transport, LLC, was present.

However, Mr. Willie Williams, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, stated that the matter was not heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their meeting on November 9, 2023. He stated Mr. McIntyre arrived after the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Williams explained that Mr. McIntyre arrived late because he received a notification saying he should be at the meeting at 6:00 p.m., not the regularly scheduled 5:00 p.m.

Discussion regarding the confusion surrounding this request was held. Ultimately, the decision was made to table this agenda item until the matter has gone before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to table this agenda item until such time as the request has been heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission and a recommendation has been forwarded to the City Council.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Approve final plat for Millennial Park subdivision
No representative for Millennial Park subdivision was present.

Planning and Zoning Commission member Morgan Watson, an engineer with 55 years of experience, stated he became involved with the Millennial Park subdivision project after the Mayor asked that he look into what the problems were and why construction was halted for such an extended period of time. He said he looked at the project from a purely engineering and technical standpoint and submitted his findings. Mr. Watson stated this matter came before the Planning and Zoning Commission and a favorable recommendation was forwarded to the City Council.

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the final plat for Millennial Park subdivision.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 thanked LaTonya Rounds, two of her colleagues, and Dr. Cordel Parris for hosting a mini health fair and bootcamp in conjunction with the Elvin Howard, Sr., Pancreatic Cancer Advocacy Foundation 5K run/1 mile walk.

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

Council Member Bryant provided an overview of the work session held on November 9, 2023, to discuss Airbnb in the City of Baker. She said Herb Gomez, Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors, attended the work session and committed to working with the City of Baker to create an ordinance regarding Airbnb. Council Member Bryant 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.

3. Consideration and approval to change the City Council meeting scheduled for December 26, 2023, to December 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. (Jackson)

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Dunn to reschedule the December 26, 2023, City Council meeting for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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, has implemented 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. 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.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT: Citywide clean-up to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – volunteers welcome (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent announced a citywide clean-up is being held Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He said participants will receive a t-shirt, a “grabber” to use while picking up trash and that food will be provided as well. Council Member Vincent encouraged everyone to come out and participate in this worthwhile event.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring November 2023 Alzheimer’s 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.

2. Proclamation declaring November 2023 National COPD 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.

PUBLIC MEETING

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent asked that the stop sign on the east side of Ector and Azie be removed. He said he has called Public Works regarding this request, and he intends to call again. He stated that residents on Sherron Avenue are interested in having sidewalks installed. He thanked the Mayor for addressing the trees hanging over the streets. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone of the citywide clean-up being held Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 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.

Council Member Dunn announced the City of Baker Christmas parade will be on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. She said they are looking for participants and registration forms are available for those interested. A bike/toy giveaway will follow the parade. Council Member Dunn's mentee, Kamari Stinson, announced Council Member Dunn will host a meeting for District 2 residents on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall. The meeting's focus will be gathering information on what residents would like to see in the new year as far as progress in the city and in District 2.

Council Member Bryant stated that council members were given maps following the completion of redistricting. However, she pointed out that no other information was received. She feels more documentation/information is needed to substantiate the redistricting process. Council Member Bryant said an ordinance should be done and that council members should have a written description of each council district.

Council Member Vincent expressed his frustration with the situation, saying he has tried repeatedly to get a written description of District 1 following redistricting but has been unsuccessful at every turn. Council Member Vincent also stated the map council members were given following redistricting was very small and difficult to read.

Council Member Bryant concluded by saying council members need all relevant information regarding redistricting in writing.

Council Member Jackson gave a special thank you to Dr. Toni Jackson and ASHA #1132 for hosting the fun-filled, knowledge shared, Fraud Bingo game on Sunday, November

12, 2023, at the Baker branch library. She said she received nothing but positive feedback regarding the event. She also thanked the Baker residents who have registered for the Councilwoman Brenda G. Jackson's Thanksgiving Giveaway Drawing. The deadline for registration is Friday, November 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Winners will notified where they can collect their prizes.

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 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 November 14, 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
November 14, 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 November 14, 2023, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT

Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Young presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
Kierra Winfield submitted a monthly sales report for October 2023.
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Dunn, 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 November 14, 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
November 14, 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 November 14, 2023, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT

Darnell Waites

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Young presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 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

Commissioner Vincent recognized former council member and colleague Carlon Simpson who was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

ADJOURN

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Dunn, seconded by Commissioner 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on November 14, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council