

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF BAKER  
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714  
ZOOM**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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**Passcode: 217106**

**Telephone Conference Call**

**Dial In: 646-558-8656**

**Webinar ID: 860 3233 0393**

**Passcode: 217106**

**November 28, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 28, 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 Mayor Waites.

Mayor Waites wished Council Member Dunn a happy birthday.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 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 the Army National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the youth that participated in the Community Clean-Up on Saturday, November 18, 2023 (Mayor) (Vincent)

The Mayor and Council Member Vincent recognized the Army National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the youth that participated in the Community Clean-Up on Saturday, November 18, 2023.

2. Recognize the Cajun Navy for their contributions of time and resources for the enhancement of the Baker community (Mayor)

The Mayor recognized the Cajun Navy for their contributions of time and resources for the enhancement of the Baker community.

3. Recognize Robert Avriett for his continued dedication to improving his community through donations to the Baker Council on Aging and for being an advocate for a litter free and safe Baker (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant recognized Robert Avriett for his continued dedication to improving his community through donations to the Baker Council on Aging and for being an advocate for a litter free and safe Baker. Council Member Bryant also acknowledged and applauded Mr. Avriett's advocacy for community gardens in the City of Baker.

4. Angela Turner, Executive Director, to give a presentation on Women Working With Women Empowerment (4WE) (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn introduced Angela Turner, Executive Director, Women Working With Women Empowerment.

Ms. Turner provided an overview of the organization and explained that its purpose is to help and empower women to maintain a forward motion. She said another of the organization's goals is developing the personal and professional skills of underserved and underrepresented women. Ms. Turner stated the organization's core values are literacy, business development/entrepreneurship, self-sufficiency, and health/wellness. She stated Women Working With Women Empowerment is currently creating a youth program, Changing Youths, Changing Lives, aimed at breaking generational cycles. The program will feature financial literacy and entrepreneurship clinics for both girls and boys. Ms. Turner explained that they seek to partner with existing organizations because together we can do more. She said ultimately, it's about helping one another to excel.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

### **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 said now is the time to grow herbs in your windowsill and explained that herbs help cut down on sodium intake. She said several individuals offer exercise classes in the city, and asked that anyone who would like more information call her at (225) 773-7135. Council Member Bryant asked Chief Pease if he would research the possibility of distributing smoke detectors to residents, as the time of year for space heaters and alternative heating methods has arrived. She asked that everyone make sure their yard is maintained and remain mindful of the effect of illegally parked cars in our neighborhoods.

2. 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. 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 December 2023 National Impaired Driving Prevention 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 December 2023 National Safe Toy and Gift 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**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Robert Avriett, 5190 Weston #B, expressed his concerns regarding the trash being picked up late and garbage being left all over the city's streets.

Council Member Bryant stated there are neighborhoods in the city where trash cans are not overturned, where trash is not left on the streets, and residents never have to complain about the service they receive.

Council Member Vincent thanked everyone who went above and beyond at the Community Clean-Up held on November 18, 2023. He said he is so appreciative of their time and effort, of their service to the city, they truly did a tremendous job. He thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for addressing the trees hanging over the streets.

Council Member Dunn reminded everyone about the City of Baker Christmas parade being held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. She said they are looking for businesses and individuals to donate funds or bicycles for the bike/toy giveaway that will follow the parade. Council Member Dunn thanked her constituents for their continued support. She announced a meeting for District 2 residents will be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall.

Council Member Bryant recommended that background checks be done on anyone volunteering to work with children, whether it be in the school system, athletic programs, or after school activities. She said ensuring the safety of our community's children is a vital role for city leaders. Council Member Bryant again asked that council members receive all relevant information regarding redistricting in writing.

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. He stated he has called six times and has yet to speak with anyone. Council Member Vincent also stated the map council members were given following redistricting was very small and difficult to read.

Council Member Bryant asked City Attorney Fabre if he has had time to review the ordinance regarding Airbnb. City Attorney Fabre stated he has not.

Discussion regarding an Airbnb ordinance for the City of Baker followed.

Council Member Bryant stated she continues to advocate for veterans. She said again that she would like to see a facility in the City of Baker that would provide counseling services for the veterans in our community.

Council Member Young thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for picking up the trash on Harding Street prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. He said he has been riding District 4 and making a list of addresses with garbage cans that have no lids, reporting the issue, and telling residents to call and request a new can as well. Council Member Young

reiterated that trash cans with no lids are the source of much of the loose trash present on city streets.

Council Member Jackson thanked Council Member Vincent for his efforts and the Community Clean-Up held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. She gave a special shout out to the Southern University Jaguar football team on their victory at the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Bayou Classic. Council Member Jackson extended a special thank you to all the participants for making her 2023 Thanksgiving Giveaway Drawing a memorable event.

Council Member Vincent thanked Council Member Jackson for participating in the Community Clean-Up and doing a magnificent job. He also thanked the Mayor for providing food for the event and the Baker Chamber of Commerce for providing a location. Council Member Vincent thanked Becky Bond and his wife, Mrs. Vincent, for their hard work as well.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

## **CONDEMNATIONS**

The Mayor stated 13829 Alba Drive will be added to the condemnation list.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to add 13829 Alba Drive to the condemnation list.

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

## **ADJOURN**

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, 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 November 28, 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  
November 28, 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 28, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 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 October 2023.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to accept the monthly sales report for October 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 Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Waites 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 28, 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  
November 28, 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 28, 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 November 14, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on November 28, 2023.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council