

**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

December 19, 2023 - 4:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on December 19, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 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 Ms. Evelyn Johnson, civil rights activist, friend and playmate of the four girls killed at the bombing of the Sixteenth Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, September 15, 1963 (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said Ms. Evelyn Johnson, civil rights activist, friend and playmate of the four girls killed at the bombing of the Sixteenth Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, September 15, 1963, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. He stated Ms. Johnson, a former student of his, will be at the program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library. Council Member Vincent encouraged everyone to come out and meet Ms. Johnson and participate in the event.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve resubdivision request for Dave V. Mays

Resubdivision 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: Warren D. Landry Property

Create Lots: X-1-A and X-1-B

Property Zoned: C-2

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the resubdivision request for Dave V. Mays.

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 – 2023-15
E & M Transport, LLC
Location – 3228 Jefferson Street, Baker, Louisiana

This agenda item was tabled, as no representative for E & M Transport, LLC was present.

- 3. Approve Business License Request – 2023-16
Dance Therapy
Location – 2028 Main Street, Suite B, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Dance Therapy.

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 – 2023-17
The Edu Project, LLC
Location – 2028 Main Street, 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 The Edu Project, LLC.

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.

There was no action taken on this agenda item.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. CWEF Resolution 2023-2024 (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an overview of the resolution and the project for which the funds are to be allocated.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson asked to abstain from voting on both of the resolutions on tonight's agenda.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on the resolutions on tonight's agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent

NAYS: Dunn, Young

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 3-2.

Council Member Jackson abstained from voting on this agenda item.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Due to technical difficulties the ZOOM call/virtual forum was lost at 4:20 p.m.

Council Member Young was in attendance virtually and as a result was disconnected from the call and no longer able to participate.

2. LGAP Resolution 2023-2024 (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an overview of the resolution and the project for which the funds are to be allocated.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young was absent.

Council Member Jackson abstained from voting on this agenda item.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

3. Proclamation declaring the week of December 26, 2023 – January 1, 2024, as Celebration of Kwanzaa Week in 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
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Young
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Proclamation declaring January 14, 2024, Justice Sunday 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
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Young
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor announced the City of Baker received the Healthy Communities Grant, a program designed to support local projects and programs that will bring about behavioral changes needed to improve, and protect the natural beauty of Louisiana. The grant will allow the city to utilize cameras that will aid in combatting illegal dumping by capturing photos of the person and their vehicle which seek to illegally dispose of garbage.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband Street, stated she has been contacted regarding the upcoming election. Ethics, political signage, and candidate residency were some of the concerns expressed by residents. Dr. Jackson said the City of Baker does not need negative publicity and asked that all candidates run a good race.

Joslyn Jackson, 1585 Davis, expressed her concerns regarding the lien placed on her property by the city. Ms. Jackson stated she paid to have the debris removed after the limbs were cut on her property. She said she received no letter, no notification and when she asked the city for a copy of what was sent to her, they were unable to provide that information. Ms. Jackson stated she wants the lien removed from her property.

Discussion regarding the City of Baker's code enforcement process, ordinances, notices, and blight court followed.

Richard Jackson stated he received a letter regarding his Blazer, a vehicle that is insured. Mr. Jackson said it is as if the city is targeting their neighborhood. He said residents in their neighborhood are having liens put on their property without receiving notification, receiving letters about violations that are questionable and are being given the wrong information. He said something must be done, it has to stop.

Discussion regarding the City of Baker's code enforcement process, ordinances, notices, and blight court resumed.

Council Member Vincent recommended residents organize a homeowner's association to better deal with issues that arise in the neighborhood. He stated a constituent expressed concerns regarding the condition of the Walmart parking lot and asked about the possibility of sending Walmart a certified letter detailing the improvements the city would like to see. Council Member Vincent asked that the shrubbery at Greenwood Shopping Center also be addressed, as constituents have contacted him regarding that situation as well. He reminded everyone of the program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., being held Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library. Council Member Vincent announced Ashley's Optical, 13131 Plank Road, will have free food, live music and entertainment, as well as Santa Claus on Friday, December 22, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. He encouraged everyone to come out and

enjoy this festive event.

Council Member Dunn said homeowner's associations are good, however, older subdivisions often don't have people dedicated to the community. Older residents are often not tech savvy and don't use the internet or social media. She suggested the city produce a flyer containing information regarding city ordinances and what is expected of residents to be distributed throughout the city. She said it is imperative that the city let people know what is expected of them and they should have a plan to reach members of the community. Council Member Dunn wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and reminded them she is here and willing to help in any way she can.

Council Member Bryant stated some people get their debris/trash picked up while others do not get that same treatment. She said the city's ordinances provide for what should be done and what is expected from residents. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She addressed her colleagues, saying council meetings do not have to be political, and she plans to do her best to remember this in the coming months. She also reported a sewer issue at Azalea Gardens and asked that the city evaluate the situation, as it is unclear who is responsible for repairs at this time. Council Member Bryant asked Council Member Vincent if he received a redistricting map. Council Member Vincent said he has not heard from anyone and has not received any information. Council Member Bryant said she will continue to pursue this issue because it is important. She said it is imperative city leaders and citizens know exactly where the districts are.

Council Member Jackson said notifying residents of expectations should be done by the city's code enforcement officers. She stated she appreciated the comments on the political season and upcoming election made earlier in the meeting. She also encouraged candidates to evaluate their motives, make any corrections that need to be made, withdraw if that's what needs to be done, but run a clean race. Council Member Jackson wished everyone a safe ending and prosperous beginning in the new year.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**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 December 19, 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
December 19, 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 December 19, 2023, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT

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 December 12, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on December 19, 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
December 19, 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 December 19, 2023, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT

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 December 12, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on December 19, 2023.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council