

**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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January 9, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 9, 2024, 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 Pastor Alexander.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Vincent.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 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 District 5 councilmember-elect Cedric D. Murphy (Jackson)  
Council Member Jackson asked that this agenda item be tabled.

Council Member Dunn was in attendance virtually and was disconnected from the call, and thus no longer able to participate.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. Approve Business License Request – 2023-15  
E & M Transport, LLC  
Location – 3228 Jefferson Street, 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 E & M Transport, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on projects (Mayor)

Kevin Gravois, PEC, provided an update and detailed handout on various projects throughout the city. He reported that an immense amount of work has been done on infrastructure throughout the city and all current plans provide for more of the same.

Chris Davezac, Public Works consultant, provided an update on current and recently completed Public Works projects. His report included information regarding lift stations, generator installation at City Hall, sewer issues in Buffwood subdivision being addressed and sidewalks throughout the city. Mr. Davezac stated the Public Works Department has been and will continue to be incredibly busy as they strive to maintain the level of service Baker residents have come to expect.

2. Update on Benny's Carwash (Mayor)

Justin Alford provided an update on Benny's Carwash. Mr. Alford stated the project is currently in the design and development phase. He said they hope to have the plans completed by March and that the new facility will include a carwash, gas pumps, and a B-Quik convenience store.

3. Discuss moving the February 13<sup>th</sup> (Mardi Gras) and February 27<sup>th</sup> (LMA Mid-Winter Conference) council meeting dates (Mayor) (Young)

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Young to reschedule the February council meetings for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, and Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Update on recreation activities in the City of Baker (Mayor)

The Mayor provided an update on recreation activities in the City of Baker. He said there are several leagues and myriad opportunities for all Baker residents. Activities available to the community include baseball, basketball, softball, t-ball, soccer and fitness classes such as Boot Camp and Zumba.

5. 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, and said the city continues to move forward. She reminded everyone that Zumba classes with LaTonya Rounds are held at the gym on Alabama Street. She said they are ardently trying to locate a space to establish a community garden. Council Member Bryant stated she looks forward to the Fire Department procuring smoke detectors for Baker residents. She said it is imperative that community members communicate with one another and the Police Department. Council Member Bryant said we must come together in order to remain one of the safest cities in Louisiana.

6. Council Member Bryant's Projects and Goals – 2024 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant asked that this agenda item be tabled.

7. Council Member Bryant's Scripture for the Year – 2024 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant suggested that the city adopt a scripture for the year. She asked that everyone consider the scriptures and offer their suggestions at the next meeting.

Council Member Bryant feels the scripture adopted for this year should have something to do with increasing our territory, as annexation, expanding the city's boundaries, has always been one of her objectives.

8. 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.

**RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Proclamation declaring January 2024 Glaucoma 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, Jackson, Vincent, Young  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Dunn  
ABSTAIN: None  
The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Proclamation declaring January 2024 National Blood Donor 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, Jackson, Vincent, Young  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Dunn  
ABSTAIN: None  
The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, stated there are discrepancies regarding Johnson/Johnston Steet on the voter walk list and asked about the best way to rectify the situation.

Discussion regarding the situation with Johnson/Johnston Street followed.

Council Member Vincent announced he will host a Black History Month program Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Baker Branch Library. The program will feature a discussion about Frederick Douglass, school supplies will be distributed, and snacks will be provided for the children. Council Member Vincent congratulated Sunshine Gardens on beginning to build houses in the new subdivision.

The Mayor announced the city's Martin Luther King, Jr. program will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Council Member Bryant advocated for having a downtown Baker, as well as a small

business center located on Main Street. She addressed comments made in the audience earlier and said she will discuss her projects and goals when the time is right. She 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 asked City Attorney Fabre to explain residency requirements for those interested in running for office in the City of Baker, and if a convicted felon can run for office. City Attorney Fabre expounded on residency requirements for those seeking office and addressed the question of felonious candidates.

Council Member Young, speaking to residency requirements, said a person has to have a domicile address and has to have lived in the district for at least one year. He stated he respects people, does his best not to engage and always encourages the council to work together. Council Member Young said his mother taught him to not start a fight but to always defend and protect himself. He said those who judge put themselves in a position to be judged. He feels that those who are making noise about signs, where a candidate works, residency, and other petty concerns have nothing better to do and are intent on causing chaos at council meetings. He said there are bigger problems in the city than these things, and he asked where the chaos makers have been for the past 12 years, the past 8 years, 4 years. In response to his own query, Council Member Young stated they've not been here.

Council Member Jackson referenced the audio difficulties at the last council meeting and asked if the problem has been resolved. She said it is imperative that the system is in proper working order and asked that the city do whatever is necessary to ensure this is the case.

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, said the upcoming election is the soul of what will happen in Baker in the next 10 to 15 years. He asked that everyone carefully consider their choices and be careful with their vote.

Dr. Toni Jackson offered her thoughts on Council Member Young's comments regarding political signs, candidate residency requirements, and state employees running for office. She reiterated she loves the City of Baker and will do all she can to ensure that the city avoids controversy.

Joyce Burges, City of Baker School Board President, reported that the School Board has a new superintendent and is currently looking at its strategic plan, and discussing the possibility of more schools for the City of Baker. She said the City of Baker School System is going to be a system that all residents can look at and feel very, very proud of.

## **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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

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 January 9, 2024.

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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  
January 9, 2024**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on January 9, 2024, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Glenda Bryant  
Brenda G. Jackson  
Dr. Charles Vincent  
Darnell Waites  
Robert Young

**ABSENT**

Rochelle Dunn

**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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Dunn  
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS**

1. Monthly Business Report  
Kierra Winfield submitted a monthly sales report for December 2023.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the monthly sales report for December 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Dunn  
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Dunn

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 January 9, 2024.

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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  
January 9, 2024**

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 January 9, 2024, with the following members attending:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Glenda Bryant  
Brenda G. Jackson  
Dr. Charles Vincent  
Darnell Waites  
Robert Young

**ABSENT**

Rochelle Dunn

**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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 2023.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

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 Jackson to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Dunn

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 January 9, 2024.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council