

**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

Webinar ID: 860 3233 0393

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February 20, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 20, 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 Danny Donaldson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

The Mayor recognized Pastor Danny Donaldson and presented him with a certificate celebrating the success of Rose Hill Church opening its newest location on Groom Road and being a shining example of the power of faith and bringing positivity to the Baker community.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add John Brown and the presentation of the plaque honoring Ginger Vann to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

John Brown, on behalf of the Baker Charitable Foundation, the Rotary Club of Baker, the Vann family, and himself, presented the plaque honoring Ginger Vann to be placed at the Workforce Development Center. The City Council voted in June of last year to rename the center in honor of Ms. Vann, recognizing her tireless efforts for and unwavering dedication to the center. Ms. Vann was instrumental in the center's creation and development and was responsible for its ultimate success. Following installation there will be a formal dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting.

**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 January 23, 2024.

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 – 2024-2  
601 Cutz N Stylez, LLC  
Location – 5505 Groom Road, Baker, Louisiana  
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for 601 Cutz N Stylez, 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. Overview of audit – Bruno & Tervalon, LLP (Mayor)  
Mr. Dennis Muckelroy, Bruno & Tervalon, LLP, provided an overview of the audit.

2. Schedule work session to discuss waste disposal contract (Mayor) (Young)  
The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss waste disposal contract on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. 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 our neighborhoods quality representation of integrity and tenacity.

Council Member Bryant read the mission statement. She said with summer lunch programs being cut community and/or individual gardens are going to become necessary. She announced the recently opened business on Main Street has programs for children and adults. Council Member Bryant reminded everyone adults must be aware of and responsible for all guns in their household. She reiterated the importance of CO2 monitors and said again that the city should make these available to residents. Council Member Bryant said how we plan to work together is how we work together.

4. Discuss drainage and flooding in Parc Chaleur subdivision (Jackson)  
Council Member Jackson yielded the floor to Ms. Denise Williams-Lavalais.

Ms. Williams-Lavalais, 5308 Rue Jennifer, spoke on behalf of residents of Parc Chaleur subdivision who have been dealing with drainage and flooding issues, which have grown progressively worse, for years. She provided a detailed account of the problems faced by residents and asked that the city take action and address the situation.

The Mayor asked for patience, and reassured residents that the city is working to resolve the issue by exploring every possible solution.

## RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation honoring Shirley McCoy and her legacy of kindness (Byrant)  
City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent 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 March 2024 Colorectal 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 Young 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.

3. Proclamation declaring March 2024 Women's History 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**

Desiree Collins, 4715 Groom Road, announced the EBR Early Childhood Extravaganza enrollment event will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Crestworth ELC. Activities include early childhood program, family and community resource information, online application support, giveaways, and much more.

Council Member Vincent said he recently attended the Joint Transportation, Highway, and Public Works Committee hearing and provided an overview of the information discussed relevant to the City of Baker. He 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. Ashley's Optical is assisting him with this event. Council Member Vincent stated Council Member Young's mother is in the Smithsonian for developing corn husk weaving and provided him with information regarding this accomplishment.

Council Member Dunn thanked Public Works Director Anthony Douglas and the Public Works Department for all they do. She offered her condolences to the Booker family on the loss of their loved one, as well as other families who lost loved ones. Council Member Dunn said there are homeless people in our community and asked that council members come together and work to address their situation.

Council Member Bryant announced a health fair focusing on heart care is being held at the

Council on Aging Wednesday, February 28, 2024. She also provided an overview of the work session held to discuss Airbnb in the City of Baker. She said she hopes this will be something the city will profit from and that it will increase our economic value. 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.

Council Member Young announced that Danny Cooper passed away and said he would share information regarding arrangements as soon as they are made available.

Council Member Jackson offered her condolences to the Cooper family, and all the families in our community who have lost a loved one. For clarification purposes, she stated District 5 has a council member elect – Mr. Cedric D. Murphy.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **CONDEMNATIONS**

The Mayor asked that the City Council add 3339 Grant Street to the condemnation list.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to add 3339 Grant Steet 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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson 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 February 20, 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  
February 20, 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 February 20, 2024, 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 January 23, 2024.

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 January 2024.

The motion was made by Commissioner Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the monthly sales report for January 2024.

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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on February 20, 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  
February 20, 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 February 20, 2024, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 23, 2024.

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/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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on February 20, 2024.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council