

**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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February 29, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 29, 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 Minister Jonathan Blackwell.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dunn.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 2024, with a minor correction. She asked that a statement she made at the last meeting under New Business read as follows - how we plan to work together is to have something to work together on.

Council Member Vincent seconded Council Member Bryant's motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 2024, with a minor correction.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. Recognize Council Member Dr. Charles Vincent for his historical service to the City of Baker as the outstanding candidate of seven terms of public service to the community representing District 1 (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant recognized Council Member Dr. Charles Vincent for his historical service to the City of Baker as the outstanding candidate of seven terms of public service to the community representing District 1.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

1. Approve Business License Request – 2024-3  
Bates Tax Professionals, LLC  
Location – 1352 Main Street, Baker, Louisiana  
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 business license request for Bates Tax Professionals, 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. Introduce Ordinance 2024-1, an ordinance to amend, supplement and reenact Chapter 22 Section 22-6 of City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other related matters (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-1.

Council Member Vincent stated he would second Council Member Young's motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-1, but he has additions to the ordinance.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Jackson stated that the following of rules and procedures is paramount for her and referenced Article 3, Section 3-12 which reads as follows – The mayor may preside over council meetings, but shall have no power of vote or introduction of any proposed ordinance or resolution. The mayor may present to the council messages and requests for action and may be heard on any matter before the council. – as the reason for her No vote.

Discussion regarding Section 3-12 followed.

Council Member Vincent stated he wanted provisions for green spaces in newly developed subdivisions added to Ordinance 2024-1.

Vote on motion and second to introduce Ordinance 2024-1 was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2024-2, an ordinance to designate and declare certain assets surplus and scrap for related matters for fiscal year 2023-2024 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-2.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

3. Update on survey for drainage in Parc Chaleur subdivision (Mayor)

The Mayor said Landsource will begin the survey tomorrow or Monday and this is the first step in the overall plan to address the drainage/flooding issues in Parc Chaleur subdivision.

Discussion regarding the impending survey in Parc Chaleur subdivision and the need to improve infrastructure throughout the city was held.

4. Update on little league baseball field (Mayor)

The Mayor stated that a committee has been formed to oversee renovations at the park on N. Magnolia. He said the park will be completely rebuilt and refurbished, and that both T-

Ball and coach's pitch games will initially be played at this location.

Council Member Dunn expressed her gratitude and excitement regarding this long awaited project.

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 our neighborhoods quality representation of integrity and tenacity.

Council Member Bryant read the mission statement. She stated she has a meeting scheduled on Tuesday with an organization that will help plant a community garden. Council Member Bryant announced Dance Therapy on Main Street is currently enrolling students for their summer programs which are positive, alternative, activities for the youth in our community. She reminded her colleagues that they represent their communities, in a way that keeps them in the light of being respectful towards each other, in the light of being able to work together and the light of being able to come up with solutions for problems such as flooding and garbage collection.

6. 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 said he placed this item on the agenda to keep the effort in front of citizens and reported that the program is going exceptionally well. 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 March 2024 National Kidney 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 Bryant 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**

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband Street, addressed the previous discussion regarding Section 3-12 of the city's charter, saying her interpretation of Section 3-12 is that the Mayor is not allowed to introduce agenda items. However, the way the agenda reads, the Mayor IS introducing agenda items. Dr. Jackson recommended the council president place his or her name on such agenda items to avoid any confusion and the need for such discussion.

Morris Anderson expressed his disappointment in District 5's representative saying their council member said she would see what she could do when residents in the area experienced flooding. He stated there is no money for people in this situation and the

council member gave constituents false hope.

Council Member Vincent stated the Black History Month program held on Saturday was excellent. He said he recently attended the Joint Transportation, Highway, and Public Works Committee hearing and distributed information obtained there to City Attorney Fabre, Chief Pease, and Public Works Director Anthony Douglas. Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of businesses and homeowners picking up trash and maintaining their property, of keeping Baker beautiful. He said the LMA conference he recently attended was very informative. Council Member Vincent announced the statewide effort Love the Boot is coming up in mid-April and he hopes to have another city-wide cleanup at that time. He encouraged everyone to join him every third Saturday and pick up litter and trash in their neighborhoods.

Council Member Dunn thanked Public Works Director Anthony Douglas for his recent efforts in District 2. She reiterated how excited she is about the work to be done at the park on N. Magnolia. Council Member Dunn stated she wants clarification on Section 3-12 and initiated discussion regarding this section of the city's charter.

Council Member Bryant said – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall inherit the earth. She thanked Dr. Antoine Keller for the health screening event held at the Council on Aging on Tuesday. Council Member Bryant encouraged area churches to have a clothing and a food bank. She said this helps us to help others when we have natural disasters, or there is a fire, or simply a family in need.

Council Member Young thanked the Public Works Department for all they are doing. He also expressed his gratitude for Chief Pease and the open line of communication maintained by the Fire Department.

Council Member Jackson gave outstanding kudos to Mrs. Ameila Georgetown for her cooperation in the handling of a recent situation. She said the matter has been resolved. Council Member Jackson announced that the Lions Club, Pilot Club, and Interclub Council will host a meet the candidate forum on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

## **BIDS AND PROPOSALS**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **CONDEMNATIONS**

1. 1806 Chamberlain Avenue (Mayor)

The Mayor stated he is unclear as to why 1806 Chamberlain Avenue was placed on the agenda.

The Mayor reported the city is in the process of getting bids for the demolition work at 3339 Grant Street.

The Mayor requested a meeting with Council Member Vincent to discuss the condemned house on Alba Drive.

Discussion regarding various condemned properties throughout the city was held.

## **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 29, 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 29, 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 29, 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 Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 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 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 29, 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 29, 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 29, 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 Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 20, 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

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted a utility fund report for seven months ended January 31, 2024.

Commissioner Vincent asked about specific figures on the utility fund report, and Commissioner Waites stated he would need to speak with Finance Director Mary Sue Stages.

Commissioner Jackson expressed her concerns regarding the report and asked that commissioners wait for clarification before discussing and/or voting on the report.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to table the report until the next meeting.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with 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 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 29, 2024.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council