

**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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March 12, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 12, 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 Council Member Vincent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 29, 2024.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add the Main Street Pilot Club's Brain Awareness Week resolution to the agenda under Resolutions and Proclamations.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to move the Main Street Pilot Club's Brain Awareness Week resolution up on the agenda so that it is the next item addressed.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Main Street Pilot Club's Brain Awareness Week resolution (Dunn)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

RECOGNITIONS

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 our neighborhoods quality representation of integrity and tenacity.

Council Member Bryant stated she had no update to share at this time, but she does look forward to an update on the community garden.

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

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt 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) (Introduced 2/29/2024)

The Mayor tabled this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to table item number one under Public Meeting.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2024-2, an ordinance to designate and declare certain assets surplus and scrap for related matters for fiscal year 2023-2024 (Mayor) (Introduced 2/29/2024)

The Mayor tabled this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to table item number two under Public Meeting.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, asked if the City of Baker has contacted Exxon regarding the funds they plan to spend in the northern part of East Baton Rouge Parish.

The Mayor said he has not, but he assured Mr. McCastle he will do so.

Elisabeth Gibbs, Baker resident, expressed her concerns regarding the city's garbage disposal services. She feels that Republic Services should be able to provide a time frame for replacing damaged garbage cans, and that residents should not be forced to leave damaged cans at the road for an unspecified length of time.

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, asked who is responsible for the pothole off of Groom Road and turning into the Walmart parking lot. The Mayor stated the pothole is Walmart's responsibility, and they are aware of the situation.

Morris Anderson distributed copies of Robert's Rules of Order to council members, as it is his opinion that they need them. It is his hope that everyone can learn from the handouts and stop making errors.

Council Member Dunn read the Attorney General's letter received in response to Council Member Jackson's request for an opinion on whether the Mayor can preside over council meetings in the City of Baker.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Public Works Department for their timely response to and resolution of a sewer issue in Parkwood Terrace subdivision on March 5, 2024, and a catch basin issue at 13507 Ector Drive on March 7, 2024, as well. He announced that a city-wide cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, in conjunction with the state's Love the Boot campaign. Volunteers are asked to arrive at City Hall by 8:00 a.m. so that work can begin at 9:00 a.m. Council Member Vincent encouraged everyone to participate in this worthwhile endeavor and to keep Baker beautiful.

Council Member Dunn announced the ground-breaking and community input session at the park on N. Magnolia will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Kinta Cage provided an overview of current plans for the park's refurbishment. Council Member Dunn shared the vision and future plans for both the pond and the park.

Council Member Bryant said that it doesn't matter what district a person is elected to represent, everything council members do is for the betterment of the whole community. She said it is imperative that council members respect one another as well as each other's views and opinions. Council Member Bryant again reported the issue with the ditch behind Jefferson Street, saying it is almost completely closed, the area near the bridge on McHugh Road holding water, and the drainage issues plaguing residents throughout the city. She also expressed her concerns regarding the frequency of the city's water wells being flushed. She reiterated that such issues constitute a health risk for citizens. Council Member Bryant clarified that comments attributed to Council Member Jackson regarding firing city employees were made by her. She explained that should she find herself in a position to make such decisions, incompetency would not be tolerated, and that hiring more people to compensate for the incompetency is a practice that should be stopped.

Council Member Young reminded everyone that it is grass cutting season. He asked that residents not blow grass into the streets and if they have leaves, to please bag them up, so as not to block drainage.

Council Member Jackson thanked Council Member Bryant for making her aware of the situation and for taking responsibility for having made the aforementioned comments regarding city employees.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

The Mayor stated that 3339 Grant Street is going to be torn down.

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

Council Member Young announced Planning and Zoning Commission member Don Jones’ brother’s funeral is being held Friday.

Council Member Vincent announced the Magnolia Rose Foundation’s third annual Rose “Color” Run for autism acceptance is being held Saturday, April 6, 2024.

Council Member Bryant stated there are competent people working for the city, and she was not talking about them earlier. She said she respects those who respect themselves and people should be able to work in a comfortable environment without fear of retaliation.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, 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 March 12, 2024.

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
March 12, 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 March 12, 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 February 29, 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 February 2024.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the monthly sales report for February 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 March 12, 2024.

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
March 12, 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 March 12, 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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 29, 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/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 March 12, 2024.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council