

**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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May 14, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on May 14, 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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 23, 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 Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to add approve business license request 2024-14 – Shawn George, Jr., George’s Clothing & Accessories to the agenda under Planning and Zoning Matters.

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 – 2024-7
TLC Auto Repair, LLC
Location – 14319 Plank Road, Baker, Louisiana
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member

Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for TLC Auto Repair, LLC.

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 – 2024-10
Big Bros Automotive, LLC
Location – 1866 Main Street, 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 Big Bros Automotive, LLC.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. **Resubdivision Request:** Thomas Road/Wedgewood Drive, Baker, Louisiana
Owner: Solar Group Construction, LLC
Name of Applicant: Jason Khoder
355 S. Club Avenue
St. Gabriel, Louisiana 70776

Lots: 1-A and 2

Subdivision: Harding Terrace

Create Lot: 1-A-1

Property Zoned: C-2 and R-1

The Mayor tabled this agenda item.

4. *Approve Business License Request – 2024-14*
George's Clothing & Accessories
Location – 4016 Groom Road, Suite B, Baker, Louisiana

Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Dunn to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for George's Clothing & Accessories.

Council Member Vincent asked to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Vincent to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The vote was called for on the motion to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for George's Clothing & Accessories.

Council Member Vincent abstained.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Yong voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted yes.

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appointment of auditor for 2023-2024 fiscal year (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to appoint Bruno & Tervalon as city auditor for 2023-2024.

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant asked to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Bryant to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Bryant abstained.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson asked to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Young to allow Council Member Jackson to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson abstained.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

2. Joshua Stutes, DOTD, to provide an update on Lavey Lane (Mayor)

Joshua Stutes, DOTD, gave a presentation regarding the transfer of Lavey Lane from the State of Louisiana to the City of Baker, future maintenance of the roadway, and the overall vision for one of the city's major thoroughfares.

Council Member Bryant asked to abstain from voting on all the ordinances.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Bryant to abstain from voting on all the ordinances on the agenda.

YEAS: Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Jackson stated due to procedural concerns she will vote no on all the ordinances, and cited Article 3, Section 3-12 of the city's charter as her reason for doing so.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2024-3, sales & use tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-3.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2024-4, insurance license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-4.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2024-5, occupational license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-5.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2024-6, chain store license tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-6.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2024-7, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-7.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

8. Introduce Ordinance 2024-8, property tax (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-8.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

9. 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 suggested growing an herb garden and using them as a replacement for salt to season food. She also recommended regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. She thanked the Fire Department for the AED machine placed at City Hall and suggested having them placed at schools as well. Council Member Bryant asked that a wellness check be done on the gentleman on Gwendolyn with the fallen tree across his house.

10. Update on projects: City of Baker submission on project to state capital outlay for project 573651 (drainage improvement and upgrades) and project 573650 (sidewalk construction) (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson initiated discussion regarding project 573651 and project 573650. She provided an overview of the timeline for these projects, stated that money had been appropriated, and asked why the money has not been drawn down.

The Mayor stated an update on these projects would be given under Administrative Matters.

11. ANNOUNCEMENT: Councilman Charles Vincent’s Mwalimu Institute project – “Help us find your house with visible municipal numbers” – still available (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.

12. Nikki Warden to discuss organizing Neighborhood Watch throughout the city (Young)

Ms. Warden explained that a group of civic-minded citizens is working to establish a citywide Neighborhood Watch organization. She stated they are currently in the planning phase and asked that all interested parties contact her in order to be added to the contact list. Ms. Warden encouraged everyone to consider participating in this worthwhile program.

The Mayor asked Daryl Blacher to explain the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant clearance program.

Ms. Blacher provided an overview of the grant’s clearance program and its requirements.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to hire administration services for FY 2024/2025 LCDBG clearance program (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

Council Member Jackson again referenced procedural concerns and read Section 3-12 from the city charter.

2. Resolution regarding responsibility for legal fees for FY 2024/2025 LCDBG clearance program (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant asked to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Bryant to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Bryant abstained.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted no.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

3. Resolution stating the City of Baker has received prior approval to demolish all structures applied for under the FY 2024/2025 LCDBG clearance program (Mayor)

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

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

Council Member Vincent voted yes.

Council Member Dunn voted yes.

Council Member Bryant asked to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Jackson to allow Council Member Bryant to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

YEAS: Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Bryant abstained.

Council Member Young voted yes.

Council Member Jackson voted no.

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

4. Proclamation declaring May 2024 Lupus 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.

5. Proclamation declaring May 2024 Skin Cancer Prevention 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

The Mayor provided council members with a list of the damage that occurred as a result of last night's storm. He said assessment is being done and work has begun.

The Mayor announced that the State Fire Marshal's Office is once again giving out smoke detectors. He said anyone interested in receiving smoke detectors should fill out the requisite paperwork and submit it to the Fire Department. The Fire Department will install the smoke detectors for those who are unable to do so themselves.

The Mayor announced the City of Baker Career Expo will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The Mayor announced the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024. Tickets are \$6.00.

Administrative Officer Angela Machen provided an overview of and update on three of the city's capital outlay projects. Dr. Machen provided council members with a handout detailing the information presented.

Discussion regarding the information provided by Dr. Machen was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Dunn to extend the council meeting to 8:15 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Discussion regarding the information provided by Dr. Machen resumed.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, expressed her concerns regarding the manner in which the city entered into the contract with Waste Pro. She questioned the Mayor and Council about the process and their respective roles in said process. Dr. Jackson maintained that the contract should have been brought before the city council for approval prior to being signed by the Mayor.

Wanda Horton, 1032 Sunshine, expressed her concerns regarding Groom Road and the need for repairs on one of the city's main thoroughfares.

Council Member Vincent thanked everyone who came out and participated in the Love the Boot citywide clean-up on May 20th. The city's efforts contributed to the 347 tons of litter/trash collected throughout the state during the event. He offered his condolences to the Owens family. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone about his Mwalimu Institute's ongoing house numbers program.

Council Member Dunn suggested that city leaders look into securing grants that would pay to have trees cut down for individuals having problems with trees in their yard. She stated that anyone needing assistance of any kind need only reach out to her and she will do all she can to help.

Council Member Bryant reminded her colleagues that their personal financial disclosure statement is due May 15, 2024. She stated hurricane season is here and suggested that everyone document their belongings in order to facilitate communication with FEMA and/or insurers in the event of damage or loss. She reported a gas leak at 4613 Greenwood Lane, and stated this situation was previously reported. Council Member Bryant asked that the caboose at the museum be painted.

Council Member Young recognized Mr. Sam Boatner.

Council Member Jackson stated she did not know about the contract with Waste Pro and only found out about the town hall meeting from the notice she received in the mail. She said she was grateful that she had the opportunity to attend the meeting, even if only for a short time. Council Member Jackson stated she can't force you to respect her, but she refuses to be disrespected.

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 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 May 14, 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
May 14, 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 May 14, 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 Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 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

1. Lloyd Humphrey – request to add bench next to his plot in the cemetery
No action was taken on this agenda item.

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
Kierra Winfield submitted a monthly sales report for April 2024.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the monthly sales report for April 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 May 14, 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
May 14, 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 May 14, 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 April 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 Commissioner Dunn to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

**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 May 14, 2024.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council