

**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 28, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on May 28, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

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 May 14, 2024.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Sire Claiborne for being the Park Ridge Academic Magnet School STEM Student of the Year (Young)

Council Member Young recognized Sire Claiborne for being the Park Ridge Academic Magnet School STEM Student of the Year.

2. Recognize De’Nya Ambeau for being the Park Ridge Academic Magnet School Student of the Year (Young)

Council Member Young recognized De’Nya Ambeau for being the Park Ridge Academic Magnet School Student of the Year.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation from Drew Cotton, PEC, regarding the MoveBR Groom Road project (Mayor)

Drew Cotton, Project Manager – MoveBr Groom Road, provided an update on and highlights from the project. The project has two phases – Phase 1 McHugh Road to Plank

Road with an estimated cost of \$9.5 million and Phase 2 – LA 19 to McHugh Road with an estimated cost of \$10 million. Mr. Cotton reported the final construction plans have been completed (Phase 1). He stated once Phase 1 is completed Groom Road will have a new roadway surface, bike and pedestrian lanes, enhanced crosswalks, handicap ramps, new school zone flashers, new CATS bus stop pads, a turn lane at McHugh Road, stormwater system enhancement and will feature beautiful landscaping as well.

The Mayor read the budget message.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2024-9, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor)

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 asked to abstain from voting on all the ordinances.

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

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-9.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2024-10, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2024-10.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2024-11, an ordinance to adopt the capital budget and capital program of governmental funds City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-11.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2024-12, an ordinance to adopt the budget of cemetery fund revenues, expenditures, and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-12.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2024-13, an ordinance to adopt the budget of utility fund revenues, expenditures, and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-13.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2024-14, an ordinance to adopt the budget of sewer revenue fund revenues, expenditures, and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-14.

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant, Jackson

The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

8. 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 provided an overview of her eight-year tenure and various accomplishments as a member of the Baker City Council. Council Member Bryant addressed the gangs terrorizing the city and cautioned everyone to be careful. She reported that she has spoken with the Health Department and the issue with the gentleman on Gwendolyn with the fallen tree across his house is being addressed. Council Member Bryant implored the administration to address blighted properties in the City of Baker, saying that such areas are breeding grounds for rodents and snakes, and pose a health risk for residents as well.

9. Discuss Waste Pro contract (Jackson)

Council Member Jackson stated she did not know the Waste Pro contract had been signed and was made aware of this fact by a non-constituent. She said she only found out about the town hall meeting held at Redemption Life 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 the last minute and fifteen seconds. Council Member Jackson expressed her concerns regarding the manner in which the city entered into the contract with Waste Pro, saying proper rules and procedures were not followed. Council Member Jackson stated she believes that the contract should have been brought before the city council for approval prior to being signed by the Mayor. She maintains that historically, contracts and rate increases have been brought before the city council for approval.

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to have the City of Baker pay the ten-dollar monthly increase to the waste management services for the duration of the Waste Pro contract.

Discussion regarding the Waste Pro contract, the ten-dollar monthly increase, the process in which the city enters into contracts, and the Mayor and Council's respective roles in said process was held.

A substitute motion was made by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss the Waste Pro contract.

Discussion regarding the Waste Pro contract, the ten-dollar monthly increase, the process in which the city enters into contracts, and the Mayor and Council's respective roles in said process resumed.

The vote was called for on the motion made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Bryant to have the City of Baker pay the ten-dollar monthly increase to the waste management services for the duration of the Waste Pro contract.

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

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

Council Member Vincent abstained.

Council Member Dunn voted no.

Council Member Bryant voted yes.

Council Member Young voted no.

Council Member Jackson voted yes.

The motion failed with a vote of 2-2.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to schedule a work session on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the contract between the City of Baker and Waste Pro.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

10. Discuss certified letter received from Mr. William Johnson (Jackson)
Council Member Jackson stated she wanted to publicly acknowledge receipt of the certified mail sent by Mr. Johnson regarding his public records request involving city expenditures and finances. She said she would do anything she can to assist Mr. Johnson in finding a resolution to this matter, he need only contact her.

Discussion followed.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring May 2024 Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Bryant)

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 May 2024 ALS 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

1. Adopt Ordinance 2024-3, sales & use tax (Mayor) (Introduced 5/14/2024)
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.

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2024-4, insurance license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 5/14/2024)
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2024-5, occupational license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 5/14/2024)

Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

4. Adopt Ordinance 2024-6, chain store license tax (Mayor) (Introduced 5/14/2024)
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

5. Adopt Ordinance 2024-7, alcoholic beverage tax (Mayor) (Introduced 5/14/2024)
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

6. Adopt Ordinance 2024-8, property tax (Mayor) (Introduced 5/14/2024)
Public meeting was held.

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

YEAS: Dunn, Vincent, Young

NAYS: Jackson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Bryant

The motion passed with a vote of 3-1.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor for his earlier explanation regarding Waste Pro and their analysis of post-storm debris in the city. He announced that Dr. Ebony Iheanacho, Mayor's assistant, will be working with him on the Keep Baker Beautiful and Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiatives.

Council Member Dunn said that if anyone has any questions about her personal life, all they have to do is ask. She said her job as a council member is to serve her constituents and has nothing to do with her past.

Council Member Bryant stated that anyone making accusations about her should have documentation/proof before said accusations are made public. She said she will not let anyone attack her or her integrity without defending herself, she is well within her rights.

Council Member Jackson read the following quote – "A lot of people claim that honesty is the "best policy" and then get all offended when you tell them the truth."

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 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 14, 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

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to allow Mr. Humphrey to place a bench next to his plot in the cemetery.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

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 May 28, 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 28, 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 28, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 14, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on May 28, 2024.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council