

**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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June 11, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 11, 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 Mayor Waites.

**DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 28, 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**

**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 read the mission statement and said she has seen it come to fruition. She provided an overview of her eight-year tenure and various accomplishments as a member of the Baker City Council. Council Member Bryant spoke about the need for community leaders to do better with regards to providing a positive, supportive, and safe environment for those students attending Baker schools. She reiterated the importance of keeping the children in our community safe and advocated, again, for a process that

includes background checks for those individuals working with students. She also addressed attacks made on her character and integrity, saying not only were they unappreciated, but patently untrue. She provided an update on the house on Gwendolyn with the infestation issue and dogs in the rear yard. 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.

2. Charter provision for appointments to boards (membership) and council concurrence (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent asked that council members, and citizens alike, read the city's charter. He stated he has spoken with the Mayor and his concerns regarding council participation in appointments to boards will be addressed at the upcoming retreat for new council members.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to table this agenda item.

Council Member Jackson said there is no need to table this item, as discussion was held.

Council Member Vincent withdrew his motion to table the agenda item.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Proclamation declaring June 2024 National Military Appreciation 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 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.

2. Proclamation declaring June 19, 2024, Juneteenth 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.

3. Proclamation declaring June 19, 2024, World Sickle Cell Awareness Day in the City of Baker (Vincent)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Dunn/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**

Council Member Vincent commended the Mayor for his appearance on CBS news. He announced the city has received a grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful which will provide for putting up cameras throughout the city to catch those engaged in illegal dumping. Council Member Vincent reminded everyone to join him in picking up litter at your home, in your neighborhood, and throughout the city every third Saturday, and urged residents to avail themselves of the literature regarding litter from Keep Louisiana Beautiful. He stated the library has everything needed to pick up litter in the community including grabbers, gloves, and bags. These items must be checked out in order to use them.

Council Member Dunn thanked the Mayor for his efforts to beautify Main Street.

Council Member Bryant stated she will continue to pray for everyone and the City of Baker. She said she is happy that she will no longer be a part of an organization with no real leadership or direction, one content to be stagnant, one that seemingly operates by making it up as it goes along. Council Member Bryant closed by saying, "We live in a time when intelligent people are silenced, so that stupid people won't be offended."

Council Member Young said it's summertime and once again the city is having a problem with people riding ATVs. He asked that residents speak up, as this is an incredibly dangerous situation given their failure to obey traffic laws. He stated that things in our community are moving forward, and the school system is making strides. Council Member Young commended Cynthia Grimes for the program for teens she hosted over the weekend, saying she did a great job. He said it indeed takes a village to raise children. He announced he has copies of a book, entitled *How it Works*, which teaches kids about finances available for anyone who would like one. Council Member Young asked about the status of the blue building on Main Street and asked that the grass be cut.

Council Member Jackson announced District 63 Representative Dr. Barbara West Carpenter will host a back-to-school giveaway on August 3, 2024, at the City of Baker school board office. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. She reminded everyone that individuals have a right to express themselves, whether you agree with them or like what they say, they have the right. She also asked that everyone make every effort to express themselves in a manner that facilitates passionate, yet peaceful, dialogue.

## **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 Jackson, 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 June 11, 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  
June 11, 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 June 11, 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 May 28, 2024.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS**

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

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to accept the monthly sales report for May 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 June 11, 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  
June 11, 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 June 11, 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 May 28, 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

Commissioner Vincent thanked Finance Director Mary Sue Stages for meeting with him and providing explanations and answering his questions regarding the budget.

**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 June 11, 2024.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council