

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714
ZOOM**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86032330393?pwd=R1d4OHVTL1JPajFZOVVmRlpmckhrZz09>

Passcode: 217106

Telephone Conference Call

Dial In: 646-558-8656

Webinar ID: 860 3233 0393

Passcode: 217106

July 9, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on July 9, 2024, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Desiree Collins

Rochelle Dunn

Cedric Murphy

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Murphy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

The Mayor welcomed newly elected council members and asked that all council members take a moment to introduce themselves.

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 June 25, 2024.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 special recognitions to the agenda.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Young recognized Council Clerk Angela Wall, Security Officer Mary Radcliff, and City Attorney Fabre and presented each with a token of his appreciation. He thanked them for all they've done the last four years and said he is looking forward to the next four years.

Council Member Young presented fellow council members and the Mayor custom insulated tumblers as a way of welcoming new members and recognizing the start of a new beginning.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. Approve Business License Request – 2024-13
Heaven Sent Angels, LLC
Location – 3555 Buchanan Street, Baker, Louisiana
Discussion regarding the agenda item was held.

Council Member Vincent expressed his concerns regarding this matter and requested that the applicant notify neighbors and gather signatures in support of the proposed business. He asked that this issue be tabled until such time as these items are addressed.

Discussion resumed.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and approve the business license request for Heaven Sent Angels, LLC.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: Vincent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2024-15, an ordinance to declare that one certain Glock model 45 MOS handgun, serial # CAWL105, is surplus property and no longer needed for city purposes and provide for the disposal by sale of said handgun (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-15.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Resident communication channels: Explore ways to improve communication between the city council and residents. This could involve social media engagement, town hall meetings, or a more user-friendly city website (Collins)
Council Member Collins initiated discussion regarding resident communication channels. The Mayor stated that an in-depth discussion on this topic will be held on Friday at the informational meeting for council members.

3. Summer youth programs: With summer break underway, discuss the availability and effectiveness of existing summer programs for children and teenagers (Collins)

Council Member Collins initiated discussion regarding summer youth programs in the City of Baker. Topics discussed included the possibility of expanding existing programs, financial assistance for more families to increase participation, creating a center owned and operated by the City of Baker, and city officials working together for the betterment of the entire community.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring July 2024 Cord Blood 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 Members Murphy/Young to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation declaring July 2024 Healthy Vision 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 Members Dunn/Young to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor provided an overview of how gas and water meters are read in the city, and asked that anyone having an issue with their utility bill or service contact the city so that the problem can be rectified.

The Mayor explained that issues with blighted property, including high grass and junk vehicles, must be addressed according to policy. He stated there is a process and it must be followed.

The Mayor discussed woody waste pick-up and reminded residents to not mix items intended for disposal. He reiterated that household waste should not be placed with woody waste, or yard debris, nor should either of these be placed with recyclables.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Angela Trahan, 1531 Landry, asked for clarification on the definition of blight. She said people in her neighborhood are cutting front yards and neglecting back yards. She feels that residents should maintain their entire property in order to be in compliance with city ordinances. Ms. Trahan also expressed her concerns regarding more than one family living in a single-family residence.

Derrick Smith, 701 Chemin, reported that nothing has been done with the ditch that runs behind his house and asked what is going to be done. He said the grass has not been cut or sprayed and is out of control, which has resulted in a rodent problem. Mr. Smith said the situation has been neglected for so long that the 30-inch pipe is now exposed, and water can no longer flow through the ditch. Mr. Smith expressed his concerns regarding crime in the City of Baker and asked what is going to be done to address this issue, as it is terrible. He stated residents in his area are in the process of establishing a Neighborhood Watch program, they are doing all they can, but more must be done.

Admon McCastle, 14056 Brantley, stated it is imperative that people get out and vote. He asked that everyone do all they can to increase voter turnout. He encouraged everyone to get registered if they are not already and implored them to exercise their right to vote.

Fredrick Paul, 637 W. Magnolia, expressed his concerns regarding crime and low hanging branches in District 2. He said branches are hanging over the street, and in many places, obstructing the view of traffic throughout the subdivision. Mr. Paul stated he has called the police department three different times to have them remove stolen cars from the property next door. He stated the grass is extremely high at the property next door as well, and nothing is being done.

Sheila Anderson, 4504 Fausse, stated the canal in Meadows of Chaleur is what she's after. Ms. Anderson stated she saw river rocks in District 2, and she wants some. She

inquired as to how to acquire said rocks. Ms. Anderson also stated homeowner associations must be registered with the State of Louisiana.

Wanda Horton, 1032 Sunshine, stated there is a problem with unleashed dogs on her street. She said her neighbor was recently attacked and had to go to the emergency room. Ms. Horton said animal control has been no help and despite reporting the problem more than once, the situation has not improved. She asked that something be done.

Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of exercising your right to vote. He asked the Mayor if the city still had a contract with animal control and expressed his displeasure with his most recent interaction with them. 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. He said 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 Vincent thanked the Mayor and his staff for cleaning out the ditches on Lavey Lane and keeping the grass cut throughout the city. He asked that the grass along Thomas Road and Wedgewood be cut as well. Council Member Vincent encouraged all residents and business owners to participate in the Keep Louisiana Beautiful program. He welcomed the newly elected council members to the council and said he looks forward to working with everyone.

Council Member Dunn encouraged everyone to vote and said voter education is imperative to improving voter turnout. She said people have to be involved in the process in order to make changes. She said this is our city and it starts with us, we must unite and work together to be the change we want to see in our community.

Council Member Collins announced the Diontreya Claiborne Stop the Violence Basketball and Cheer Camp is being held July 12-14, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Advantage Charter. The camp is for children 7 to 18 years old, and registration is \$35.00 per participant. Online registration is available or interested parties can contact Shanna Claiborne at (225) 772-8803.

Council Member Young suggested that the city look at its contract with animal control and address the fact that nothing is being done in the City of Baker. He announced that he and Lt. Randolph Harrell will host a meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Baker Branch Library from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Concealed Carry Law & How It Will Affect You. He stressed the importance of education regarding the new law and encouraged everyone to attend the meeting.

Council Member Murphy stated he is glad to be here and is looking forward to working with everyone. He said his strategy for District 5 is about the heart, the health, the wealth, and the work. Council Member Murphy explained the heart is taking the pulse of the community, ascertaining what the concerns and obstacles are; the health is being aware of the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the community; the wealth involves tapping into all available resources and working with city leaders to advance economic development; and the work involves identifying and investing in impactful projects throughout the community. He said he plans to have a community meeting soon in order to introduce himself to residents.

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

The Mayor announced the Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Back-to-School event on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at City Hall.

The Mayor announced Representative Barbara Carpenter is hosting a Back-to-School event on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at the City of Baker school board office.

The Mayor announced Rose Hill Church is hosting a program on Saturday, August 3, 2024.

Council Member Vincent announced his annual District 1 Back-to-School event is being held on Saturday, July 27, 2024.

Council Member Young reminded everyone that the Mayor and City Council will be attending the annual LMA Conference August 1-3, 2024, in Shreveport, so will be unable to attend any of the events being held in the city during that time frame.

Desiree Harris, Customer Service Manager – Entergy, stated the City of Baker has partnered with Entergy to upgrade to LED streetlights throughout the city.

ADJOURN

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

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 July 9, 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
July 9, 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 July 9, 2024, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
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 June 25, 2024.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 June 2024.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioners Dunn/Vincent to accept the monthly sales report for June 2024.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 July 9, 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
July 9, 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 July 9, 2024, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
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 June 25, 2024.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, 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 July 9, 2024.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council