

**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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October 8, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on October 8, 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.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 24, 2024.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize Reverend Dr. Gus C. Spurlock, Sr. (Mayor)

The Mayor recognized Reverend Dr. Gus C. Spurlock, Sr. for celebrating his 39th year as a pastor and for his commitment and service to the City of Baker and surrounding areas.

2. Recognize the Main Street Pilot Club (Collins)

Council Member Collins recognized the Main Street Pilot Club for raising \$7,500.00 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's and winning first place for funds raised in the non-profit category.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring October 2024 Pastor and Clergy Appreciation Month in the City of Baker (Murphy)

Council Member Murphy read the proclamation.

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

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.

Council Member Murphy recognized the pastors and clergy gathered this evening and thanked them for their service, not only to their congregations, but to the community as well.

2. Proclamation declaring October 2024 Breast Cancer 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 Murphy 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.

3. Proclamation declaring October 2024 Health Literacy 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 Murphy 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2024-28, an ordinance to designate and declare certain City of Baker assets to be surplus and scrap for related matters (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-28.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. VFW – Robert Reisz to speak about the organization (Mayor)

VFW Post Commander Robert Reisz and Membership Chair Joe Rose provided an overview of the organization. They said they are working to expand membership in order to provide support and assistance to local veterans and their families. They invited everyone to come out and support their efforts, saying catfish dinners are sold twice a month and every third Thursday is hamburger night. All funds raised go directly to assist veterans in our community. For more information go to www.vfwpost4224.org.

3. Community Partner Twahna P. Harris, The Butterfly Society, to speak about her organization and Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Mayor)

Twanna Harris, The Butterfly Society, presented data on domestic violence in Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas. Ms. Harris stated domestic violence is a crisis, a serious crisis, and it is imperative that the community take a stand. She reminded everyone that while October is recognized as Domestic Violence Month, domestic violence is a problem all the time. Ms. Harris explained a number of the resources and services provided by The Butterfly Society and reiterated the importance of being

involved and offering support to domestic violence survivors and their families. She said outreach is a specialty of the Butterfly Society and asked that anyone needing assistance call (225) 347-7725. She reminded everyone domestic violence is a community concern and that it takes each and every one of us to do something in order to make a difference.

4. Appoint auditor for FY 2023-2024 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to appoint the team they have assembled for fiscal year 2023-2024 as auditor.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2024-19, landlord/owner responsibility for removal/disposal of debris and waste when tenant moves, abandons and/or is evicted from rental house, apartment complex/unit and lease/rental commercial property and to provide for other matters regarding to the same (Mayor) (Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2024-19.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2024-20, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Chapter 22 Section 6 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances (Mayor) (Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2024-20.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Adopt Ordinance 2024-21, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Chapter 22 Section 9 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances (Mayor) (Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Collins to adopt Ordinance 2024-21.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Adopt Ordinance 2024-22, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Chapter 22 Section 10 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances (Mayor) (Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt Ordinance 2024-22.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Adopt Ordinance 2024-23, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Chapter 22 Section 11 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances (Mayor)
(Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt Ordinance 2024-23.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Adopt Ordinance 2024-24, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Chapter 22 Section 14 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances (Mayor)
(Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2024-24.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

7. Adopt Ordinance 2024-25, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Chapter 22 Section 15 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances (Mayor)
(Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2024-25.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

8. Adopt Ordinance 2024-26, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Chapter 22 Section 16 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances (Mayor)
(Introduced 9/24/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2024-26.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

9. Adopt Ordinance 2024-27, an ordinance to fix the rate of taxation and levy a tax to defray expense or operation of city government for all general purposes for the year 2024 on all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Baker,

Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 9/24/2024)
Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt Ordinance 2024-27.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 2 Announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn said she has three fans left from the Entergy Beat the Heat grant, if anyone needs one. She congratulated the Magnolia Rose Foundation on their successful Mad Hatter's Ball. Council Member Dunn thanked everyone who participated in the District 2 Community Meeting and assured them that she has spoken to the Mayor regarding their concerns. She assured everyone that work continues on tree trimming and streetlights.

2. Clean ditches to prevent flooding (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said he has fans available for those who need one as well. He asked that the city make sure that ditches are kept clean in order to facilitate water flow.

3. Trash/litter and Keep Louisiana Beautiful conference (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent thanked all those who participated in the city-wide cleanup. He reminded residents that every third Saturday is Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper initiative and asked that everyone do all they can to clean up their yards and neighborhoods. He said resources are available at the library to assist with trash pickup.

Council Member Collins asked Gerald Collins to speak about the upcoming Harvest for Better Health event. Mr. Collins announced the Harvest for Better Health Festival is being held Saturday, October 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 3325 Groom Road. The event will feature free health screenings, activities for kids, free food, and a live DJ.

Council Member Young said the next concealed carry informational meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2024. He also stated he needs more fans for residents in District 4.

Council Member Murphy thanked Representative Roy Adams, former council member Brenda G. Jackson, and everyone who participated in the District 5 Community Meeting, saying the community truly came together.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Update on Lead Service Line Inventory project (Mayor)

Administrative Officer Angela Machen provided a brief overview of the program and what has been accomplished thus far.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Reappoint R. Andrew Booth to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to concur with the Mayor's reappointment of R. Andrew Booth to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

The Mayor stated the city will soon begin demolishing condemned properties.

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 Young 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 October 8, 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
October 8, 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 October 8, 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 Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 24, 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 Commissioners Dunn/Murphy 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 October 8, 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
October 8, 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 October 8, 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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 24, 2024.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Vincent asked about some of the results listed in the report that was recently sent out to residents by the Utility Department.

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: 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 October 8, 2024.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council