

**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:

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Passcode: 217106

Telephone Conference Call

Dial In: 646-558-8656

Webinar ID: 860 3233 0393

Passcode: 217106

November 12, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on November 12, 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 Mayor Waites.

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 October 22, 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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to move item “1. Update on Groom Road MoveBR project (Mayor)” under Administrative Matters up on the agenda so that it follows the presentation by BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson to provide an update on Parks and Recreation (Mayor)

BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson read and explained the importance of the organization’s mission and its daily impact on every aspect of what they do. Mr. Wilson provided an update on parks and recreation throughout East Baton Rouge Parish and specifically what has been accomplished in the Baker area. He also provided an overview of BREC’s plans for the future, and the possibilities of what proposed development and growth might look like for the Baker community.

Discussion regarding Mr. Wilson's presentation was held.

1. *Update on Groom Road MoveBR project (Mayor)*

Fred Raiford, Transportation Director for East Baton Rouge Parish, and Tony Arikol, President of PEC, provided an update on 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. They stated once the project is complete 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, and a vastly improved drainage/stormwater system as well.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring November 2024 National Family Caregivers 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/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.

2. Proclamation declaring November 2024 Stomach 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2024-30, an ordinance to enact Baker Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 25 (Utilities), Section 25-14 to be titled 'Water and Gas Service Fees for New Construction' and Reenact Baker Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 25 (Utilities), Appendix A, Article X, Section 92 and 100.2, relative to same, respectively (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2024-30.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: Vincent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

2. Introduce Ordinance 2024-31, an ordinance to amend Ordinance 2018-11 and reenact Baker Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 25 (Utilities), Appendix A, Article X, Section 92 and 100.2, relative to Installation Fees of New Gas and Water Meters, respectively (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2024-31.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

3. Change December 24, 2024, council meeting date (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to reschedule the December 24, 2024, City Council meeting for Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. Announcement for upcoming events (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn asked that the council schedule a work session to discuss workforce development in the City of Baker.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss workforce development on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 4:45 p.m.

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

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Turning lane off Highway 19 onto Lavey Lane (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated that his constituents have asked about the possibility of a turning lane coming off Highway 19 onto Lavey Lane as part of the Lavey Lane improvements.

The Mayor stated the possibility could be discussed.

3. Sidewalks progress, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated his question regarding sidewalk progress was answered by BREC Superintendent Corey Wilson.

4. City improvements/holiday cheer (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recommended that a sign with area business names be placed on Highway 19 near the zoo so that motorists are aware of what is available in the City of Baker.

Council Member Vincent stated he spoke with Miles Photography regarding the purchase of photobooks from the inauguration, saying bulk pricing may be available.

Council Member Vincent wished everyone a cheerful holiday season, thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts, and stated that his constituents love the newly installed LED lights.

Council Member Young commended the Fire Department and firefighter Jesse Burris for a job well done in District 4.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Update on Groom Road MoveBR project (Mayor)

This agenda item was previously addressed.

2. Update on city projects (Mayor)

Chris Davezac provided an update on current and upcoming projects in the city.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CONDEMNATIONS

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 Murphy, 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 November 12, 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
November 12, 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 November 12, 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 October 22, 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/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 for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on November 12, 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
November 12, 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 November 12, 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 October 22, 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 November 12, 2024.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council