

**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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January 14, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 14, 2025, 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 Vincent.

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 December 17, 2024.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. Recognition for Stewart family (Mayor)

The mayor asked that this agenda item be tabled, as the Stewart family was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS**

**RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Proclamation declaring January 2025 National Blood Donor 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.

2. Proclamation declaring February 2025 African American History 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**

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

1. Adopt Ordinance 2024-33, an ordinance to designate and declare certain City of Baker Police and Public Works Departments assets surplus and scrap and for related matters (Mayor) (Introduced 12/17/2024)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2024-33.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

1. Are there gas or water lines under trees or shrubbery in our city that may cause hazards? If so, how much liability can the city incur? (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent asked what the city's liability would be if roots from trees or shrubbery disturbed or grew into gas or water lines, thus affecting service. He gave the example of a generator being installed and roots from existing vegetation disrupting the gas lines necessary for operation. Council Member Vincent asked that developers be made aware of the location of all utility lines and be advised to be mindful when landscaping.

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, expressed her concerns regarding the city's website being down and asked about a time frame for the website's refresh/launch. The mayor stated they are in the process of redoing the website and he expects it to be back online soon.

Council Member Dunn thanked everyone for their prayers and good wishes for her surgery and speedy recovery, she said they are greatly appreciated. She also thanked all who donated/participated in the bike and toy give-away held in December.

Council Member Collins announced that the mayor's daughter started nursing school at Southern University. She asked that everyone consider volunteering for the City of Baker Recreation Association's basketball season. Council Member Collins announced that the Magnolia Rose Foundation is hosting a resource fair on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Baker Municipal Center.

Council Member Young warned everyone about a current scam and asked them to be vigilant. He said to remember that Amazon does not knock on your door, he said to be aware. He announced Baker High School will hold a recognition program honoring its backers on Friday, April 11, 2025.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program – Monday, January 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (Mayor)

The mayor announced the city will host a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program on Monday, January 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Public Works Department for all they do.

Council Member Young also thanked the Public Works Department for all they do.

Council Member Murphy thanked PEC for beginning work on the Parc Chaleur drainage project.

Council Member Collins announced that the Renew Church Men’s Fellowship is doing a community-wide cleanup Saturday, January 25, 2025.

The mayor announced that ministers/pastors in and around the City of Baker have come together and established a prayer line and encouraged everyone to make use of this service.

### **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 Collins, 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 January 14, 2025.

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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  
January 14, 2025**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on January 14, 2025, 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 December 17, 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/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 January 14, 2025.

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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  
January 14, 2025**

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 January 14, 2025, 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 Commissioners Murphy/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 17, 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 January 14, 2025.

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Angela Canady Wall, LCMC  
Clerk of Council