

**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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Dial In: 646-558-8656

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January 28, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on January 28, 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 Murphy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dunn.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2025.

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) (Collins)

The mayor and Council Member Collins presented a certificate of recognition honoring Mr. Warner Stewart to his family.

2. Recognize Don Jones for his heroic and life-saving actions in saving Mr. Darrell Wilkinson (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent recognized Don Jones for his heroic and life-saving actions in saving Mr. Darrell Wilkinson.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring February 2025 Cervical Health 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 Glaucoma 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 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduce Ordinance 2025-1, an ordinance to amend, supplement and re-enact Article II, Section 6-21 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances and to provide for other matters relative to the same (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance was initiated by Council Member Vincent. He expressed his concerns regarding the proposed ordinance and provided the mayor and council with documentation relative to said concerns. Council Member Vincent feels entities seeking a business license should continue to come before the council for approval. He contends this function is a necessary and vital role of the legislative body.

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance and concerns expressed by Council Member Vincent continued.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2025-1.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Young

NAYS: Vincent

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-1.

2. Approve by-laws for Keep Baker Beautiful (Mayor) (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent gave a brief history of his involvement with beautification efforts in the city. He said he began his Friendly Neighbor Keeper Initiative in 2016 with a huge component of the program being regularly scheduled litter/trash pickup days on the third Saturday of every month. The creation of Keep Baker Beautiful is an outgrowth of such programs. Council Member Vincent introduced Dr. Ebony Iheanacho. Dr. Iheanacho is the affiliate director of Keep Baker Beautiful.

Dr. Iheanacho provided an overview of the Keep Baker Beautiful program and the proposed by-laws.

In a continuing effort to do all he can to eradicate litter/trash from the City of Baker, Council Member Vincent provided everyone with the Litter Hotline phone number and encouraged them to use it. The number is 1-888-548-7284.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Murphy to adopt the by-laws for Keep Baker Beautiful.

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. The Magnolia Rose Foundation will host a special education resource fair on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Baker Municipal Center (Collins)

Council Member Collins recognized the men of Renew Church and New Beginnings Church for their community-wide cleanup held on Saturday, January 25, 2025. She thanked the Baker Fire Department for providing pastalaya, the public works department for their participation, the mayor for his support, Dr. Iheanacho for being there, and all the volunteers who gave of their time and effort.

Council Member Collins announced the Magnolia Rose Foundation will host a special education resource fair on Thursday, January 30, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Baker Municipal Center.

2. The Baker Area Sports Association and City of Baker Recreation will host a Mardi Gras Sneaker Ball on Saturday, February 8, 2025, in the Baker Municipal Center Auditorium (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the Baker Area Sports Association and City of Baker Recreation will host a Mardi Gras Sneaker Ball on Saturday, February 8, 2025, in the Baker Municipal Center Auditorium.

3. African American History program on Southern University – the First 100 Years at Baker Branch Library on Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to noon (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent announced he will host an African American History program on Southern University – the First 100 Years at the Baker Branch Library on Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor provided a winter weather recap, saying the city did really well. He said there were no major accidents on the roads, and he has received no negative feedback.

The mayor announced Waste Pro will pick up recycling tomorrow and they are set to resume their regularly scheduled service.

The mayor announced bid openings for the N. Magnolia baseball field will be Thursday, February 27, 2025, so the project can begin.

The mayor stated the city will be getting new Christmas decorations and a decoration committee will be established to oversee the decoration of the city going forward.

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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy 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 28, 2025.

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 28, 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 28, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2025.

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 28, 2025.

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 28, 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 28, 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 Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Waites to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2025.

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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on January 28, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council