

**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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Passcode: 217106

Telephone Conference Call

Dial In: 646-558-8656

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February 25, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on February 25, 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 City Attorney Fabre.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dunn.

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 February 11, 2025.

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 Collins, seconded by Council Member Vincent to add the library to the agenda.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Leila Riley, Branch Services Coordinator, gave a presentation on proposed capital programs for the Baker Branch Library as well as other libraries throughout the parish, and provided an overview of the library's goals and vision for the future.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March 2025 Flood Awareness Month in the City of Baker

(Mayor)

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 March 2025 Multiple Sclerosis Education and 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 March 2025 National Kidney 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 Collins 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. Metro-Councilmember Anthony Kenney (Mayor)

Mr. Kenney was not present, the mayor asked that the meeting proceed.

2. Change the date of the March 11, 2025, council meeting – mayor, Council Member Collins and Council Member Dunn are attending the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. (Mayor)

Council Member Vincent asked the mayor to ensure that city council members receive a hard copy of the National League of Cities monthly newsletter going forward.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Collins/Murphy to reschedule the March 11, 2025, city council meeting for Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 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.

3. City of Baker Gas System Public Awareness Notice (Mayor)

Anthony Douglas, Public Works Director, provided an overview of the City of Baker Gas System Public Awareness Notice. The notice has been distributed to residents via their monthly utility bill.

Metro-Councilmember Anthony Kenney, District 2, introduced himself and stated he is looking forward to working with the mayor and council members, and representing the residents of the City of Baker. Mr. Kenney announced he will embark on a “Listening

Tour” throughout District 2 and the tour will stop at the Baker Branch Library on Monday, March 31, 2025. He invited everyone to come out and let their voices be heard.

PUBLIC MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, expressed her concerns regarding the city’s charter, specifically those sections dealing with the city attorney and requirements for that position. Dr. Jackson provided documentation to the mayor and council and asked that her concerns be addressed as outlined in the city charter.

Discussion followed.

1. Community comments (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn thanked the Public Works Department for their work this past weekend. She announced a District 2 community meeting will be held Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the municipal building. Council Member Dunn thanked her campaign manager, Kamari Stinson, for his continued dedication, as well as the hard work he’s done and continues to do in every aspect of his life. She thanked the mayor for visiting her church and speaking, and for all he does.

2. Call into council meeting availability for citizens, numerous cars at auto repair shop on Plank Road, commendations to Walmart for parking lot and other updates (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said constituents have had issues calling into council meetings, but the situation has been explained and should be resolved. He expressed his concerns regarding the appearance of Plank Road, and specifically the number of cars at the auto repair shop. Council Member Vincent said the mayor and Council Member Young assured him that they will address the situation. He commended Walmart for the new parking lot and other improvements they’ve made at the Baker location. Council Member Vincent thanked the Public Works Department for answering his call regarding a blocked sewer line on Friday evening. He reminded everyone to look at their emails and texts for information about the activities going on this Friday nationwide.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor introduced Dante Bidwell, the new Economic Development Director.

The mayor introduced Barbara Parker, who will work on events in the city as well as with Workforce Development.

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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent 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 February 25, 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
February 25, 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 February 25, 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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 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 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 February 25, 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
February 25, 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 February 25, 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 Commissioner Dunn to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 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 February 25, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council