

**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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March 18, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on March 18, 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 Dunn.

The mayor read a statement regarding public comment and open meetings.

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 March 3, 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 Young, seconded by Council Member Murphy to add Senator Barrow to provide an update on Jetson Correctional to the agenda.

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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to add District 2 announcements to the agenda.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring March 2025 Colon Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Collins)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, 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.

2. Proclamation declaring March 2025 Read Across America Recognition Month in the City of Baker (Collins)

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 Women's History 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.

4. Proclamation declaring March 2025 National Nutrition 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 2025-3, Chapters 28 and 29 of the City of Baker Code of Ordinances: Storm Water Management Relative to During Construction and Post Construction for all development and re-development within the City of Baker and to provide for other matters regarding to the same (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to introduce Ordinance 2025-3.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Approve travel for Chief Dunn and Assistant Chief Becnel to attend the LACP Mid-Year Conference in Marksville, Louisiana, March 25-27, 2025 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Members Vincent/Young to approve travel for Chief Dunn and Assistant Chief Becnel to attend the LACP Mid-Year Conference in Marksville, Louisiana, March 25-27, 2025.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Schedule work session to discuss the city's blighted property/code enforcement procedures (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to schedule a work session to discuss the city's blighted property/code enforcement procedures on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 4:30.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. *Senator Barrow to provide an update on Jetson Correctional (Young)*

Senator Barrow reported that plans are to move the women currently being housed at Jetson and return youth to the facility. Tentative plans call for the women to be moved this summer so that work can be done on infrastructure, allowing for youth to return in November. Senator Barrow stated she has lingering concerns and questions regarding this situation and continues to work with Jetson's administration to get answers and assurance that both the youth and members of the surrounding community are safe.

Discussion followed.

PUBLIC MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. Overview of National League of Cities (Collins)

Council Member Collins thanked the city for allowing her to attend the National League of Cities Conference. She recognized Mayor Waites for being elected as part of a council at the conference, and for his work and representation of the City of Baker. Council Member Collins stated the conference was very informative and plans are to implement and utilize much of what was learned in the future.

Council Member Dunn thanked the city for allowing her to attend the National League of Cities Conference as well. She also recognized Mayor Waites for his outstanding leadership. She stated she learned at the conference that many of the issues being faced by the City of Baker are prevalent across the nation. Council Member Dunn reiterated that residents must come together, be united, and work together for a better Baker. She feels this is the only way the city can truly grow, prosper, and reach its full potential.

2. District 3 public meeting being held April 3, 2025 (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced that a District 3 public meeting will be held Thursday, April 3, 2025.

3. Renew Church 5th Sunday Family Day at Baker Park on March 30, 2025 – open to the public (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced Renew Church is hosting its 5th Sunday Family Day at Baker Park on Sunday, March 30, 2025. The event is open to the public.

4. Thank you to BR Metro-Councilmember Anthony Kenney for hosting a public meeting at the Baker Library (Collins)

Council Member Collins thanked BR Metro-Councilmember Anthony Kenney for hosting an upcoming listening session at the Baker Library Monday, March 31, 2025.

5. Rotary Club of Baker 50-year anniversary March 27, 2025 (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the Rotary Club of Baker will celebrate its 50-year anniversary on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

6. EBR Early Childhood Community Network Extravaganza announcement (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the EBR Early Childhood Community Network Extravaganza is being held Saturday, March 22, 2025. Information regarding this event is available online.

7. Diontreya Claiborne Stop the Violence Fundraiser Gala March 22, 2025, recognition and call to support (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the Diontreya Claiborne Stop the Violence Gala is being held Saturday, March 22, 2025. She stated the event is a recognition and call for support and invited everyone to be proactive in stopping violence.

The mayor addressed the following question submitted by a meeting attendee – How does the charter school system plan to deal with special education? The mayor said he did not know, but he will certainly find out. He invited her to meet with him to discuss the situation after he is able to do further research.

8. Status of the City of Baker School System (Murphy)

Council Member Murphy said the status of the school system affects everything, there is a direct correlation between the state of the city's school system and economic development and growth in the City of Baker. He said the situation must be addressed and rectified in order for the city to prosper. Council Member Murphy said he will work to find and implement solutions for every aspect of the situation within his sphere of control.

9. Thank Entergy for proactive cutting of tree limbs on electrical lines, removal of pole from entry to Parkwood Terrace subdivision, and placing new light bulbs in front of Murphy Gas station on Plank Road, Love the Boot clean-up next month, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent thanked Entergy for cutting tree limbs on/near electrical lines throughout the city. He asked that Entergy remove the pole located at the front of Parkwood Terrace subdivision, as it is an eyesore. Council Member Vincent reiterated the importance of having new light bulbs and/or more lighting placed on Plank Road. He said the lack of light is a safety issue and should be addressed immediately. He announced Love the Boot begins next month on April 4th and will be celebrated in Baker on April 12th. He reminded his colleagues to submit their two recommendations to Dr. Ebony Iheanacho for the Keep Baker Beautiful Advisory board. Council Member Vincent thanked Mr. Deshay Griffin of the Public Works Department for his timely response to his call for assistance.

10. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn announced a District 2 community meeting will be held Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the municipal building.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Update on National League of Cities Congressional Conference (Mayor)

The mayor provided an overview of key insights gleaned from attending the National League of Cities Congressional Conference.

The mayor provided updates on various projects currently in progress throughout 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 Dunn, 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 March 18, 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
March 18, 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 March 18, 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 Commissioners Murphy/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 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 March 18, 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
March 18, 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 March 18, 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 Dunn/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 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 of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on March 18, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council