

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3325 GROOM ROAD, BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714
www.youtube.com/@bakerforward
May 27, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on May 27, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR
Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Robert Young

ABSENT
Desiree Collins

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.
The invocation was given by Council Member Murphy.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Waites.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2025.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Murphy to move “1. Adopt Ordinance 2025-5, an ordinance to rename the Baker Fire Station in honor of James E. “Goose” Carroll (Mayor) (Introduced 5/13/2025)” under Public Meeting up on the agenda so that it follows Planning and Zoning Matters.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

1. *Adopt Ordinance 2025-5, an ordinance to rename the Baker Fire Station in honor of James E. “Goose” Carroll (Mayor) (Introduced 5/13/2025)*

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2025-5.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to add item “4. Resolution acknowledging that the mayor will execute a contract for legal counsel” to the agenda under Resolutions and Proclamations.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring May 2025 Brain 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: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Proclamation declaring May 2025 National Women’s Health 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: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Proclamation declaring June 19, 2025, Juneteenth in the City of Baker (Vincent)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. *Resolution acknowledging that the mayor will execute a contract for legal counsel*

The mayor read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution.

Discussion regarding the resolution and the need for additional legal counsel was held.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel Matter - Council to consider whether under the Baker Charter Article IV Sec 4-06, the City Attorney, subsequent to being appointed years prior, can continue to serve after changing his voter registration in September of 2024

(Mayor)

The mayor stated because of the lawsuit they had to null and void everything they did at the meeting on March 3, 2025. He said that has been done. He stated now they have to go back into Executive Session and let the council deliberate.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to go into Executive Session to discuss the eligibility of the city attorney working despite voter registration issues that have been brought up.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to reopen the meeting.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Murphy read the council's statement. He stated the council held that the city attorney owes no money to the city. He stated the city attorney is licensed and practicing law and is fulfilling the duties and is therefore eligible to receive pay for his services rendered. Council Member Murphy stated the council also held that his change of voter registration has set a limitation on him from seeking another appointment, and that he would not be qualified to get reappointed unless he changes his voter registration and residency back to the City of Baker. The council also held that he is able to continue to work at his current position as the city attorney until June 30, 2025. Council Member Murphy said the council reached these opinions after speaking with someone from the Louisiana Department of Justice who said there were no legal violations because the attorney's license is valid and so therefore, he is able to receive compensation. The representative from the Louisiana Department of Justice also said this is a charter rule, not a malfeasance nor law issue, and it is something for the mayor and city council to decide.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the recommendation of the council.

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, asked the city council if they had conducted an investigation. Council Member Dunn replied in the affirmative, saying yes, they did.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

2. Schedule work session to discuss Ordinance 2025-6, regulations regarding automobile repair work and oil changes in residential and subdivision areas and to provide for other matters regarding to the same (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss Ordinance 2025-6, regulations regarding automobile repair work and oil changes in residential and subdivision areas and to provide for other matters regarding to the same on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

3. Introduce Ordinance 2025-7, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of general fund revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to introduce Ordinance 2025-7.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

4. Introduce Ordinance 2025-8, an ordinance to adopt the operating budget of special revenue funds revenues and expenditures City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2025-8.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

5. Introduce Ordinance 2025-9, an ordinance to adopt the capital budget and capital program of governmental funds City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2025-9.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

6. Introduce Ordinance 2025-10, an ordinance to adopt the budget of utility fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Vincent to introduce Ordinance 2025-10.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

7. Introduce Ordinance 2025-11, an ordinance to adopt the budget of cemetery fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Murphy to introduce Ordinance 2025-11.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

8. Introduce Ordinance 2025-12, an ordinance to adopt the budget of sewer revenue fund revenues, expenditures and capital improvements City of Baker, Louisiana, fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to introduce Ordinance 2025-12.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Adopt Ordinance 2025-5, an ordinance to rename the Baker Fire Station in honor of James E. "Goose" Carroll (Mayor) (Introduced 5/13/2025)

This item was previously addressed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn announced the Fish & Fun Day will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2025, at the park on North Magnolia. She asked that anyone interested in being involved in the event contact her after the meeting.

2. District 1 announcements (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent said he is glad that the mayor and Mr. Davis plan to discuss the appearance of Main Street. He announced that LMA will host a webinar on hurricane season on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Council Member Dunn thanked the mayor for helping to bring Charlie's Place, a center for those suffering from Alzheimer's, to Baker.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor advised everyone to begin preparing for hurricane season.

The mayor said they are working on the water leak in Baker Heights. He said the water lines are old, thus the continuing push by the city to improve infrastructure.

The mayor stated Waste Pro is currently working with one truck and the city will meet with them and work to find a resolution to garbage disposal/pickup issues. He said that debris/trash removal may be sub-contracted out. The mayor asked that residents not put wood into garbage cans, saying they are for garbage in bags only.

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 – September 18-20, 2025
 - b. Prayer Breakfast – Friday, June 27, 2025, at 7:30 a.m.
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement
 - e. Main Street District Committee

Willie Sanders, 6206 Molino, asked that the city address the situation at 6204 Molino. Neighbors report that the grass is over eight inches tall and the house is deplorable.

William Davis, 13314 London, expressed his concerns regarding the parking lot and landscaping at Greenwood Shopping Center on Main Street. He asked that the responsible party be held accountable and perform the required maintenance at this location.

Dr. Toni Jackson, 931 Husband, expressed her concerns regarding the city's charter, specifically those sections dealing with the city prosecutor 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, including but not limited to a thorough review for charter violations as well as a formal investigation.

Discussion followed.

John Champagne, 3535 Harrison, asked where the pictures of the City of Baker’s former mayors are and why they are no longer hanging on the wall in the council chambers. The mayor stated the pictures are at the museum. Mr. Champagne stated he would like to see them returned to the council chambers.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adjourn.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Collins

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

**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 May 27, 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
May 27, 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 May 27, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

ABSENT
Desiree Collins

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 May 13, 2025.

YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Collins
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Collins
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on May 27, 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
May 27, 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 May 27, 2025, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

ABSENT
Desiree Collins

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/Murphy/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2025.
YEAS: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Collins
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

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: Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites, Young
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Collins
ABSTAIN: None
The motion passed by 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 Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on May 27, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council