

**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
June 10, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 10, 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 Young.

***** Public comments will be allowed on all agenda items. Such comments shall not exceed 3 minutes and shall be confined to the agenda item and any proposed disposition thereof.*****

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 May 27, 2025.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The city attorney asked that the minutes reflect the fact that the mayor invited public comment before and after each motion at the last council meeting.

The mayor asked if there were any more comments or questions.

Council Member Dunn asked for clarity on what was just stated.

The mayor explained the minutes should reflect that he asks for any public comments before any vote.

Discussion followed.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize outstanding teachers in Baker (Collins)
Council Member Collins recognized Pre-K teachers – Shantel Eisley, Leigh Glaser, Precious Vincent, and Tina Walker – for their exemplary work that resulted in providing high quality early childhood experiences evidenced by the Louisiana Department of Education with scores of excellent.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring June 2025 National League of Cities Small Cities 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 Dunn to accept the proclamation.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Proclamation declaring June 2025 Alzheimer's and Brain 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.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Sam Boatner, District 4, stated Pennington Biomedical Center has an abundance of free information and services dealing with Alzheimer's disease. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of said services and get tested.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Proclamation declaring June 2025 PTSD 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.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Proclamation declaring June 19, 2025, World Sickle Cell Awareness Day in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent announced former LSU football player Ryan Clark will host his annual event – Ryan's Run for Sickle Cell Disease on Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in Baton Rouge.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

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 Council reserves the right to enter into executive session on this agenda item pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1) [discussion of competence], La. RS. 42:17(A)(4) [investigation] and R.S. 42:17(A)(10) to facilitate privileged attorney/client communications under La. Code of Evidence Article 506; all pertinent notifications have been provided.****

Henry Olinde, special counsel for the mayor and council, explained that the open meetings law section 42:17 (A)(1) requires that the person whose qualifications and/or competence is being discussed, must be given more than twenty-four hours' notice. The law also allows the subject of said discussion to decide if they would rather the proceedings take place in public rather than in executive session. Mr. Olinde stated Mr. Fabre, the city attorney, was given proper notice. He also said Mr. Fabre responded in writing saying that he elects to go into executive session to discuss this matter and does not wish to be in public, open session to discuss the matter. Mr. Olinde provided the mayor a copy of Mr. Fabre's response and asked that it be made part of the record.

Mr. Olinde articulated the motion to go into executive session saying you would move to enter into executive session to discuss item number one under New Business on the council agenda – Personnel Matter – that the mayor referred to before, pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17 (A)(1) for discussion of competence, La. R.S. 42:17 (A)(4) for investigation purposes and La. R.S. 42:17 (A)(10) to facilitate privileged attorney/client communications with me (Mr. Olinde) under Louisiana code of evidence Article 506.

Council Member Dunn stated the council would like to make that motion.

The mayor stated they have to say the motion, and instructed them to make a motion to go into executive session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1), La. RS. 42:17(A)(4) [investigation] and R.S. 42:17(A)(10) to facilitate privileged attorney/client communications under La. Code of Evidence Article 506.

The motion was made by Council Member Collins, seconded by Council Member Murphy to go into an executive meeting pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1) [discussion of competence], La. RS. 42:17(A)(4) [investigation] and R.S. 42:17(A)(10) to facilitate privileged attorney/client communications under La. Code of Evidence Article 506, all pertinent notifications have been provided.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

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 Vincent, seconded by Council Member Collins to come out of executive session.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

The mayor stated no votes were taken, no decisions were made in executive session.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young that Mr. Fabre's voter registration change, that he was appointed and serving as city attorney for years does not disqualify him as the city attorney and that he be allowed to continue as the city attorney until his retirement at the end of this month.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

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. District 3 announcements (Collins)

Council Member Collins thanked everyone for their participation in Family Day in the Park which was the opening season for T-Ball, coach's pitch, and baseball. She also thanked everyone who participated in the fundraiser for District Chief Ronald Brady of the Baker Fire Department. She announced District 3 will host a Juneteenth Bike Ride on Thursday, June 19, 2025, and invited everyone to celebrate with them. Council Member Collins announced on the last Sunday of this month District 3 will host a community day at the Blue Zoo, the city's first annual staycation. The first one hundred registrants will enjoy the outing with no expenses incurred.

2. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn recognized the mayor for running for first vice-president of LMA. Council Member Dunn announced the Fish & Fun Day will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2025, at the park on North Magnolia. She thanked the City of Baker employees for always being there, going above and beyond, and supporting her and District 2.

3. District 1 announcements/comments – Ryan's Run, a sickle cell event, will be held Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in Baton Rouge; 3rd Saturday litter collection in District 1; thanks to Public Works Department from constituents in District 1 and the city in general; pending hurricane season (LMA informative information) (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent thanked the Public Works Department for putting dirt in a constituent's yard, helping with another's culvert, and filling a hole in another's yard in District 1. He announced Ryan's Run, a sickle cell event, will be held Saturday, August 23, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in downtown Baton Rouge. Council Member Vincent thanked those who continue to participate in the third Saturday litter pick-up around the city and encouraged all to do what they can to keep Baker beautiful. He reminded everyone of the impending hurricane season and encouraged hurricane preparedness.

Council Member Young announced he will host a Family Fun Day with District 4 on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Church of the Nazarene. He

invited everyone to come out and enjoy a day of celebration and community fellowship. Council Member Young encouraged his colleagues to get out and talk to their constituents, to hear what they have to say, saying it's a way of bringing the community together.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

The mayor's prayer breakfast will be held on Friday, June 27, 2025. Senator Regina Barrow will be the guest speaker. Tickets are on sale now.

2. Baker Chamber of Commerce Back to School Event

The mayor asked that any organization interested in being part of the giveaway contact the Baker Chamber of Commerce.

3. Baker Buffalo Festival

The Baker Buffalo Festival will be held September 18-20, 2025.

4. Status of bills in the legislature

The mayor asked that everyone be informed about what is going on in the legislature and that they let their representatives know their feelings on the topics being addressed. A handout was distributed which provided an overview of several of the bills currently in the legislature.

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.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

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 June 10, 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
June 10, 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 June 10, 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 May 27, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
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

Commissioner Vincent asked how many, if any, of the vases stolen from the cemetery have been recovered. Bianca Brooks stated fifteen vases have been recovered.

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.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
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 June 10, 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
June 10, 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 June 10, 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/Murphy/Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 27, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Commissioner Vincent stated residents received a very fine report regarding the city's drinking water from the Utility Department recently.

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 Vincent to adjourn.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

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 June 10, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council