

**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 24, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on June 24, 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 Mayor Waites.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Murphy.

***** 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 June 10, 2025.

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 Young to add Kellye Worley with Family Services under Recognitions to the agenda.

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 Dunn, seconded by Council Member Young to add Desiree Harris with Entergy under Recognitions to the agenda.

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.

RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognize the 5-year anniversary of City to City Riderz and Donald and Shannon Green as City of Baker Community Servants for their unwavering commitment to promoting health, wellness, and community fellowship through the power of cycling (Collins)

Council Member Collins asked that the council revisit this agenda item when the City to City Riderz bike club arrives.

2. *Kellye Worley with Department of Children and Family Services*

Kellye Worley gave a presentation on the Department of Children & Family Services' foster parenting program.

The motion was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Murphy to add schedule a work session on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. for an Open Meetings Law presentation by the Attorney General's office under New Business to the agenda.

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 Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to set the time and date for the scheduled work session for an Open Meetings Law presentation by the Attorney General's office for Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

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.

3. *Desiree Collins with Entergy*

Desiree Collins announced that through Entergy's "Beat the Heat" program each council member will receive fans to distribute in their district. Entergy's "Beat the Heat" program helps vulnerable customers stay cool and manage energy bills during the summer months by providing bill payment assistance, fans, energy efficiency kits, and resources from community partners. The program also connects customers with Single Stop, a free service that helps them access financial assistance and other support.

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to adopt a paradigm shift for transportation infrastructure (Mayor)
Daryl Blacher provided an overview of the resolution.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt the resolution.

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.

Council Member Collins recognized the 5-year anniversary of City to City Riderz, members of the club, and Donald and Shannon Green as City of Baker Community Servants for their unwavering commitment to promoting health, wellness, and community fellowship through the power of cycling.

2. Proclamation declaring June 2025 Cataract 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.

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 Men's 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.

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. Council Leadership for 2025 – 2026 (Mayor)

Discussion regarding the annual change in council leadership and the manner in which who is to be President and Vice-President of the Baker City Council is determined was held. The mayor asked for information from the most recent election and asked that this agenda item be addressed once the information has been received.

2. *Schedule a work session on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. for an Open Meetings Law presentation by the Attorney General's office*

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to accept the date and time of the scheduled work session for an Open Meetings Law presentation by the Attorney General's office. The work session has been scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

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

1. Adopt 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) (Introduced 5/27/2025)

Public meeting was held.

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

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. Adopt 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) (Introduced 5/27/2025)

Public meeting was held.

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

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.

3. Adopt 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) (Introduced 5/27/2025)

Public meeting was held.

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

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. Adopt 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) (Introduced 5/27/2025)

Public meeting was held.

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

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.

5. Adopt 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) (Introduced 5/27/2025)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt Ordinance 2025-11.

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.

6. Adopt 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) (Introduced 5/27/2025)

Public meeting was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt Ordinance 2025-12.

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.

Council Member Young left the meeting.

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 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She thanked the Public Works Department and Mr. Vessell for the work they did in District 2 recently.

2. Hurricane preparations, Waste Pro information, left turn into Greenwood Park heading south on Highway 19, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent asked for clarification on the process to have Waste Pro remove debris from residents' yards. The mayor asked that everyone call both the city and Waste Pro to have debris removed. Council Member Vincent asked why you can no longer make a left-hand turn traveling south on Highway 19 at Greenwood Park. The mayor stated the

long range plan is to put a turning lane at that location. Council Member Vincent provided an overview of the meeting he attended last night. He asked if there are issues with the lights along Plank Road. The mayor stated Plank Road is a state highway, and recommended that Council Member Vincent contact Joshua Stutes with DOTD.

Council Member Collins thanked everyone for their participation in Family Day in the Park which was hosted two weeks ago.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor announced the Prayer Breakfast will be held Friday, June 27, 2025, in the Municipal Auditorium. Senator Regina Barrow will be the guest speaker. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. and tickets are available for \$7.00.

1. LMA Annual Convention – July 29, 2025 to July 31, 2025 – Lake Charles, Louisiana (Mayor)

The mayor announced the LMA Annual Convention is being held July 29, 2025 to July 31, 2025, in Lake Charles.

2. 2025 Asphalt Street Rehabilitation Program (Mayor)

The mayor stated the street rehabilitation program has begun and asked that everyone be patient while all of the various projects are completed, as each one is for the betterment of our community.

The mayor expressed his appreciation for the Finance Department and all of their hard work.

The mayor returned to the issue of council leadership. He stated Council Member Murphy will be the President and Council Member Dunn will be the Vice-President of the Baker City Council beginning July 1, 2025. He asked the council to accept the slate of new leadership.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Collins to accept the slate of new leadership for the city council.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Council Member Collins explained that the method used to determine the order of council leadership following an election is based on both voter numbers and percentages.

Discussion regarding the manner in which who is to be President and Vice-President of the Baker City Council is determined followed.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Council Member Murphy asked that the city attorney be allowed to speak.

City attorney Ken Fabre, who will retire on June 30, 2025, offered his thoughts and feelings regarding his time at the City of Baker, as well as expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the Baker community.

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

A resident asked for clarification on the responsibilities of city council members. She expressed her concerns regarding communication between council members and constituents, saying she is unclear about who to contact for assistance as well as the proper protocol for doing so.

Discussion followed.

ADJOURN

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

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Council Member Vincent stated that he is available to any resident, no matter what district they live in, for assistance at any time. He encouraged residents to call any council member, with any issue, and assured them that each one will do all they can to address their concerns. Council Member Vincent said council members will work with the mayor and his staff to address constituents' issues.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

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 June 24, 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 24, 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 24, 2025, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS
Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT
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 June 10, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Young
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.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.
YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Young
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 June 24, 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 24, 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 24, 2025, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Desiree Collins
Rochelle Dunn
Cedric Murphy
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites

ABSENT

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 June 10, 2025.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

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.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Waites

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Young

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 June 24, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council