

**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
September 9, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 9, 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 Murphy, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 26, 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.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring September 2025 Blood Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)
The proclamation was read by Aneatra Boykin.

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 September 2025 Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

The proclamation was read by Aneatra Boykin.

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. Tire Business Ordinance (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent asked that this agenda item be tabled. He provided his colleagues with information regarding East Baton Rouge Parish's recently adopted tire business ordinance and asked that they review the documents so that a work session to discuss a similar ordinance for the City of Baker can be scheduled at the next council meeting.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Murphy to table this agenda item.

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 2025-19, an ordinance to fix the rate of taxation and levy an ad valorem property tax to defray the operational expenses of the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, for all general purposes for the year 2025 on all taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Baker, Louisiana (Mayor) (Introduced 8/26/2025)

Public meeting was held.

Dr. Toni Jackson expressed her concerns and initiated discussion regarding the proposed ordinance. Dr. Jackson posited several questions and asked that each be answered.

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages provided an explanation of the proposed ordinance, millages, and ad valorem property taxes. She also answered the questions posed by Dr. Jackson.

Discussion followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt Ordinance 2025-19.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Adopt Ordinance 2025-20, regulations regarding 18 Wheelers, Tank, and/or transport vehicles parking on private or public property within the City of Baker and to provide for other matters regarding to the same (Mayor) (Introduced 8/26/2025)

Public meeting was held.

Dr. Toni Jackson expressed her concerns and initiated discussion regarding the proposed ordinance.

Discussion regarding the proposed ordinance was held.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Murphy to adopt Ordinance 2025-20.

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

1. District 3 announcements – Interact GBR sponsored by the Rotary Club of Baker in collaboration with Mayor Darnell Waites and the City of Baker will host meetings for all high school students, upcoming election community awareness, many thanks to Senator Regina Barrow Pro Tempore for Educators R Essential Giveaway, ER at Lane Regional Healthcare Hospital – this is a \$9 million investment, EBR Metro Council quarterly District 2 meeting on Monday, September 8, 2025, City of Baker Recreation Association features new programming, community service highlight: the building and zoning committee, business highlights: welcome Cajun Cuisine to the community, and acknowledge National Hispanic Heritage Month in Baker (Collins)

Council Member Collins announced the Rotary Club of Baker in collaboration with Mayor Darnell Waites and the City of Baker will host Interact GBR meetings on Mondays beginning September 8, 2025, in the meeting room of the Baker Municipal Center. She said the meetings will provide ACT prep, community service initiatives, and facilitate college tours, free of charge, for all interested high school students. Council Member Collins reminded everyone of the upcoming election in October and asked that residents educate themselves on the candidates and exercise their right to vote. She thanked Senator Regina Barrow Pro Tempore for hosting the Educators R Essential Giveaway and her sensitivity to the needs of teachers. Council Member Collins announced there is a new ER at Lane Regional Hospital, saying it is a nine-million-dollar investment. She stated EBR Metro Councilmember Anthony Kenney, District 2, hosted a quarterly meeting yesterday. She stated the City of Baker Recreation Association features new programming. Council Member Collins recognized Willie Williams and Lynette Mack for their impactful work on the Planning and Zoning Commission, saying they are unpaid volunteers who give of their time for community service. She welcomed new restaurant Cajun Cuisine to the community and encouraged everyone to go and check them out. Council Member Collins acknowledged National Hispanic Heritage Month.

2. District 2 announcements (Dunn)

Council Member Dunn stated there will be a walk in Bakerfield subdivision for speed bumps on Thursday, September 11, 2025. She thanked the Public Works Department for the work they have done and will continue to do in District 2. Council Member Dunn reminded residents that servitudes belong to the property owner, and property owners are responsible for the upkeep of these areas.

3. District 1 announcements – vehicles/cars/trucks will all four tires on the street overnight is prohibited in Baker, KLB conference upcoming, and litter pickup, etc. (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent expressed his concerns regarding vehicles parking on the street and asked that residents not do so. He stated he has a constituent who has been dealing with this issue for five years. Council Member Vincent stated Code Enforcement is now involved, and the mayor's office is aware of the situation, thus, he hopes to have resolution

to the issue. Council Member Vincent announced the Keep Louisiana Beautiful conference is coming up in October. He announced Keep Baker Beautiful is having its cleanup day this Saturday. Anyone interested in attending the event should meet at the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday morning. He asked that if residents are unable to attend the event on Saturday, that they join him on the third Saturday of each month and pick up litter around their homes, in their neighborhoods, and throughout the city. Council Member Vincent asked that the Public Works Department not forget the ditches on Thomas Road and asked that they be cut as soon as the mower's boom arm has been repaired.

Council Member Murphy announced a blood and platelet drive is being held for District Chief Ronald Brady of the Baker Fire Department on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the fire station on Groom Road.

Council Member Collins thanked Representative Barbara Carpenter and Kermit Johnson for hosting the recently held Baker Market. She encouraged everyone to support the market and take advantage of the opportunity when it presents itself.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint Jeremy Jackson to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Murphy)
The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Dunn to appoint Jerney Jackson to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

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. Appoint Denise Williams to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Murphy)
The motion was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Vincent to appoint Denise Williams to the Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The mayor thanked Senator Regina Barrow, Representative Barbara Carpenter, and Representative Roy Adams for coming through for the City of Baker with donations for community projects and social services.

The mayor announced the Buffalo Festival beauty pageant will be held Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the event.

The mayor announced the Buffalo Festival will be held September 18-20, 2025. He stated the festival is a family event and this year it will feature various vendors for both eating and shopping. Tentative schedules for the festival are available in the lobby.

The mayor announced the Buffalo Festival parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. and roll down Groom Road from Advantage Charter on Saturday, September 20, 2025. Participation in the parade is open to everyone and free of charge. However, anyone running for office will be charged an entry fee.

The mayor said signs are out of hand and the city intends to tighten up on this issue.

The mayor said situation with stray dogs in the city is out of control. He stated he plans to have a meeting with Animal Control in an effort to facilitate enforcement of the city's ordinance concerning this matter and wants residents to be aware that these changes are coming.

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.

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 September 9, 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
September 9, 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 September 9, 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 Dunn/Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 26, 2025.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Commissioner Vincent asked about the absence of a signature on the financial reports submitted by the Finance Department. He stated the report is acceptable due to the mayor certifying its validity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted multiple financial reports.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to accept the financial reports.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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.

The mayor 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 September 9, 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
September 9, 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 September 9, 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 Murphy to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 26, 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

Finance Director Mary Sue Stages submitted multiple financial reports.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

The motion was made by Commissioner Waites, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to accept the financial reports.

The mayor called for public comments or questions.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

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/Murphy to adjourn.

Commissioner Waites called for public comments or questions.

Dr. Toni Jackson suggested that the Finance Department both sign and place the city seal on financial reports in the future.

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 September 9, 2025.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council