

CITY OF PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA
PUBLIC HEARING & COUNCIL MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
JANUARY 10, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Mayor Rich Dupree and the Council of the City of Pineville, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 910 Main Street, Pineville, Louisiana

1. Mayor Dupree called the meeting to order
2. Councilman Martin gave the invocation
3. Councilman Dorn led the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call

Present:	District 1 District 2 District 3 District 5	Councilwoman Mary Galloway Councilman Kevin Dorn Councilwoman Christy Frederic Councilman Nathan Martin
Absent:	District 4	Councilman Tom Bouchie
5. A motion was made by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2022, regular meeting as published. The floor was opened for public comment. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilman Dorn to accept the financial report submitted by former Finance Director, Paige Weatherford and read by Doug Gann, Chief of Staff. The floor was opened for public comment.
 - Mayor Dupree stated that Finance Director, Paige Weatherford, has just recently resigned her position, but did prepare the report prior to her departure.On vote, the motion carried unanimously.
7. Mayor Dupree presented Brylee Dicus, 2nd grade student at J.I. Barron Elementary, the Mayor's Award of Integrity. Brylee was joined by her parents and school principle Richard Dewees. Brylee was recognized for finding \$100 and turning it into the office where the money found its way back to the owner.
8. PRESENTATION was given by Robert Mooney, Sales Representative from Rivercity Hydraulics Inc, regarding the opportunity to lease the City's sanitation truck fleet. He was introduced by Mr. Gann, who explained the reason the City is considering this lease option is due to large amounts of unbudgeted repairs and the unreliability of the fleet due to its age.
 - Mr. Mooney stated Rivercity Hydraulics is based out of Sherwood, Arkansas, and their sanitation fleet lease program was developed in 2006 to service Arkansas municipalities. The program has since expanded to Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi. The lease agreement allows for 2-year rotation of equipment to keep the fleet current and repairs to a minimum. Repairs are under warranty and the City is only responsible for routine maintenance. Therefore, budgeting the cost is very easy and downtime is minimal.
 - Mayor Dupree asked for the names of some other municipalities they service with this lease program. Mr. Mooney replied: Ball, Jena, Ruston, Farmerville, Lake Providence, Morgan City, Welch and Jonesboro are those he could think of at this time, but there are more. His Sales Manager, Jamie McCoy, stated about 30-35 in Arkansas, 15-20 in Tennessee and 7-8 in Mississippi.
 - Councilwoman Frederic asked what is the difference between the City's current equipment and what they offer. Mr. Mooney replied their equipment is higher quality because the City always buys equipment from the lowest bidder. Their units pack about double the trash per yard that our current unit's do, which means cutting the landfill trips in half.

- Councilman Dorn asked where is their shop. Mr. Mooney replied they perform maintenance and operate service trucks out of their Walker, Louisiana, location. Councilman Dorn followed up with asking does the company have a loaner program if needed. Mr. Mooney replied that they do not, because always having the newer equipment reduces the chance of something major occurring, but they are willing to work with us if needed. Since they always have the 2-year old trucks coming in, they are willing to loan one if available and they have loaned a couple times when needed due to significant downtime that he is aware of.
- Councilman Dorn asked if there is some type containment system on the trucks to reduce fluid leakage from the pressing of garbage. Mr. Mooney replied their trucks have a tighter tailgate seal design than our current fleet and like other manufacturers, they have the hopper for excess with a plug that can be drained.
- Councilwoman Frederic asked if we are talking about two different types of trucks for the two different processes with this lease. Mr. Mooney replied with “yes”, the original proposal is for two grapple trucks to pick up the heavy debris and bulk trash items and for three rear-loaders to pick up the household garbage.
- Councilman Martin expressed concern about the weight limit for some of our roads with doubling the truck capacity. Mr. Mooney replied that the truck has tandem-axle chassis and is rated more on pressure per square inch spread out over three axles with more tires/rubber points of contact on the pavement. This is better than a smaller truck with two axles, as they can put more wear and tear on the road.
- Councilwoman Frederic asked if their trucks have the same personnel requirements as our current fleet. Mr. Mooney replied “yes”, they are all CDL trucks.
- Mayor Dupree asked if the company offers a smaller satellite truck for use in the smaller areas, roads or cul-de-sacs. Mr. Mooney replied “absolutely. The Town of Ball just added a satellite truck to the lease that was just renewed to be used in places like trailer parks or on narrow roads. The satellite trucks have the ability to eject their load into the larger trucks, so they don’t have to travel to the landfill.
- Mayor Dupree closed out the presentation by explaining the City has been studying this option for several months and it is believed the dependability of the fleet will be improved as we have had to pick up garbage with trash trucks due to down time. Mayor Dupree thanked them for coming and taking the time for the presentation.

9. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to reschedule the Finance Committee meeting set for Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 at 4:30pm in the City Council Chambers. The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this meeting is a mid-year review of City expenses for the Fiscal Year that operates from July 1 – June 30. We need to reschedule due to the resignation of Mrs. Weatherford. We will announce the date at the February 14th Council Meeting .

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

10. Zoning Commission Report: Regarding a petition for variance by Dexter and Tomika Martin, to allow a manufactured home on the property located at 218 Fairbrook Street for them to use as their primary place of residence. Mr. Tom David, Zoning Commission Chair, stated that it was the Zoning Commission’s recommendation to approve this petition with the understanding that all the requirements currently within our Ordinance will be adhered to. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve the recommendation as requested. The floor was opened for public comment.

On vote, the motion carried. Roll call was as follows:

Yea:	Councilpersons Galloway, Dorn, Frederic, Martin
Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Councilman Bouchie

11. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to accept David Humphries as Mayor Dupree’s recommendation to be the new Finance Director.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained Mr. Humphries comes to us after having worked in the Rapides Parish Sales & Use Tax Office for the last 27-years and he is a Military Veteran. He was a tremendous help to the City during negotiations with Lowe's back in 2006-2007, as we put together a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) deal to close a gap of around \$2M to incentivize them to purchase property and build.
- Councilwoman Frederic recognized Mr. Humphries as being instrumental in helping the City through its new alcohol ordinance process in 2019.

On vote the motion carried unanimously.

12. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution:

WHEREAS, the Pineville City Council is the governing body of the City of Pineville; and

WHEREAS, Kristen P. Weatherford recently announced her resignation as Finance Director for the City of Pineville effective January 6, 2023; and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the City of Pineville desires to amend the list of persons who are authorized to access information from and sign on behalf of the City of Pineville for all accounts held by Red River Bank.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that immediate past Finance Director Kristen P. Weatherford is hereby removed from the list of persons authorized to access information on behalf of the City of Pineville for all accounts held by Red River Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that incoming City of Pineville Finance Director David Humphries is allowed to access information from all accounts held by Red River Bank, but, David Humphries is not a person authorized to sign on any account held by Red River Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Rich Dupree, Mayor Pro Tempore Tom Bouchie, and City Clerk Chris Workman shall remain authorized to access information from and sign on behalf of the City of Pineville for all accounts held by Red River Bank.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this a procedural resolution to allow Mr. Humphries to take Mrs. Weatherford's position on the bank accounts held at Red River Bank.

On vote the motion carried unanimously.

13. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to approve a resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Pineville offers a qualified health insurance plan with pharmacy benefits to all full-time active employees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 33:5151, the City of Pineville desires to provide the Mayor and City Council Members, along with their qualified dependents, the option to enroll in the City's health insurance plan as long as they hold their elected positions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council Members, along with their qualified dependents, are authorized to enroll in the health insurance plan offered by the City of Pineville to its qualified employees at the expense set forth to all active qualified employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the time the Mayor and City Council Members vacate their elected positions for some reason other than retirement, health insurance will be offered through Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the time of retirement from service, the Mayor, along with qualified dependents, will be offered the opportunity to continue on the City's health insurance plan as a retiree, at the cost set forth for retiree coverage, as long as eligibility requirements are met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City Council Members are not eligible for retirement benefits, therefore, neither they nor their dependents will be offered retiree healthcare coverage on the City's health insurance plan.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- City Attorney, Aaron Green explained as a step to maintain City efforts to have best practices in place in response to a recent Attorney General Opinion that was issued to municipalities, it is the City Attorney's recommendation to adopt this resolution.

On vote the motion carried unanimously.

14. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution:

WHEREAS, the Pineville City Council is the governing body of the City of Pineville; and

WHEREAS, the Pineville Recreation Department has requested approval from the Pineville City Council to declare the following items as surplus property to dispose of; and

WHEREAS, the Pineville City Council has the authority to declare items as surplus that are no longer deemed necessary or adequate to properly perform the duties of the city government as prescribed by law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the Mayor to surplus the following items from the Recreation Department that are no longer useable by the City of Pineville, so that they can be sold, auctioned, donated or disposed of as necessary: *Large Play Center at Kees Park*

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this is the playground equipment that was closed pending arrival of new equipment that took close to a year to get here.
- Angelina Iles asked why this playground equipment was not transferred to the Lakeside/Wardville area. Mayor Dupree explained the equipment was determined to be unsafe, so we wouldn't want to move it to another area in our community.

On vote the motion carried unanimously.

15. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Pineville intends to scrap existing playground equipment located at Kees Park in order to install new playground equipment; the playground equipment is described as a *Large Play Center*; and

WHEREAS, the pre-construction clearing method to be used to remove the equipment will destroy the usefulness of the equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cheneyville has offered to buy the equipment for the cost of removing the equipment in a manner that will not destroy its usefulness, estimated to cost \$15,000.00, which will also allow the City of Pineville to avoid incurring the cost of pre-construction clearing itself; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pineville will accept the Town of Cheneyville's proposal, provided that Cheneyville takes full responsibility for hiring and paying a qualified contractor to remove the playground equipment and to hold the City of Pineville harmless and to indemnify it from any liability which may arise from the removal operations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Pineville agrees to sell the playground equipment located at Kees Park for the sum of \$15,000.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Pineville resolves that the sum of \$15,000.00 exceeds the cost the City of Pineville would pay to remove the equipment under its planned process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sale shall be contingent upon the following terms and conditions:

- 1) The City of Pineville agrees to relinquish the sales proceeds to the Town of Cheneyville to hire a qualified contractor to remove the equipment in a manner conducive to preserving the equipment for future use.
- 2) The Town of Cheneyville agrees to hire a qualified contractor to remove the equipment with the full amount of the relinquished funds.
- 3) The Town of Cheneyville agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the City of Pineville from any claim or lawsuit for harm or damages, including any claim asserted by the City of Pineville, and for any claim in workers compensation claimed by its hired contractor, or the hired contractor's employees, personnel, agents or casual laborers (it being assumed that the Town of Cheneyville will require the contractor to possess general liability and automobile coverage of sufficient amounts, as well as possessing workers compensation coverage under the requirements of Louisiana law).
- 4) The contractor hired by Cheneyville shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary permit required by the City of Pineville that may apply (if any) to disassemble, remove, and transport the equipment described.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become a binding agreement upon acceptance by the Town of Cheneyville.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Peter Ford, asked about liability concerns if we declared the playground equipment as unsafe. Councilman Martin replied that in the purchase agreement, Cheneyville agreed to accept all liability for the equipment. Mayor Dupree explained that concern was written into the language of this resolution to protect the City of Pineville. Councilwoman Frederic noted that Cheneyville plans to do additional work on the equipment. Councilman Martin then exclaimed Cheneyville felt the equipment was worth investing the money necessary to bring it up to standards to be useful in their community.

On vote the motion carried unanimously.

The floor was opened for public comment and the following was heard:

- Fire Chief Scott Kessler announced his plan to retire March 23, 2023, after 33-years of service to the City of Pineville. He expressed sincere gratitude to the Mayor, Council, citizens of Pineville and his staff. His last day of work will be February 28th.
- Angelina Iles brought up an issue with loose vicious dogs in her community. She said they have been a nuisance for a while and several people have been bitten in the past. Mayor Dupree asked our Code Enforcement Officer, Tony Baden, to address this concern. Mr. Baden explained since he has taken office in the last few months, some adjustments have been made and several dogs have been picked up and impounded. Court Summonses have been issued that includes Ms. Iles because we want the City Judge to hear the concern. The Judge has a hearing scheduled for January 26th. The administration is doing what we can and will continue to do so.

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic at 7:17pm. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. Former Councilman Lawrence Foster closed the meeting with the benediction.



Chris Workman, City Clerk



Rich Dupree, Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, Chris Workman, Clerk for the City of Pineville, Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct record of the official action taken at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Pineville, Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, in legal session convened, on the 10th day of January, 2023.



Chris Workman, City Clerk