

CITY OF PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA  
PUBLIC HEARING & COUNCIL MEETING  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
October 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, October 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 Bouchie led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Roll Call                      Present:      District 1      Councilwoman Mary Galloway  
   District 2      Councilman Kevin Dorn  
   District 3      Councilwoman Christy Frederic  
   District 4      Councilman Tom Bouchie  
   District 5      Councilman Nathan Martin  
   Absent:      NONE
5. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilman Martin to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2023, regular meeting as published. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.
6. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Frederick to accept the financial report as read by Finance Director David Humphries. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.
7. Mayor Dupree recognized the following City of Pineville first responders for life saving measures regarding a rescue at Buhlow Lake: Police Officers Jon Martinez and Devin Durr and Firefighters James Mott, Dustin Schneider, Austin Crooks and Brynden Dempsey. The Mayor presented both Police Officers with the Life Saving Ribbon to be worn on their uniforms and he presented each Firefighter with the Valor Award. Additionally, the Mayor presented all of them a Certificate of Appreciation
8. CONDEMNATION HEARING CONTINUANCE regarding property at 607 Melrose Street, owned by Stewart V. Kittling c/o Erma Jean Howard. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to “continue” this Condemnation Hearing again.  
The floor was opened for public comment.
  - City Attorney, Mr. Mark Vilar, reported the owner of this property has passed away and the relatives live out of state. Therefore, an attorney must be appointed by the City to represent the family. We have just appointed the third attorney after having one retire and one move out of the area. The attorney has published necessary announcement in The Town Talk and is attempting to make contact with the family. Next month we will be legally ready to proceed.On vote, the motion carried unanimously.
9. ZONING COMMISSION REPORT: Zoning Commissioner, Mr. Tom David, stated that it was the Zoning Commission’s recommendation to approve a petition for the rezoning of 0.15 acres located at 1319 Military Hwy, belonging to TDMM, LLC, from R-1 to C-3, for the purpose of developing a small business. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to accept the Zoning Commission’s recommendation.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mrs. Darla Tradewell (petitioner) was in attendance and stated they intend to open a small retail business that will compliment other businesses in the area and not compete with them.

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

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

10. ZONING COMMISSION REPORT: Mr. David stated that it was the Zoning Commission's recommendation to approve a petition for the rezoning of 0.389 acres located at 514 Bragg Street, belonging to Louisiana Health & Rehab Center, Inc, from R-1 to C-1 for the purpose of operating a residential/substance abuse treatment facility for pregnant women and mothers with dependent children under the age of 12. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to accept the Zoning Commission's recommendation.

The floor was opened for public comment and there were none.

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

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

11. PUBLIC HEARING was held for the adoption of an ordinance to amend and modify the Code of Ordinances, Section 6 Article 11, to allow the Mayor to establish various fees related to animal adoption and to remove the associated Fee Schedule from Appendix D. For clarification, Mayor Dupree explained this is consistent with what has been done for the community centers and other services we provide. This prevents us from going through a two-month process to change fees by changing the Ordinance. No further comment was heard.

A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to adopt an Ordinance to amend and modify the Code of Ordinances, Section 6 Article 11, to allow the Mayor to establish various fees related to animal adoption and to remove the associated Fee Schedule from Appendix D.

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

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

- Mayor Dupree took the personal privilege to introduce State Representative Ed Larvadain, from District 26. Mayor Dupree explained Representative Larvadain has been critical to the process of building a new public safety and courthouse complex and has been very helpful in moving items forward through the Downtown Development District. Representative Larvadain explained, that as a member of the Transportation Committee, he is focused on infrastructure project requests from the City. They recently helped get the Cottingham Expressway overlayed and intend to invest \$28M into the expansion of Highway 28 East due to the growth of the City. Additionally, they are focusing on broadband access, because it has become just as important to infrastructure as water.

12. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to approve a resolution to accept Mayor Dupree's recommendation to appoint Kendrick VanBuren to the position of Public Works Director.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this appointment is necessary to replace Mr. Hugh Halle, who has served the City of Pineville for 13-years and decided to retire.
- Mr. VanBuren expressed his deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve and perhaps add value to the Mayor's vision.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

13. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilman Dorn to introduce/accept for publication/refer to zoning a petition for rezoning property located at 312 Wall Street, belonging to Bishop Enterprises, LLC, from R-1 to R-2 for the purpose of building a duplex.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this piece of property is located by Louisiana Christian University on a dead-end street, off Cross Street.
- Councilman Dorn wanted to point out that Bishop Enterprises, LLC, is not associated with former City Councilman Joe Bishop.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

14. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of 200 Wadley Street and schedule a public hearing for condemnation.

The floor was opened for public comment and there were none.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

15. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of 103 Bragg Street and schedule a public hearing for condemnation.

The floor was opened for public comment and there were none.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

16. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Martin to TABLE a resolution authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Sustainability Partners, LLC, for the replacement of City-wide water meters. Mayor Dupree explained it was felt necessary to TABLE this resolution pending a presentation.

The floor was opened for public comment and there were none.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

17. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution accepting a grant award of \$36,000.75, from Fire House Subs Public Safety Foundation Board of Directors to be used for the purchase of a 2023 Crestliner boat, motor, trailer & accessories for the Urban Search and Rescue Team.

The floor was opened for public comment

- Interim Fire Chief Kenny Kessler explained there were about 600 applicants for this grant and the equipment is much needed for water rescue efforts, because we currently have to borrow from the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Department.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

18. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution awarding the contract for the project titled *Water Main Extension Along Catherine, Floyd, Holly Oaks Streets and Meyers Drive* and authorizing the Mayor to execute contracts, change orders and other documents related to the project between the City of Pineville and the selected Bidder.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained the Engineer's estimate was \$251K. The high bid was \$409K and the low bid was \$259K, so we are recommending the contract be awarded to the low bidder...MJL Construction LLC. This project is Step 3 in our commitment to fix dead-end water lines around the City.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

19. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution to submit the FY2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program Application for the Pineville Municipal Airport to the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, Division of Aviation.

The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this is something we do each year as we update the 5-year plan.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

20. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution committing funds to pay for all non-construction fees related to FY2024/2025 Application for funding under the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program for Public Facilities. The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree deferred to Mr. David for explanation. Mr. David stated this is a step in the LCDBG Program process we have done many times. The grants are very competitive, so we commit these funds to give us a couple extra points. This is a companion resolution with Agenda Item 22, in which we plan to submit for \$1M in grant funding for street improvements. We do not actually put up any dollars unless the grant is awarded. This grant for street improvements does not include sidewalks; it is principally for street overlay. This grant program targets low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

21. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution to commit up to \$50K for technical assistance, administrative and grant application fees if funds are provided through the FY2024-2025 LCDBG Program. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

22. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an FY2024/2025 LCDBG Application for *Street Improvements* and authorize the Mayor to act as the official representative of the City in connection with the application. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

23. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to approve a resolution declaring the following item as surplus for the purpose of selling, donating, auctioning or disposing of as necessary.

- *Intertek Sentry Safe, Serial No. 4009983*

The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

24. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded Councilman Martin to approve a resolution to accept the contract of McLemore Service Contractors LLC, for the project entitled *Water Main Replacement on Comanche Drive and Forest Street* as "Substantially Complete". The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this was the first step for the City to connect/fix the dead-end water lines.
- Mr. David explained the definition of "Substantially Complete". It means the project is suitable enough for it to be utilized for its intended purposes, but may still have some punch list items to complete. This is not the "Final Completion".

On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

- A concern about the Rapides Senior Citizen Center on Main Street not being completed yet was raised, because it has already been determined as "Substantially Complete". Mayor Dupree indicated that the Director of the Senior Citizen Center has been instructed to pick up the pace to get moved back in so it can be utilized. We will plan a Ribbon Cutting for the grand opening.

The floor was opened for any final public comment. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Bouchie at 6:58 p.m. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. Reverend Dennis Pursley, pastor of Lone Star Missionary Baptist Church, closed the meeting with the benediction.



Rich Dupree, Mayor



Chris Workman, City Clerk

**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 October, 2023.



Chris Workman, City Clerk