

CITY OF PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA
PUBLIC HEARING & COUNCIL MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
February 13, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Mayor Rich Dupree and the Council of the City of Pineville, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 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 Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2024, 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 Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway 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 Pineville High School Coach Greg Comeaux for reaching the milestone of 250 wins as the Head Coach of the soccer team. Joining Comeaux on the podium were his soccer team captains. Mayor Dupree presented Coach Comeaux with a Pineville Proud Award. Coach Comeaux has been Head Coach of the Soccer team for nine-years. He "Thanked" Dr. Carpenter (Pineville High Principle) for attending and giving him the opportunity nine-years ago and his family for their support.

8. PRESENTATION: Mr. Steven McKay, of Rozier McKay & Willis, CPAs, presented the City of Pineville Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Financial Audit. He complimented Finance Director Mr. Humphries for doing a "marvelous job". The net position of the City in 2021 was \$27M. Due to "prudent management by the administration," the net position of the City is now up to \$44M. He said the City is in a strong financial position. Mayor Dupree explained the audit period was July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, and the report is available on the State Legislative Auditor's website. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to accept the Audit Report. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

9. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to introduce and accept for publication an ordinance creating the Buhlow Economic Development District of the City of Pineville, State of Louisiana, defining the boundaries thereof to encourage economic development projects, in accordance with and as authorized by Part II, Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Chief of Staff Doug Gann explained this is just the beginning stages of this process, which is about a year long. In response to a question from Peter Ford, Mr. Gann explained any money collected from the development itself, such as milage and sales taxes, are set aside in an economic development fund that centers around the district. This money will be used to assist in future development as needed, for things such as roads and other infrastructure needs.

- Mayor Dupree explained we are modeling our effort after the City of Gonzalez' effort to redevelop a mall area.

No further comment was heard. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

10. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution to accept the Mayor's recommendation to reappoint Terry Spruill to the Central Louisiana Regional Port Board of Commissioners. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

11. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution accepting the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Kay Smith to the North Rapides Crime Stoppers Board of Directors. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

12. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution to revoke the right of way easement extending across Lots A, B, and C on Lord of Lords Avenue of Kings Center Subdivision. The floor was opened for public comment:

- City Engineer Tom David explained this request came from a business in that neighborhood wishing to expand and because of our coordinated efforts with a few people and businesses, this will spur other development and a possible road connection from Maryhill Road to Lord of Lords Avenue.

No further comment was heard. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

13. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution to amend the City of Pineville's Policy and Procedure Manual by deleting various sections determined to be obsolete, out of date, no longer applicable or already governed by State and Federal Law. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

14. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution to adopt the required CDBG-DR Program policies and procedures; acknowledge CDBG-DR Program funds be administered in accordance with OCD Grantee Administrative Manual; appoint various coordinators/officers; authorize individuals to execute the request for payment; and authorize execution of documents. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Mr. David explained the Council has probably adopted this resolution 20 times. This is being done because the City applied for a grant from the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Round 2 for some drainage improvements in the Smithville area. We were awarded approximately \$1.5M and this is the beginning of the process to get those dollars.

No further comment was heard. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

15. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution ratifying the purchase of a 2023 Pierce Custom Enforcer Pumper Truck from Siddons Martin Emergency Group, LLC, and authorizing the Mayor to enter into and execute an Installment Agreement with Red River Bank. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Mayor Dupree explained this new fire engine arrived recently and is still being outfitted to put into service. It replaces an engine that is 20-years old.

No further comment was heard. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

16. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution declaring the following items in the Police Department as surplus for the purpose of selling, donating, auctioning or disposing of as necessary.

-- 2015 Ford Explorer Interceptor, VIN# 1FM5K8AR1FGA88211

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

17. A motion was made by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to introduce, accept for publication, and refer to Zoning a petition for variance by LA Heritage Properties, LLC, to allow a billboard on a lot located at 113 Hilton Court. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

18. A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilman Dorn to introduce and accept for publication an ordinance amending and modifying the Code of Ordinances, Sections 40-35, 40-36 and 40-50 to allow the Mayor and Council to establish various utility deposits and other fees, from time to time, by means of a resolution. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Mayor Dupree explained anytime we change this, we have to through changing the ordinance, which is a two month process. This will enable us to make these changes without the layover time required by ordinance.

No further comment was heard. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The floor was opened for any final public comment.

- Mr. Shannon McManus stated that he was asked to attend a meeting with Police Chief Basco and when he arrived, was told Chief Basco was busy and to return at 2:00 p.m. Mr. McManus stated that he returned at 2:00 p.m. and Chief Basco “doesn’t show up again.” Mr. McManus stated that if Chief Basco sets a meeting with a citizen, it is “inexcusable” to “not show up.” Mr. McManus also complained that he reviewed information he received from the City of Pineville that showed the City paid \$1,700 in late fees. Mayor Dupree disputed Mr. McManus’ assertion that the City paid \$1,700 in late fees.

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 6:42pm. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. Reverend Vance Curtis, Pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Alexandria, 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 13th day of February, 2024.



Chris Workman, City Clerk