

CITY OF PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA
PUBLIC HEARING & COUNCIL MEETING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
April 9, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

Mayor Rich Dupree and the Council of the City of Pineville, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, April 9, 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 5 Councilman Nathan Martin
District 5 Councilman Tom Bouchi
Absent: None

5. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Martin to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2024, special 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 Councilman Dorn 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 members of the Pineville Junior High Girls Basketball Team for winning the 2024 Cenla Junior High Basketball League District Championship with an undefeated record. He presented Head Coach Jarrod Jackson with the Pineville Proud Award and team members with a Certificate of Recognition. Team members: Lydia Bennett, Jordyn Burch, Meoney Collier, Abigail Daniels, Makenzee Gray, Zariah Hicks, Analiese Holmes, Camryn Iles, Mariah Jackson, MyKenzey Jeansonne, Tomie Johnson, Janessa Jones, Jhaliah Kelly, Anistyn Lee, Alyse Philpot, Laynee Rodden, and Ashlyn Weatherford. Also, congratulations to Assistant Coach Kacie Chenevert.

8. Mayor Dupree recognized members of the Pineville Junior High Boys Basketball Team for winning the 2024 Cenla Junior High Basketball League District Championship with an undefeated record. He presented Head Coach Scott Spurgeon with the Pineville Proud Award and team members with a Certificate of Recognition. Team members: Jayton Antoine, Kendrick Ball, Isaiah Berry, Aiden Burch, Kaleb Coleman, Ja'Won Collier-Erby, Brenden Cyphers, Ferrari Haynes, Jeremiah "Trey" Hunter, De'Von James, Kordale Jones, Izayah Lewis, Altavis McQuarm, Denver Shoup, and Brody Vinson. Also, congratulations to Assistant Coach Mikael Bonnette.

9. Mayor Dupree recognized members of the Pineville High Boys Basketball Team for the most successful season since 1990, taking them to the LHSAA Division I (Select) State Tournament semi-final game, culminating a 24-5 record. He presented Head Coach Chad Sears with the Pineville Proud Award and team members with a Certificate of Recognition. Team members: Kayden Clark, Kylan Edwards, Erick Frazier, Eryn Goree, Kaden Harris, Alton Lyons, Jr., Avanta Lyons, Azavier Lyons, Malik Marzett, Ja'Coby Molette, Kelmarion Phillips, Jaylen Smith, JaVonte' Thomas, Raphael Wesley, and Jaylan Witty. Also congratulations to Assistant Coaches Rickey Doyle and Scott Welch.

10. Mayor Dupree recognized Pineville Police Officer Holly Rodney on her recent promotion to the rank of Sergeant. Police Chief Darrell Basco presented the Sergeant's Badge to her husband for the pin-on.

11.. **ZONING COMMISSION REPORT:** Zoning Commissioner, Mr. Tom David, stated the Zoning Commission met to consider a petition for variance by LA Heritage Properties, LLC, to allow a billboard on a lot located at 113 Hilton Court. The variance requested is to allow the billboard within 500-feet of Kees Park and to allow its 64-foot height. After hearing testimony and deliberations, the Zoning Commission recommends, to the Council, the variance be approved with the following stipulations: (1) There be a protective fence around the base of the pole for safety. (2) There be no advertisement for any sexually oriented business due to its proximity to Kees Park. (3) There be no advertisement for any automotive business out of respect to neighboring Walker Automotive. (4) The billboard always be a static billboard and not digital.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilman Martin to accept the recommendation as made, by the Zoning Commission, to the Council. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Councilmembers expressed gratitude toward the petitioner for their cooperation and investments within the community.

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

Roll call was as follows:

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

12. **ZONING COMMISSION REPORT:** Zoning Commissioner, Mr. David, stated the Zoning Commission met to consider a petition for the annexation of 2.00 acres of property located on the south side of 4205 Hwy 28 East, belonging to GKW Investments LLC, to be zoned as C-3 for commercial use. The Zoning Commission does recommend the annexation of this property. However, the Commission recommends the property come into the City with the zoning classification of C-1 and not C-3 as requested.

A motion was made Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Martin to accept the recommendation as made, by the Zoning Commission, to the Council. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Councilman Martin expressed appreciation to the petitioner for their willingness to accept the zoning as C-1.

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

Roll call was as follows:

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

13. **ZONING COMMISSION REPORT:** Zoning Commissioner, Mr. David, stated the Zoning Commission met to consider a petition for the annexation of 4.97 acres of property located at 4205 Hwy 28 East, belonging to GKW Investments LLC, to be zoned as R-2 for residential use. The Zoning Commission does recommend the annexation of this property with the zoning classification of R-2

A motion was made Councilman Martin seconded by Councilman Bouchie to accept the recommendation as made, by the Zoning Commission, to the Council. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Mayor Dupree explained the R-2 zoning request is for the purpose of building a 50-unit apartment complex. This property is located just east of Fire Station No. 4 and the elevated water tank.

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

Roll call was as follows:

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

14. PUBLIC HEARING was held for the adoption of an Ordinance to amend and modify the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16, Article 1, Section 16-2 to create the position of Chief of Administration within the Pineville Fire Department. Fire Chief Casey Cummings explained this position will replace the position of Assistant Chief within Fire Administration. This Assistant Chief is not performing the same duties as the Assistant Chiefs on the line and therefore a distinction of duties needed to be made. The position of Chief of Administration was recommended by the State Civil Service Examiner. No further comment was heard.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to adopt an Ordinance to amend and modify the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16, Article 1, Section 16-2 to create the position of Chief of Administration within the Pineville Fire Department. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. Roll call was as follows:

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

15. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to approve a resolution to accept the Mayor's recommendation to reappoint Marilyn Farrar as Commissioner to the Pineville Housing Authority. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

16. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution to accept the Mayor's recommendation to appoint James Robertson to the position of Public Works Director. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Mayor Dupree recognized Mrs. Robertson and Mr. Robertson indicated he is grateful to the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Pineville with integrity and dedication and he will strive to improve their safety and quality of life.

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

17. 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 204 Dorothy 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.

18. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Dorn to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of 212 Reagan 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.

19. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of 503 Grant 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.

20. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of 1302 Jeannie 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.

21. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to approve a resolution declaring the following items in City Hall Administration and Public Works as surplus for the purpose of selling, donating, auctioning or disposing of as necessary.

- 2012 Jeep Liberty, VIN# 1CA4PJLAKXCW218171
- 2011 Ford Expedition, VIN# 1FMJU1F59BEF02816
- 1999 CFWS Utility Trailer, VIN# 1X9UT1620XL347077

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 Councilman Bouchie to approve a resolution to adjust utility deposits and other related fees pursuant to City of Pineville Ordinance 2024-336, dated March 12, 2024. The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mr. Troy Burns, Utility Administration Director, explained for a long time utility deposits have not changed. With the CPI rate increases over the years, many times deposits no longer cover the outstanding balance of a closed account and the City is left with uncollected debt. CPI studies revealed we were far behind with increasing deposits and fees, so we have the need to offset these losses and relieve some of the burden to customers on the backside.
- Mayor Dupree explained none of these increases are retroactive. They are only for new accounts going forward.
- Councilwoman Frederic stated the increased rates are in line with other municipalities across the state.

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

23. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilman Dorn to approve a resolution to accept the contract of Rylee Contracting, Inc, for the project entitled *WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT ON TAMAGIN LANE WATER MAIN EXTENSION* as "Substantially Complete." The floor was opened for public comment.

- Mayor Dupree explained this is Phase 3 of connecting and repairing dead-end water lines around the City. This enables water lines to be looped to provide circulation and enable less flushing of lines.
- In response to a question, Mr. David explained "Substantially Complete" means that a project is complete enough to be used for its intended purposes. It doesn't mean the project is 100 percent complete. There may still be a few small items that need to be done. This date of "Substantially Complete" also starts the clock on the 1-year warranty period.

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

24. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution awarding the contract for *AIRPORT RUNWAY REHABILITATION* 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.

- Mr. David explained this is a project we have been trying to get underway for over 18-months, but we have had great difficulty with getting it within budget as we fight inflation. The award of this contract is conditional as explained in the Resolution in an effort to save the project.

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

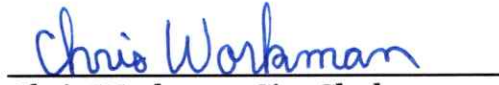
The floor was opened for any final public comment.

- Ms. Natalie McDonald of 110 Lallah Street, addressed the Council. She lives in the 5-unit apartment complex on the corner of Lallah and Oakland Streets. She expressed concern for the danger presented to pedestrian traffic in the area as a result of the removal of the 4-way stop signs at the intersection.
- Regarding the removal of the 4-way stop signs Chief Basco explained the Police Dept is conducting a city-wide evaluation of all signs. In fact, we are also currently evaluating four other 4-way stop signs. We understand Lallah is a cut-through for school traffic with its proximity to Pineville High. We have seen an increase in traffic accidents on Military Highway and Donahue Ferry Road, which are State roads with a higher speed limit, due to more student drivers and the number of 4-way stop signs on Lallah Street causing traffic to back up on the State roads. Chief Basco has had discussions with DOTD and the Administration regarding ways to

slow traffic on Lallah Street in a way to maintain flow without the stop signs. However, to avoid potential conflicts with construction going on in the area we need to wait until completion to continue looking into solutions.


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 7:15 pm. 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 9th day of April, 2024.


Chris Workman, City Clerk