

CITY OF PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA  
PUBLIC HEARING & COUNCIL MEETING  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
September 10, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.  
**MINUTES**

Mayor Rich Dupree and the Council of the City of Pineville, Louisiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, beginning 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 Councilwoman Galloway to accept the minutes of the August 13, 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 Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to accept the financial report as read by Finance Director David Humphries. Mr. Humphries reported we have had a steady increase in sales tax year-over-year in August, since 2019, and it continues. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Mayor Dupree recognized Police Officer Denzell Bradley for his life saving actions on August 12, 2024, in response to a Consumer Crisis call. Mayor Dupree presented Officer Bradley with the Pineville Proud Award. Police Chief Darrell Basco presented him with the Life Saving Ribbon and explained how Bradley's actions and application of a personally owned tourniquet saved the life of an individual attempting to commit suicide.

8. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-021, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 107 Chandler Street, owned by Essie Ruth Sias c/o James Gordon Jr., listed with the address of P.O. Box 7242, Alexandria, Louisiana 71306-7242, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. Tom David, City Engineer, reported the owner was duly served notice of this hearing and it was published in the official journal. This property is a blight and danger to the community. The property cannot be economically renovated. Mr. David recommended the property be condemned and the owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. Mr. James Gordon was present and has no objection to this condemnation. He expressed gratitude to the Council for being given time to assess to the property.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Frederic and seconded by Councilman Dorn to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

9. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-004, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 212 Reagan Street, owned by LeLe Thi Nguyen, listed with the address of 609 Osiris Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71303, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the owner was duly served notice of this hearing and it was published in the official journal. He explained this is a continuation hearing that enabled the owner to engage with a contractor to return the property back into commerce. Mr. David indicated the home is now in such a state of repair for which he believes is no longer a candidate for condemnation. His recommendation is to allow the process to move forward and the condemnation hearing be terminated.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Dorn to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously, with Councilman Bouchie abstaining.

10. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-037, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 303 Riverside Drive, owned by Charles N. Issac, Jr., listed with address of 104 Lakeview Drive, Pineville, Louisiana 71360, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the owner was duly served notice of this hearing and it was published in the official journal. He indicated the home is in a very dilapidated condition and there is no feasible means for renovation. Mr. David recommended the property be condemned and the owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. There was no one present representing the owner, but the owner has been in contact with the administration and understands what is happening with no objection.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to accept to the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

11. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-038, regarding the mobile home on the lot at 345 Kings Lane, owned by Randy A. Stanford, listed with the address of 210 Beeson Drive, Pineville, Louisiana 71360, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the owner was duly served notice of this hearing and it was published in the official journal. He indicated the structure is a very dilapidated structure and a nuisance to the neighborhood. It cannot be restored to a safe and sanitary housing unit. Mr. David recommended the property be condemned and the owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. There was no one present representing the owner.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Dorn to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

12. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-031, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 50 Hillcrest Drive, owned by Columbus L. Lott c/o Aubrey Lott, 205 Oakwood Lane, Pineville, Louisiana 71360, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the owner was duly served notice of this hearing and it was published in the official journal. He indicated this property is completely overgrown, structurally unsound, a nuisance and cannot be economically renovated for commerce. Mr. David recommended the property be condemned and the owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. There was no one present representing the owner

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

13. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-032, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 53 Hillcrest Drive, owned by Paul D. Norman, listed with the address of 53 Hillcrest Drive, Pineville, Louisiana 71360, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the owner was duly served notice of this hearing and it was published in the official journal. He indicated this is a wood frame structure with severe structural and foundation issues. Mr. David recommended the property be condemned and the owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. There was no one present representing the owner

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

14. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-034, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 65 Hillcrest Drive, owned by John Lachney ET AL, listed with the address of 75 Hillcrest Drive, Pineville, Louisiana 71360, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the structure is severely overgrown with significant structural deficiencies. It cannot be brought back into commerce and is a candidate for condemnation by neglect. Mr. David recommended the property be condemned and the

owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. There was no one present representing the owner

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Dorn to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

15. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-035, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 75 Hillcrest Drive, owned by John H. Lachney, Jr., ET AL, listed with the address of 75 Hillcrest Drive, Pineville, Louisiana 71360, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the wood frame structure is severely overgrown with significant roof and structural deficiencies. The property cannot be brought back into commerce. He recommended the property be condemned and the owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. There was no one present representing the owner.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Martin to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

16. CONDEMNATION HEARING for Case File 2024-036, regarding the single-family home on the lot at 76 Hillcrest Drive, owned by Jerry R. Johnson, listed with the address of 206 N. MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, according to Rapides Parish Tax Assessor records. Mr. David reported the owner was duly served notice of this hearing and it was published in the official journal. He indicated the property is a wood frame structure that has not been occupied for many years and has trash/debris surrounding it. The property has structural and foundation issues and cannot be renovated. Mr. David recommended the property be condemned and the owner be given 30-days to demolish and clear the property. There was no one present representing the owner, but the owner has been in contact with the administration and has no objection to condemnation.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to accept the recommendation as stated. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote the motion carried unanimously.

17. PUBLIC HEARING was held for the adoption of an ordinance to amend and modify the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22, Article I, Section 28-8, relative to the use of certain surplus monies in the witness fee fund for the Pineville City Court. Mayor Dupree explained this is the final step in the creation of the North Rapides Crime Stoppers. The City of Pineville is working in partnership with the Town of Ball, with each municipality having appointments to the group. This allows the City Judge to provide these funds to be used particularly by this group. Mr. Chris Workman, City Clerk, pointed out the agenda should read as "Section 22-8" instead of "Section 28-8."

A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Martin to adopt an ordinance to amend and modify the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22, Article I, Section 22-8, relative to the use of certain surplus monies in the witness fee fund for the Pineville City Court. 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

18. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of a single-family home at 1422 College Drive 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 Frederic and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of a single-family home near the corner of Wadley and Bragg Streets, described as LOTS 7 & 8, SQ 14, GRACE SUBD 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 Councilman Martin to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of a multi-family home near the corner of Bell Street and Mills Road, described as .56 AC IN SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST; 215' X 114' 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 Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of a single-family home at 307 Baker 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.

22. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilman Bouchie to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to serve notice to the property owners of a single-family home at 1904 Military Highway and schedule a public hearing for condemnation. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

23. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve a resolution accepting the contract of Regional Construction, LLC, for the project entitled *GREER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS* as "Substantially Complete." The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

24. A motion was made by Councilwoman Galloway and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit the FY2025-2029 Capital Improvements Program Application for the Pineville Municipal Airport. The floor was opened for public comment and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.

25. A motion was made by Councilman Dorn and seconded by Councilwoman Galloway to approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the Pineville Municipal Airport. Mayor Dupree explained this is the final step to approve the nearly \$2.6 million we applied for to get the airport runway rehabilitated...at no cost to the city. The project is 100% paid for by DOTD Aviation. The Council already awarded the contract to Diamond B Construction and this resolution will allow for execution of the documents to draw down that money. The floor was opened for public comment:

- Councilwoman Galloway introduced the following resolution: "Whereas the Mayor of Pineville has admitted to engaging in a sexual relationship with an employee of the City of Pineville, who was under the supervision and authority. Whereas the direct violation of the City of Pineville policies of all employees, including the mayor and require to follow. Whereas the mayor's decision to engage in such a relationship has exposed the City of Pineville to potential financial liability and legal expenses. Each member of the City Council has a duty to prioritize interest of the City and its citizens over personal relationships. Whereas the mayor's actions affected serious lapse of judgement. This has led to the loss of respect from some citizens, employees, and this Council and continued leadership is no longer the best interest to the City of Pineville. Therefore, the City Council condemns the mayor's actions engaging in an inappropriate sexual relationship with an employee under the supervision control and hereby express its lack of confidence in the ability to lead the City. Be therefore resolved that the City Council urges the mayor to resign in the best interest of the city. Motion made by Mary B. Galloway."
- Mayor Dupree asked what that has to do with Item 25, to which Councilwoman Galloway replied "I asked to make a comment." Mayor Dupree again asked what that has to do with Item 25...voting on the Airport Runway? Councilman Dorn then interjected that we move on with the airport runway, then the resolution that has been read when we get to comments.

Mayor Dupree opened the floor again for public comment related to Agenda Item 25 and there were none. On vote, the motion carried unanimously.



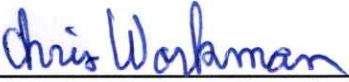
-- Mayor Dupree introduced Eden Oglethorpe as the new Animal Control Supervisor.


-- Mayor Dupree returned to the resolution that Councilwoman Galloway introduced to add to the agenda as Item 26. Mayor Dupree asked the City Attorney, Mr. Mark Vilar, for instructions regarding the resolution presented by Councilwoman Galloway. Mr. Vilar explained that the item needed to be added to the agenda before being considered. Councilman Dorn made a motion to add Councilwoman Galloway's resolution to the agenda as Item 26. However, upon failure to obtain a second, the motion to add Agenda Item 26 was unsuccessful.

The floor was opened for any final public comment.

- Ms. Deborah Gunter of 110 Chaudoir Drive, Pineville, expressed gratitude to the City Council and employees for removing a culvert along Chaudoir Drive that was illegally placed behind the Heart of Worship Church in a ditch to provide rear access to their property.
- Mr. Cornelius White, Jr., of 3638 10th Street, Alexandria, expressed support for Mayor Dupree and reminded those in attendance of the significance of tomorrow being September 11th.
- Rena Arabie of 310 Ball Street, Pineville, expressed great concern for the foot traffic to and from the old Huey P. Long Hospital around the clock and her perceived criminal activity that keeps her awake at night out of fear. Mayor Dupree explained the old hospital is owned by LSUA Shreveport and there is seemingly no effort to maintain it on any level. The City has sought means to study the property from a Brownfield standpoint and it is the lead project on the study that is going to be done. The City is in ongoing discussions with the Office of State Lands about the property and has expressed that we would like to do something about it. Mayor Dupree indicated that he will have discussions with Chief Basco to see what can be done. Ms. Arabie continued with how the overgrowth is encroaching upon her property. Mayor Dupree asked the Public Works Director to look into cleaning up the property fence line. He continued to say that we have tried to get them to better secure the facility and maintain it; and we are trying to address it and put some money toward that.
- Mayor Dupree then asked for a moment of personal privilege. He stated "I'd like to issue a statement regarding some of the recent publicity that has been discussed here tonight. First of all, I apologize to my family, to my supporters and to this Council for the personal indiscretion and the embarrassment that has caused all of us. There is no excuse for having allowed myself to be tempted into crossing a line that's very clearly drawn by my faith and my responsibilities. From this humbling experience, I'll work even harder to rebuild your trust. I'm very blessed to have my wife's forgiveness and she's here tonight, and I appreciate that. Our marriage is stronger because of her grace. I now ask sincerely for your forgiveness and that you pray for me and my family as we work through this painful experience. Thank you."


There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Martin seconded by Councilwoman Frederic at 6:58 p.m. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. James Robertson, Public Works Director, 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 September, 2024.

  
Chris Workman, City Clerk