

CITY OF PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA
PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 30, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.
MINUTES

The Council of the City of Pineville, Louisiana, met in special session on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City Hall, 910 Main Street, Pineville, Louisiana

1. Councilwoman Frederic called the meeting to order. Councilwoman Frederic explained that the Council received notice that Mayor Pro Tempore Mary Galloway resigned her Council seat for District 1. The Council spoke among themselves and, in the absence of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore, asked Councilwoman Frederic to preside over the meeting.

2. The invocation was given by Rev. Ricky Belgard, Pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church

3. Councilman Bouchie led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call	Present:	District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4 District 5	Vacant Councilman Kevin Dorn Councilwoman Christy Frederic Councilman Tom Bouchie Councilman Nathan Martin
	Absent:	NONE	

Councilwoman Frederic began the meeting by expressing gratitude and acknowledging the many City employees who faithfully execute their responsibilities. Many of which have taken on an additional workload covering for vacancies and responding to requests for public information. The Council recognizes their hard work and dedication. Additionally, Councilwoman Frederic thanked Councilwoman Galloway for demonstrating selfless service in stepping down from her Council seat to ensure the City can move forward, with the City's best interest at heart. Councilwoman Frederic also thanked the citizens who maintained their trust in the Council, and offered prayers and encouragement through this process to appoint an Interim Mayor. The Council received input from citizens, business and community leaders. Several candidates were considered in the process. In the end, the Council needed "day one" experience, with executive leadership skills focused on accomplishing a lot with little resources and understanding how government entities work, and work together to build strong relationships with all government agencies.

5. A motion was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilwoman Frederic to approve a resolution to appoint Joseph E. Bishop as Interim Mayor in accordance with La. R.S. 18:602. The floor was opened for comment:

- Councilman Bouchie explained that Mr. Bishop has served the Rapides Parish Police Jury for 18-years...currently as President for the second time. He is a past President of the Louisiana Policy Jury Association and previously served 10-years on the Pineville City Council. He has a proven record of working with others and on "day one" delivers ongoing relationships with 10 municipalities, seven neighboring parishes and numerous educational institutions, state and federal agencies. The City of Pineville is fortunate to continue positive work and progress with proven leadership and executive experience Mr. Bishop will bring.
- Councilman Dorn thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. He stated that Mr. Bishop was his friend, but that he had a big problem with the process used to for appointing Mr. Bishop as Interim Mayor. He went on to say how the trust factor with citizens of Pineville is fractured and how today's actions do not shore up those fractures and that this process continues to divide. Councilman Dorn stated that he was not really involved with the decision of who would preside over this meeting and did not talk to anyone on the Council other than Councilwoman Frederic right before the meeting started. Councilman Dorn indicated there was discussion to not appoint someone as Interim Mayor who intended to run in the next election. Members of the Council say that we are going to do what is right by all citizens, but continue to take personal privileges to handle things as if there is no one else we are responsible for. Members cannot

be excluded from decisions. He said what happens later in the meeting is not personal against anyone, but the procedure and process is very important to him.


- Mr. Cornelius White of 3638 10th Street, Alexandria, spoke in support of former Mayor Rich Dupree.
- Ms. Linda Rhodes, 219 Dillon Street, expressed concern about not being able to vote on who will be the Interim Mayor. She doesn't believe it is right for the Council to take that away from the citizens. Mr. Mark Vilar, City Attorney, explained that based upon the timing of former Mayor Dupree's resignation, by Louisiana Law, the City Council makes the appointment of Interim Mayor and holding a special election is not an option. He also explained that the Secretary of State issued a letter to the City of Pineville confirming that the City Council has the obligation to make an appointment.
- Randy O'Neal, 2114 Shreveport Hwy, spoke in support of Mr. Bishop's appointment as Interim Mayor and encouraged everyone to work with and welcome him with open arms.

There being no further comment, Councilwoman Frederic called for a vote. On vote, the motion carried by majority. Roll call was as follows:

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

Newly appointed Mayor Bishop then spoke to reassure Councilmembers, citizens, and department heads that he will work with everyone and given this chance we will make Pineville proud again. He will meet with anyone at their homes or in the office to discuss any issues. His wish is to continue moving Pineville forward.

The floor was opened for final public comment and there were none. There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Bouchie and seconded by Councilman Martin at 1:26 pm. On vote, the motion carried unanimously. Councilman Martin closed the meeting with the benediction.



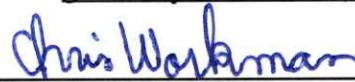
Christy Frederic, Councilwoman
District 3



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 30th day of October, 2024.



Chris Workman, City Clerk