

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
7:00 PM**

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Melanie Hammet at 7:00 PM. Present were Council members Jean Bordeaux, Augusta Woods, Megan Pulsts and Kris Casariego. Also present were Chief Sarai Green and Administrator Valerie Caldwell. Council member Brandy Hall was not present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor.

Announcements/Communication

Woods:

The residents and public works assisted with the cleanup for Pre-Lake Fest around the beach and lake were clean with not much trash

Bordeaux:

- The volunteers at the school that have been approved for background checks with the city but only can have background checks from DeKalb County. PLAIN fill fund a total of ten background checks run by DeKalb County.
- The new Bee City page is on the website
- The chairs at the beach purchased with a grant have been a great success and the next grant will be up to \$10,000 and ideas need to be put in place because the due date is Jan/Feb 2019

Pulsts:

- Public Spaces Work Group is taking a break until after Lake Fest
- The trash cans at the beach and lake areas need to be replaced

Hammet:

- SEED is working an initiative to invite residents to plant pollinator gardens in their yards.
- The \$30.00 SEED Pod Children's Grant list items recommended by the children are 1) use it; 2) to make a movie about a monster tree that eats people or 3) to make a turtle crossing sign
- There is a class at Agnes Scott College that is doing a project on Pine Lake which is consideration to place public art in the bio retention area
- That she, Bordeaux, Caldwell and the commercial development consultant met with the work group and Jan Christian has been added to the group. The consultant will be at the October 11th Town Hall meeting to talk about where annexation stands

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption on motion by Pulsts and seconded by Casariego. 4-0

Public Comments

There were not any public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting held 09/10/18

Approved on motion by Pulsts, seconded by Bordeaux. 4-0

Discussion of Smart Growth – Commercial and Residential Integration – Mayor Hammet

There was discussion of commercial and residential integration and a car free zone as it relates to residential and commercial being stitched together while managing the growth of traffic towards the lake and blending with commercial and residential areas. Hammet said the car free zones is a good topic of discussion to talk about fundamental issues that the city need to solve for the future.

Hammet stated that she had a conversation with Collins Usuani, a business owner for seventeen years in the city because he wanted to point out that he does not get a discount on the rental facilities. Mr. Usuani also said that a new resident of two month will get the one-half price discount on rentals. The mayor said that this showed how the city is not integrated with the commercial district and that residents, property and business owners should get a discount. This topic will be placed on the October 8th city council agenda.

Mayor Hammet said that there needs to be actionable and practicable principles to give the city the ability to roll forward.

Casariego said that as a body there needs to be change as to how it will affect residents and businesses in moving forward for “Who is Pine Lake.”

Hammet recommended the placement of a Welcome to Pine Lake sign entering city limits and inquired about a location. Pulsts suggested at the intersection light at Allgood Road with easement permission if needed. There was further discuss and Bordeaux recommended getting a plan and ideas together and to look at bigger projects first. Green said that having the plan for a welcome sign is needed especially with the Rockbridge Road project going on because the county will be moving and replacing signage. This issue will be further discussed regarding placement options of welcome signage.

Hammet stated that there is a car management issue at the beach/lake area. She also asked about how the city will start the process of planning for resources, time and partnerships. Casariego suggested that the city have strategic planning to include people, place, environment, arts and culture, financial sustainability and partnerships.

Bordeaux recommended a problem solving list for the car free zone and said that she does not see what it could solve. She also talked about smart growth and made points from a Georgia Municipal Association article.

Pulsts recommended staying focused with planning priorities to move in the direction for having a car free zone within the city’s comprehensive plan. She also said that maintaining the commercial area is huge for maintaining affordability for the city.

The Mayor recommended establishing a welcome center; perhaps using the club house as a means of developing a Main Street since the city doesn’t have one. She also said that there are

challenges with beach, commercial and residential parking and if there is not an intervention soon there will be big challenges for the future.

Casariago talked about having arts, culture and recreation as walkable places as it relates to car free zones and recommended removing the parking spaces at the beach/lake.

Hammet talked about the potential removal of the parking spaces and runoff on Rockbridge Road as it relates to the existing road construction.

Woods stated that she has concerns about how it will affect the people that cannot drive down to the lake especially minorities and the perception and the effects of sustaining the fish in the lake. She asked how not to make people feel that way coming to the lake.

Hammet stated that it is important to know the business owners and to have relationships as it relates to the facility rentals. Green said that she and the police department have relationships with them and to take this at a starting point as an opportunity to begin growth to change the preconceived notions. She also recommended the total beach/lake area become a car free zone and to invite guest to walk or bring their bikes while they visit. The chief suggested visitors to park at the church parking lot (if granted permission from the church), post office or the top at Poplar Street.

Pulsts asked how would parking at Woodstock Baptist Church affect the commercial district and that the visitors need to be close to the businesses because it will benefit them. She also suggested the possibility of the Public Spaces Work Group coming to a work session with recommendations on this topic. Hammet stated that she would need to do as an agenda item with Pulsts presenting for the group.

This topic will be placed on the October agenda for further discussion.

Communications Plan

There were not any communications.

Public Comments

There were not any comments.

Mayor's Comments

There were not any comments.

Council Comment

There were not any comments.

Adjournment – Adjourned at 8:42 pm on motion by Casariago, seconded by Woods. 4-0

Missye Varner
Administrative Assistant