

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2021
7:00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet.

Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Brandy Beavers, Tracey Brantley, Brandy Hall and Augusta Woods. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss, City Attorney Susan Moore, Chief of Police Sarai Y'Hudah-Green and Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner.

Announcements/Communications

- Mayor Hammet announced that the Makers Mart Artist group will host a Driveway Arts & Artist Craft Show on March 20th at various homes throughout the city.
- Mayor Hammet congratulated business owner and resident Cindy Brown for obtaining funding for the Tennis Court Quarantined Photo Event. The grand opening is April 11, 2021.
- Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux communicated that the Comprehensive Plan is on the website and that the Atlanta Regional Commission is assembling information for residents to provide input.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Hammet amended the agenda to table Ordinance 2021-01 under Old Business to the March 30, 2021 Council Meeting.

On a motion by Council member Woods, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all present voting “aye,” the agenda was adopted as amended to table Ordinance 2021-01 as Old Business for the March 30, 2021 Council Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the City Council Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2021.

On a motion by Council member Hal, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and four council members voting “aye,” the minutes were adopted. Council member Beavers abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet

The Mayor provided a synopsis of the March 2nd and 9th weekly Georgia Mayors’ call and presented a slide showing the combined number of cases and that Georgia is in the top ten percent of all states for cases in both patients and deaths. Mayor Hammet stated that the way

to stop the spread of new variants of the Coronavirus virus is to increase the rate of vaccinations.

The Mayor commented that on March 15th Governor Kemp will present new eligibility criteria for receiving COVID-19 vaccines. Mayor Hammet said that many Georgians are hesitant to take the vaccine.

Ordinance 2021-01

Ordinance O-2021-01 encourages the issuance of citations instead of arrest for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana when it is the sole non-traffic offense.

This agenda item was removed from the agenda and tabled until the March 30, 2021 Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Renaming Forrest Road to Forest Road

Mayor Hammet stated that at the June 9, 2020 Council meeting she initiated action to change the street name.

On a motion by Mayor Hammet, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all council members voting “aye,” action to change Forrest Road from having two “r’s” to one “r” using the current street naming policy method was initiated.

Playground Opening

Mayor Hammet opened discussion of the Playground Opening for recommendations. Acting City Administration Merriss provided an overview of decision items for developing playground usage guidelines. Council member Beavers stated that while in favor of opening the playground, she voiced opposition to the guidance that all kids should be expected to wear masks and social distance while exercising and playing. Council member Beavers mentioned the high rate of child suicides and noted that these types of expectations were a contributor to suicide and mental health issues due to the fact that they were not child appropriate expectations. After further discussion, the following guidelines were agreed upon:

- 1) There shall be no age limit.
- 2) COVID safety protocols to include that children be properly supervised by a caregiver.
- 3) That person’s two years of age and older would wear masks.
- 4) All persons would practice safety distancing of 6 feet between household parties.
- 5) Operating hours shall be 10:00 am – 7:00pm daily.
- 6) Capacity shall be 25 persons.
- 7) A budget amendment will follow later to cover unbudgeted re-opening and on-going maintenance and safety expenses.
- 8) Equipment will be cleaned and sanitized two times per week on Friday and Monday mornings.

Mayor Hammet stated that the City will not be liable for incidents that may occur at the playground and that adherence to the guidelines will be self-monitored as the Police Department will not continuously monitor the area. Public Works will begin immediately to make repairs and preparations to re-open the playground.

Re-opening the playground for March 29th at 10:00am was agreed to by consensus.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments

Alan Gordon, resident commented on Oak Drive and his concern regarding small lots that are for sale. Mr. Gordon stated that he did not believe that the lots were buildable and asked what the city's legal stance is and could the city conserve them. Acting City Administrator Merriss commented that platted parcels can be sold but that does not mean they are buildable because they must meet the requirements of the City's zoning and development ordinances. She also commented that the buyer must do their due diligence, talk with an engineer, and read the zoning ordinance. Mr. Gordon asked for the city to assist in looking into this matter.

Shirley Kinsey, resident commented on the COVID-19 situation and that she received her first shot at the Farmers Market in Macon and that her experience was great. Ms. Kinsey provided the website for vaccines at www.myvaccine.ga.com.

Staff

Acting City Administrator Merriss commented that the Oak Drive project was underway, and that the City's engineering consultants were marking the street and working with Public Works Supervisor Raoul Martinez to identify problem areas. Merriss also stated that the wetlands project has begun.

Police Chief Green that reopening of the playground should create opportunities and that the guidelines are not designed to punish little kids but are for their safety.

Mayor and City Council

Town Hall Planning Discussion

Mayor Hammet led a discussion to develop topics for the March 18th Town Hall Meeting. The following were agreed upon by consensus.

- 1) Ed Lee will make an introduction of "One City-Many Voice" to began April 8, 2021.
- 2) Update of Rockbridge Road and flooding and runoff
- 3) Consideration of re-opening public spaces.
- 4) Update of what is happening in the wetlands.
- 5) Update preview of the Food-Well Grant 2021

Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux; second by Council member Hall, and all present voting "aye," the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.