

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

April 27, 2021

7:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet. Present were 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, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner, Chief Sarai Y'Hudah-Green and City Attorney Susan Moore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Hammet communicated that on April 20th approximately forty-five individuals attended the second community conversation in the series "One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging, and Civic Life" focused on Policing and Public Safety in Pine Lake. The Mayor stated that she received an array of interesting, thought provoking and positive feedback.

Mayor Hammet announced that the final of the three-part series of "One City, Many Voices", a Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging and Civic Life will be on Thursday, May 13th from 6:00PM -7:30PM via Zoom and registration information could be found at www.pinelakega.net. The final topic will be "Belonging and Community in Pine Lake". The series will be facilitated by Dr. Ed Lee, Emory University and will include District 87 State Representative Viola Davis and Pine Lake Business Owner Roger Boyd who will start the evening with Dr. Lee, providing context and perspective.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On a motion by Council member Brantley, second by Council member Woods and all present voting "aye," the agenda was adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2021 and the "One City, Many Voices" Meeting of April 20, 2021.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux, second by Council member Hall and all present voting "aye," the agenda was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet reported that during the last two weekly statewide mayoral calls, COVID-19 information has been provided by a pediatrician and a COVID researcher. Mayor Hammet also stated that the CDC Transmission Report and Amber Schmidtke's report are great resources, especially for Georgia. The Mayor reported that Georgia still ranks high in transmission cases of the virus especially in suburban areas. She said that Georgia is improving with 23% of adults over 18 years old fully vaccinated.

WORK SESSION

Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss opened the discussion with an overview of how work sessions are used and provided examples such as Mayor and Council discussions on items before final recommendations are made for consideration, directions to staff, presentation of information, and educational sessions on current issues or topics.

Discussion followed among the Mayor and Council members regarding issues to be considered to determine if the beach and lake should be reopened.

Mayor and Council discussed the following topics:

- ❖ Capacity, which is to be determined.
- ❖ Monitoring and limiting crowds.
- ❖ Hours of operation: having specific morning and afternoon/evening hours.
- ❖ The financial burden because the reopening of beach/lake is not in 2021 budget.
- ❖ Scheduling gaps or a day for the beach and lake to be closed.
- ❖ Parking especially for the weekends and holidays for social distancing.
- ❖ Date of a regular opening versus a soft opening.
- ❖ Utilizing volunteers instead of hiring beach monitors on Saturday and Sundays.
- ❖ Discussion of lake liability issues was led by City Attorney Moore.
- ❖ Availability of public bathrooms.
- ❖ Accessibility and a roll out mat to be used when beach is open.

- ❖ COVID-19, social distancing and the wearing of face coverings and other safety factors regardless of vaccination status.

Additional information will be gathered regarding costs and other details in the next two weeks and a vote will be considered at the May 11th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Designation of second meeting of each month as a work session.

Council member Brantley stated that there is value to having the work session on the last Tuesday of the month.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux agreed that work sessions can be valuable but indicated that they should be scheduled as needed instead of designating the second meeting of the month because there may not always be relevant topics.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments

Resident Keri Loomis commented that she appreciated the discussion regarding the beach and lake reopening and urged Mayor and Council to look at the big picture over the long term as it relates to COVID-19, noise, the health of the lake and crowds. Ms. Loomis said that it is important to find a way to avoid crowds and recommended swim time from 7:00 AM until 12:00 PM. and to have police officers make sure that the attendees at the beach vacated at noon and that a port-a-john would not be needed. She also stated that the crowds generally come after 1:00 PM and that scheduling can be complicated. Ms. Loomis mentioned the cost of testing and recommended a go fund me account to finance the testing and to have volunteers clean the beach. She also talked about signage and suggested having at least two signs. Ms. Loomis stated that swimmers should swim at their own risk to decrease liability for the city.

Resident Deborah Twail recommended swimming be allowed from dawn to 1:00 pm. Ms. Twail stated that she appreciated the information provided and recommended keeping the information signs simple. She also commented on COVID-19 capacity and that she liked the idea of having red flags out when the water quality test numbers are high. Ms. Twail talked about mask wearing at the lake and that when masks get into the water, they cause issue with wildlife and that there needed to be further discussion regarding the bathrooms.

Resident Brandon Dunaway requested consideration for people who get off work after 5:00pm and have hours that are open in after work. He suggested closing at 8:00pm.

Resident Calvin Burgamy commented that he would like for the beach/lake to be open three days per week with short hours and to require mandatory life jackets for children. Mr. Burgamy recommended no standing fishing and only boat fishing be allowed to protect people and wildlife.

Resident Sarah Spencer commented that she was a prior lifeguard and that parents may want to come with their children during adult swim times.

Resident Deborah Twail recommended having a donation box for collecting funds to benefit the beach/lake and suggested limiting days that the beach is open to decrease capacity overage.

Resident Megan Pulsts commented that while a member of City Council she worked on signage that was color coded for the beach and lake. Ms. Pulsts stated that she was happy to share the information to assist with any new signage.

Staff

There were no staff reports.

Mayor and City Council

Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux announced that The Pine Lake News was the latest communications outlet and this week's news is as following:

- 1) Comprehensive Plan - On April 28th at 7:00pm to discuss the results of the surveys.
- 2) No appointment Free COVID-19 vaccines at Blueprint Baptist Church parking lot on Thursday April 29th at 12:00pm.
- 3) One City, Many Voices Series – A Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging and Civic Life on Thursday May 13 at 6 pm. Dr. Lee's final conversation in the series will be with Representative Viola Davis and Pine Lake business owner Roger Boyd, inspiring a discussion on belonging and community.

Adjournment - On motion by Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux, seconded by Council member Woods, adjournment was approved unanimously at 9:42 pm.

Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator