

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2021
7:00PM
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 and Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green.

Introduction of the “One City, Many Voices” series beginning April 8, 2021

Mayor Hammet introduced Ed Lee who will facilitate and moderate the upcoming community conversations series.

Mr. Lee gave an overview of three topical conversations: Race and the History of Pine Lake; Policing and Public Safety in Pine Lake; and, Belonging and Community in Pine Lake. In response to questions, Mr. Lee responded that feedback from the conversations was meant to inform how the City would move forward to come together as a community and how the community would be lifted up.

Updates:

What’s happening at the Dam & Wetlands

Council member Brantley gave an update on the dam and wetlands maintenance and repair project.

Playground Opening

Council member Hall provided an update on the playground reopening and the guidelines for using the playground in the COVID-19 environment.

Rockbridge Road

Mayor Hammet reported on the progress with the Rockbridge Road transportation and stormwater improvements with an emphasis on the improvements to reduce stormwater run-off into the residential neighborhood.

Preview of the FoodWell Grant 2021

Council member Hall provided a preview of upcoming activities that are part of the FoodWell grant.

2021 Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux discussed the 2021 Comprehensive plan and showed participants how to access the community survey via the City’s website.

Community Q and A

In response to questions from Tina Kite, Mayor Hammet stated that consideration of re-opening of the beach was in progress and there was not a definitive answer right now. Mayor Hammet added that there were still many questions about the newly adopted American

Rescue Plan legislation and that guidelines and rules for using the funds had not been published.

Cindy Brown commented on the visitor restriction rules for attending Municipal Court and requested consideration of a system that would allow visitors in the Court. In response to a question from Ms. Brown, Acting City Administrator Merriss stated she would find out how many people were on probation from municipal court.

Mike suggested that the Municipal Court could maintain a guest list to address the issue of maintaining a safe courtroom. In response to his question, Mayor Hammet explained that the resolution adopted by the City regarding police budgets, was to oppose state legislation that would prohibit local governments from reducing police department budgets more than five percent. He thanked the Mayor and Council for offering the opportunity for voices to be heard.

Amy from voiced concerns about the condition of Oak Drive.

In response to a question from Kathie deNobriga, Acting City Administrator Merriss stated that the City was scheduled to begin recruiting to fill the City Administrator position in the Fall, 2021.

The meeting was closed at 8:15pm.