

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 29, 2022
7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order - Mayor Melanie Hammet called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Brandy Hall, Brandy Beavers, Tracey Brantley and Augusta Woods. Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss, Chief Saria Y'Hudah-Green and Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner were also present. City Attorney Susan Moore was not present.

Announcements/Communication

Mayor Hammet announced that Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss was departing after eighteen months working with the City. There were gifts and a special donation to Legacy Park, Decatur, GA that was presented to Ms. Merriss as an appreciation for her service. The Mayor communicated that as Ms. Merriss' contract ends and the contract for new City Administrator Ms. ChaQuias Miller-Thornton will begin on April 4th.

Mayor Hammet communicated that the Pollination Celebration on March 27th at the beach was a remarkable success.

Adoption of Agenda

Acting City Administrator Merriss requested an amendment to the agenda to add removal of a dangerous tree on 628 Olive Road. On a motion by Council Member Hall; second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux; and all present voting "aye," the amended agenda was adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2022, and the Special Called Meeting of March 16, 2022.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Jennifer Glam, Screenwriter, 484 Hemlock Drive introduced herself to Mayor and Council stated that she moved to Pine Lake in 2020. Ms. Glam writes about her life, domestic violence and the homeless. She will be introducing a film to the National Film Festival in hopes to assist the homeless.

Tyler Covington, resident of 458 Spruce Drive commented on the opening of the beach and the sand area. He commented that during the pandemic the closing of the playground affected many children, and that nature was a means of therapy. Mr. Covington questioned as to why the sand area was currently closed and offered his assistance in keeping the sand area clean so that the kids could play.

Candice Ellison, 4552 Dahlia Drive commented that she and her partner moved to the City August 2021 and that she and her child goes to the playground daily. She also commented about the signage at the beach being closed. Ms. Ellison questioned the reason that the sand area is closed and commented that it is an ongoing conversation with community parents.

Dian Durrett, 616 Olive Road commented about the dangerous tree on Olive Road and that it was in the decaying mode. Ms. Durrett also stated that severe weather could present danger of the tree falling and killing someone.

Matthew "True" Nelson, Owner of Mangos Caribbean Restaurant, 4634 Rockbridge Road introduced himself and his new business to the community. Mr. Nelson gave the history of Mangos and stated that it was his fourth in the Atlanta area. The restaurant offers Jamaican Cuisine, and they will be open in the days to follow.

Suzie Pope, 493 Spruce Drive commented that she supports the beach opening and that she shared the heartfelt comments from Mr. Covington. Ms. Pope also stated that she receives healing by living close to the water and having time in the sand. The resident said that she would volunteer in removing goose droppings from the sand area.

Marie Andrade, 4556 Forest Drive commented that she was a 21-year resident that is able to go to the beautiful lake/beach. Ms. Andrade stated that her daughter grew up on the beach and they have wonderful memories. She recommended keeping the tradition going for the new kids growing up within the community and recommended opening the sand area of the beach.

Tiffany Shelton, 5997 Mincy Road commented that she previously lived in Pine Lake and that she now resides in Stone Mountain. Ms. Shelton shared an experience of three kids playing on the beach during the pandemic and the City police thus resulting in a stressful time. She also stated that she did not wish to see the City tarnished by the former interaction and that the lovely green space was her home away from home.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration for Opening the Beach.

Consideration of a request to allow use of the sand portion of the beach.

On a motion by Council Member Brantley, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux and all present voting "aye," the sand area of the beach only will be open effective March 30, 2022, and additional signage to indicate the lake remains closed will be installed.

Resolution to Encumber Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Recommend adoption of Resolution R-03-22 to encumber the first tranche of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provided through the American Rescue Plan Act.

On a motion by Council Member Woods, second by Council Member Hall and all present voting "aye," Resolution R-03-22 was adopted as recommended.

Capital Improvements to Lakefront.

Proposal for capital improvements and maintenance along lakefront.

Acting City Administrator Merriss presented the proposal and after discussion to revise the proposal, this item will be presented again at the April 7th meeting.

Removal of a Dangerous Tree

Proposal to Remove a Dangerous Tree on 628 Olive Road

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux, second by Council Member Hall, and present voting "aye," the proposal by Boutte Tree Services to remove the dangerous tree at 628 Olive Road was approved.

Public Comments

Shirley Kinsey, 579 Spruce Drive commented that the gazebo should be demolished all at once because it would save money. Ms. Kinsey also thanked Mayor Hammet for her handling of a sanitation issue with DeKalb County Sanitation.

Staff

There were not any Staff comments.

Mayor

Mayor Hammet reiterated that it has been an absolute pleasure having Peggy Merriss as Acting City Administrator and that she has helped the City to a great extent and that she will be sorely missed.

City Council

City Council Member Beavers thanked all the residents that spoke up for what they wanted as it related to the opening of the beach area. She also said that she cannot wait to dine at Mangos.

Information for “The Pine Lake News” eblast

Beach Sand Area is open to the public

As of March 30, 2022, the sand area of the beach will be open on the same schedule as the rest of the park (dawn to dusk). The lake itself will be blocked off and is not available for use until the official beach opening (date to be determined).

Pine Lake Welcomes new City Administrator

On April 4th ChaQuias Miller-Thornton will begin her tenure as Pine Lake’s City Administrator. ChaQuias has worked in local government service for over 20 years and in DeKalb County for the last 8 years. ChaQuias comes to us with a wide range of experience and education which makes her a huge asset to Pine Lake.

Many Thanks to our Acting City Administrator

Pine Lake owes a huge debt of gratitude to Peggy Merriss who has served as our Acting City Administrator for the last 18 months. During her tenure, Peggy has dug into many aspects of the city and setup processes and procedures that will serve the city well into the future. At the same time, she has kept the city running smoothly during the challenging times presented by the pandemic. Thanks Peggy, we have been so lucky to have you on-board. Best of luck in all your future pursuits.

New Business to Open in Pine Lake

Mangos Caribbean Restaurant has passed all inspections and been approved to open at 4634 Rockbridge Road. Watch for cars in the lot and “we’re open” signs for the exact date. Mangos has three other successful restaurants - Downtown, Westend and Marietta. Stop in, say hello to owner - Matthew “True” Nelson and have a great meal.

Adjournment

On a motion by Council Member Woods; second by Council Member Hall; and all present voting “aye,” the meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.