

CITY OF PINE LAKE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
June 21, 2022, 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA

PUBLIC HEARING #1 – 11:00AM

Call to Order – Mayor Melanie Hammet Called the Public Hearing to order at 11:00am.

Present: Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor Pro-tem Jean Bordeaux, and Council Members Tracey Brantley and August Woods. City Administrator ChaQuias Thornton and Chief of Police Y-Hudah-Green were also present. Council Member Brandy Hall was absent.

Public Hearing

The City Council of the City of Pine Lake, GA has tentatively adopted a millage rate of 19.324 mils for maintenance and operations and debt service which will require an increase in property taxes of 10.63% for fiscal year 2022. This millage rate generates revenue necessary to fund the City of Pine Lake's general operations, capital improvements and debt service budget for fiscal year 2022. This is the same millage rate adopted for the previous fiscal year 2021.

Comments and questions were taken from the public. Comments and concerns included:

- the potential to “price out” residents (specifically senior citizens on fixed incomes) with continued increases in property taxes
Response was given that the City is conscious of the rise in the valuation of properties, of inflation, and of how a majority residential tax base causes the residential taxpayers to bear a majority of the tax burden. The City is committed to exploring options and programs that adequately and effectively enhance the city's revenue portfolio, therefore reducing the tax burden.
- increasing the economic burden on citizens that have already been negatively affected by the pandemic
The City Council has been encouraged to explore or allocate other funding sources to aid residents and businesses in mitigating the negative effects of the pandemic.
- seeming discrepancies in the valuation of properties within the City of Pine Lake
- support of no tax increase
- support of the 18.422 mill rate

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Adjournment – Hearing no further comments presented, the meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

PUBLIC HEARING #2 – 6:00PM

Call to Order – Mayor Melanie Hammet Called the Public Hearing to order at 6:03PM.

Present: Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor Pro-tem Jean Bordeaux, and Council Members Tracey Brantley and August Woods. City Administrator ChaQuias Thornton, City Attorney Susan Moore, and Chief of Police Y-Hudah-Green were also present. Council Member Brandy Hall was absent.

Public Hearing

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Comments and questions were taken from the public. Comments and concerns included:

- inquiry regarding the capital projects that need to be funded
Some projects names were the Dam Repair and Renovation Project and the Oak Drive Street Maintenance and Stormwater Repair Project
- increasing the economic burden on citizens
Response was given that the City is conscious of the rise in the valuation of properties, of inflation, and of how a majority residential tax base causes the residential taxpayers to bear a majority of the tax burden. The City is committed to exploring options and programs that adequately and effectively enhance the city's revenue portfolio, therefore reducing the tax burden.

Additional conversation was had regarding current opportunity for exemptions and the potential for future consideration of city initiated /implemented exemptions.

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- whether wetlands diagnosis and repair is included in the capital projects scheduling
Attention is currently being given to the assessment of the condition of the wetlands. No project scope or costs have yet been identified.
- support of no tax increase and determination of costs for necessities only
- inquiry regarding the presentation of the final digest for 2022
Municipalities historically receive the certified (final) digest report at the end of July of each year.

Adjournment – Hearing no further comments presented, the meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.