

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 30, 2022, 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order - Mayor Melanie Hammet called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm.

Present: Mayor Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Brandy Hall, Tracey Brantley and Augusta Woods. City Administrator ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, City Attorney Susan Moore, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner and Chief of Police Sarai Y'Hudah-Green were also present.

Announcements/Communication

Mayor Hammet communicated that she received a message from CEO Michael Thurmond, and he will be establishing a public meeting soon to apologize to the City for the Rockbridge Road situation and lack thereof.

Mayor Hammet communicated that the inaugural PRIDE Lake event on August 27th was a great success. The Mayor thanked Thomas Torrent, Event Planner and the Pride Lake Committee for their diligent work in bring the festival to fruition.

Swearing in of Nivea Castro – Council Member – To fill unexpired term to end December 31, 2023. Judge L'Erin Wiggins issued the oath of office to newly elected Council Member Nivea Castro.

Newly affirmed Council Member Nivea Castro joined Mayor and Council on the dais and participated in the remainder of the meeting's proceedings.

Adoption of Agenda of the Day

Mayor Hammet amended the agenda by changing the order of items A and B. Council Member Hall motioned to adopt the amended agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux; the adoption of the amended agenda passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes

- Regular Meeting – August 9, 2022

Council Member Woods motioned to adopt the minutes, seconded by Council Member Brantley; the adoption of the minutes passed unanimously.

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Public Comments

Copies of the Public Comments are on file in City Hall for reviewing. Please email missyevarner@pinelakega.net to request copy or call 404-999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution R-09-2022 - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ON ABORTION CRIMINALIZATION

After the mayor and all members of the Council participated in reading the resolution aloud, Council Member Woods motioned to adopt Resolution R-09-2022, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux; the resolution was adopted unanimously.

- B. Presentation of 2021 Audit Report – James Whitaker, PC

Mr. Whitaker presented the audit report and addressed inquires from Council. The 2021 Audit Report and required Supplemental Reports are on file in City Hall for reviewing and can be found at www.pinelakega.net.

- C. Employee Group Health Insurance Renewal - Effective Term to begin 10/01/2022 Recommend plans and authorization of Mayor to sign the necessary documents to provide employee group health benefits.

City Administrator Thornton presented the insurance package and answered questions regarding benefits and costs.

- D. Resolution R-10-2022 – Employee Group Health Benefits Plan Provide terms for plan administration.

Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux motioned to approve Resolution R-10-2022 including the plans as recommended and discussed by Administrator Thornton, seconded by Council Member Hall; the resolution was approved unanimously.

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E. Police Department Painting Project – Rolling Shades - \$4,280.00

Council Member Brantley motioned to discuss the Police Department Painting Project with Rolling Shades, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux. Upon discussion of the project Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux motioned to move forward and to approve the Painting Project with Rolling Shades for \$4,280.00, seconded by Council Member Brantley; the project proposal was approved unanimously.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments

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Staff Reports

Administration
Public Works

City Administrator Thornton provided a report and commented on the importance of maintaining the city-owned green spaces. Mrs. Thornton stated that she has met with Public Works, and they are aware of the expectations and that a third party may be required to assist. She also thanked residents for their assistance in cutting the kudzu and that an organized plan effort would be needed in the future so that all are on the same page. Mrs. Thornton said that Public Works needed a regular and periodic maintenance plan for maintaining the city green spaces with specific attention, priorities and plan composition given to the City's East and West Wetlands.

Court Services

The Court Clerk position has not been filled and will be readvertised. City Administrator Thornton is also considering alternative options for placement.

Public Safety

Chief Green communicated that the Police Department continues to work on Code Enforcement through education. The department is creating a standard that

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includes and allows for individuality, expression and a respect for our environment while keeping in accordance with city ordinances.

Reports/Comments

Mayor Hammet commented on the ongoing work-in-progress at the back berm and said that a maintenance plan was never created after the work was performed years ago and expressed the necessity for one.

City Council

Facilities Committee Report to be provided by Council Member Tracy Brantley. Council Member Brantley thanked the Facilities Committed Members for their diligent and consistent work on the policy and fee schedule. Following discussion, it was determined that next step is for Council to reconsider fees schedule for the rental of spaces. The item is scheduled for the next regular session on September 13, 2022.

Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux announced a save the date for Pine Lake's inaugural Equitable Dinner on Sunday, September 18, 2022, and that additional information was forthcoming.

Information for "The Pine Lake News" eblast.

Council Welcomes Newest Member

As prescribed by O.C.G.A. 21-2-291 – Procedure as to unopposed candidates, our newest Council member, Nivea Castro was affirmed at the August 30th Council meeting by our Municipal Judge, L'Erin Barnes Wiggins. Ms. Castro was the only candidate who qualified to fill the vacated position of Council Member. Her term will run from August 30th, 2022, to December 31, 2023.

Abortion Anti-Criminalization Resolution Passed Unanimously by Council.

Council has passed a resolution regarding Abortion Criminalization written by our District 87 Representative to the State Legislature, Viola Davis. Representative Davis was also present for this most important vote.

Rockbridge Road Update

On August 22nd, the Mayor, the Chief and City Administrator met with Dekalb County CEO Michael Thurmond at the site of the Rockbridge Construction. Within two days,

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major potholes were repaired, and the overgrown grass was cut. The CEO has pledged to meet with the business owners that have been affected.

Audit Report presented to Council by City Auditor

The 2021 year-end Financial Reports are available at www.pinelake.net and click City Government/Finance/Year End Financial Reports.

Mayor speaks on panel exploring cities' role in DeKalb development

The inaugural Cities Summit, sponsored by the Dekalb Chamber of Commerce was held on August 18th. Mayor Hammet spoke of the origins of Pine Lake and the challenges of keeping housing affordable.

PLAIN Pancake Breakfast September 3rd 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Menu: Eggcellent Scrambled Eggs, Purdy-Good Pancakes, Groovy Grits, Savory Sausages. Beverages: Orange Juice, Coffee. \$5 for PLAIN members, \$6 for non-members. \$3 for children.* \$1 off if you bring your own plates/utensils. Free if you join PLAIN.

Adjournment: Council Member Hall motioned to adjourn; seconded by Council Member Castro and the meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.