

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

NOTE: All attendees are reminded to silence cellular phones and other devices that may cause interruption of the session proceedings.

Call to Order at 7:10 pm Present: Mayor Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Augusta Woods, Tracey Brantley and Nivea Castro. City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, Chief of Police Sarai Y'Hudah-Green, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner, City Attorney Susan Moore and Zoning Consultant Bill Johnston were also present. Council member Brandy Hall was not present.

Announcements/Communication

Mayor Hammet communicated that there are a number of bird watchers at the lake observing the Common Golden Eyed Duck which is rare for the area.

Mayor Hammet responded to the terrible news that occurred in Memphis, Tennessee whereas Tyre Nichols was murdered by police officers. The Mayor communicated that they; Mayor and City Council are the leaders of the municipality to keep the community safe and that their thoughts are with the Nichols family and the families of the officers involved in the incident and offered a moment of silence. Mayor Hammet also stated that the city leadership places great importance on empathy.

Chief Green communicated that she acknowledges what happened in the brutal death of Mr. Trye Nichols and that the city police department does not glaze over the importance of the event. The Chief said that Tyre Nichols' circumstance was unfortunate and that prayers go out to his family. The Chief also read a declaration that was texted to the department after the occurrence. Please see the declaration in the Public Safety Report.

City Manager Miller-Thornton thanked Mayor Hammet and Chief Green for the space to reflect on the "Why" we do what we do as she spoke on the senseless murder of Tyre Nichols. She also stated that she, Mayor Hammet and the Chief are planning to work jointly with other municipalities/local police agencies on an initiative that helps to install, and to continue to instill, positive transformation and reinforcement in law enforcement-to-citizen relationships. This initiative will be begin with what Chief Green has named a rededication to service event, and will follow with a series of community forums. More information is forthcoming. Mrs. Miller-Thornton also communicated that as city officials, we are aware that citizens need to feel safe in their communities and homes and that trust must exist between citizens and local governments and their police departments. City Manager Miller-Thornton also said that what happened to Mr. Nichols happened to all of us and asked how does the City do its part to acknowledge its responsibility to assure the safety and welfare of all of those that we serve.

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Adoption of Agenda of the Day

Council Member Woods motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council member Castro, the adoption of the agenda passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes

- Regular Meeting – January 10, 2023

Mayor Hammet amended the Regular Meeting – January 10, 2023 with the addition and correction of names of the panel for the city mural.

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

Public Comments – 3 minutes each please

Kathleen Lower, 513 Spruce Drive stated that she was representing the residents in thanking Chief Green for Code Enforcement persuading the owner to remove a toilet from their front yard.

Old Business

There was not any Old Business to report.

New Business

1. Employment Contract – Municipal Court Judge – The Honorable Judge L’Erin Wiggins

City Manager Miller-Thornton presented the employment contract. After discussion was concluded, Council Member Brantley motioned to approve the Employment Contract – Municipal Court Judge – The Honorable Judge L’Erin Wiggins, seconded by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux the approval of the employment contract passed unanimously.

2. Resolution R-01-2023 Revised – Ratification – To Set Qualifying Fees

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux motioned to ratify consented amendment to Resolution R-01-2023 – To Set 2023 Qualifying Fees; seconded by Council Member Woods; the resolution passed unanimously.

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

3. Resolution R-03-2023 FY2022 Budget Amendment

City Manager Miller-Thornton presented summary of the proposed budget amendments. Mayor pro tem Bordeaux motioned to adopt Resolution R-03-2023 FY2022 Budget Amendment, seconded by Council Member Woods, the resolution passed unanimously.

4. Resolution R-04-2023 – Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux motioned to adopt Resolution R-04-2023 – Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility, seconded by Council Member Woods. The motion passed unanimously.

This pledge exemplifies commitment against violence and disrespect in all forms when they occur at meetings and social interactions. The Mayor and City Council jointly read the pledge which was presented by Georgia Municipal Association - Embrace Civility which includes nine pillars. A list of the nine pillars is to be placed in the Council Chambers/Courtroom facility.

5. Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Application

City Manager Miller-Thornton presented the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant and stated that the deadline is February 1, 2023.

Council Member Castro motioned to approve the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Application, seconded by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux and passed unanimously.

Public Comments – 3 minutes each please

There were not any public comments.

Staff Reports

Administrative

Public Works

City Manager Miller-Thornton provided the following updates:

- The Court Clerk position is still vacant, and no resumes have been received to date.
- Public Works have begun leaf collection and the street schedule will be published on the Neighborhood Watch Facebook page and they will work to notify residents.

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

- Demolition of the gazebo and nearby bridge solicitation packet is composed. Repair/replacement of the inner berm bridges will be solicited separately. Process for scope of work and coordination of any environmental permissions has begun with the City's engineer of record (Clark Patterson Lee).
- The MS4 inspection is scheduled by the Environmental Protection Division for the 3rd week in February and the administrative office and Public Works will meet with the City's environmental engineer to discuss expectation for the inspection. The meeting will also include revisiting regular/operational tasks for system maintenance.

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

Public Safety

Chief Green reported that the Pine Lake Police Department thoughts and prayers go out to the family and community of Mr. Tyre Nichols. The chief stated that these incidents/events affect the entire community and that it forces us all to take an introspective look at ourselves.

In a text to the department Chief Green sent a Morning Declaration...

"Seek Justice and love mercy". Remember we are not gods or lords over people but public servants and 1st responders. We have the unfortunate task of seeing society at its worst.... however, we are still tasked with handling situations with honor, integrity, compassion and pride. Always be guided by wisdom and never allow your ego to lead. THIS is the manner in which we Protect And Serve.

The next step as a department will be at the next in-service training, they will watch the Tyre Nichols video together and have an open conversation. Lastly, the Chief shared in the administration a desire to remember our "WHY" as they continue to process the incident and rededicate to public service.

Reports/Comments

Mayor

Mayor Hammet thanked City Manager Miller-Thornton and Chief Green for inclusion in the conversations regarding the Tyre Nichols' tragedy and that she is fortunate to be part of a City that takes this type of situation personally.

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

City Council

Mayor pro tem expressed her appreciation to Mayor Hammet, City Manager Miller-Thornton and Chief Green for their prompt reaction to the unfortunate Tyre Nichols siltation in Memphis, TN.

Information for “The Pine Lake News” eblast.

Our thoughts are with the family of Tyre Nichols.

The City of Pine Lake sends our thoughts and prayers to the family of Tyre Nichols and all the members of the Memphis community who have all been traumatized by recent events.

Pine Lake City Manager ChaQuias Thornton and Chief of Police Sarai Y’hudah-Green are working on a community engagement initiative that fosters positive connectivity between our citizens and the police men and women that serve our communities. The initiative will also encourage collaboration between the City and the police agencies of area cities. The initiative will begin with a Commitment to Community Rededication Event. More information will be forth coming.

Black History Month Starts Today, Feb 1st

As Black History Month begins, we are thinking about our 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration. We are looking for ideas, performers and volunteers. Please send your ideas and energy using the Contact Us form on the city website at www.pinelakega.net .

State of the City – February 23rd

Mayor, Melanie Hammet will present the State of the City in the Beach House at 7:00 PM on Thursday February 23rd. As in previous years, the State of the City celebrates the community, recognizes areas for improvement, and sets goals for the year ahead.

Mayor and Council take “Civility Pledge.”

Council has passed a resolution to practice and Promote Civility. “This pledge demonstrates our commitment against violence and incivility in all their forms whenever they occur in all our meetings and interactions”. All members present took the following pledge:

The way we govern ourselves is often as important as the positions we take. Our collective decisions will be better when differing views have had the opportunity to be fully vetted and considered. All people have the right to be treated with respect, courtesy, and openness.

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

We value all input. We commit to conduct ourselves at all times with civility and courtesy to each other.

Leaf pickup has begun, but rainy weather has slowed the process.

Public works has begun the leaf pickup process, starting with Ridge, Beaver, and a section of Spruce, but the weather has been rather uncooperative. Streets scheduled for service will be announced on the [Neighborhood Watch Facebook group](#) prior to the day of their designated operation.

Common Golden Eyed Duck spotted in Pine Lake.

You may have seen small groups of bird watchers gathering around our lake, they are hoping to sight the [Common Golden Eyed Duck](#) that has been seen in this area. Be on the lookout for this beautiful bird enjoying Arts' Natural Habitat.

Employment Opportunity – Court Clerk

Pine Lake is accepting applications for the position of Municipal Court Clerk. The Court Clerk is responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Municipal Court. The position will also assist with other Administration Office and Police Administration service functions and operations. The position is a full-time, non-exempt position and is under the general direction of the City Manager.

If you know of anyone interested, please direct them to the city website at www.pinelakega.net City Government/Employment Opportunities/Court Clerk for additional information and application.

Adjournment

Council Member Woods motioned to adjourn at 8:11pm; seconded by Council Member Castro and passed unanimously.