

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 30, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

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

**Call to Order** Mayor Melanie Hammet called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present: Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Brandy Hall, Augusta Woods, Tracey Brantley and Nivea Castro. City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, Chief of Police Sarai Y'Hudah-Green and City Attorney Susan Moore were also present. Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner was not present.

**Announcements/Communications**

Mayor Hammet announced that she communicated with DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond regarding the Rockbridge Road project. Mayor Hammet is concerned about obtaining monetary retribution for the business affected and receiving adequate communications about project progress (or the lack thereof) .

**Adoption of Agenda of the Day**

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

**Adoption of the Minutes**

- Regular Meeting – May 9, 2023

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux motioned to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Brantley, the adoption of the agenda passed unanimously.

**Public Comments – 3 minutes each please**

There were public comments regarding wildlife protection, fishing with lead sinkers, and the potential effect of permitted activities on the lake's habitat and environment. Documents relative to public comments made 05/30/2023 are on file at City Hall for reviewing. Please email [missyevartner@pinelakega.net](mailto:missyevartner@pinelakega.net) to request a copy or call 404-999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file

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**New Business**

1. MAPMakers Award

Mayor Melanie Hammet presented Eva Sotus with the MAPMakers Award for running the Pine Lake Lounge for many years and for her continued contributions to the community.

2. Council Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments of Members to SEED

Wendy Keith-Ott  
Kate Nevins

Council Member Brantley motioned to confirm Mayor Hammet's appointments; seconded by Mayor pro temp Bordeaux and passed unanimously.

3. Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pine Lake and Pine Lakefest, Inc. – 2023 Pine Lakefest Event

Kathy dNobriga (President, Pinelake Fest, Inc.) presented proposed terms of the Memorandum of Understanding to Mayor and Council and thanked City Manager Thornton for her professionalism in helping to facilitate composition of the terms. She also thanked City Attorney Moore for her assistance in language draft for the MOU for presentation to Council.

Mayor pro temp Bordeaux motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pine Lake and Pine Lakefest, Inc. – 2023 Pine Lakefest Event – with authorization given to Mayor Hammet and City Manager Thornton to cause execution of the final draft as long as there are no substantial changes; seconded by Council Member Castro the motion passed unanimously.

4. Little Food Pantry – PLAIN, requestor

Thomas Ramsey presented to Mayor and Council, a detailed request for the placement of a Little Food Pantry on city property as a means to service food insecurity within the community.

Council Member Hall motioned to approve the Little Food Pantry with the location of placement to be determined later; seconded by Council Member Woods and passed unanimously.

5. Wildlife Protection Measures

Mayor and Council discussed protective measures to include regulations of park use and fishing. There was also discussion about amending the lake and recreation policy. Stewarts

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of Environmental Education and Design were charged with considering solutions to the issues discussed. The discussion is to be continued.

6. Fee Schedule Revision – Permitting and Inspections

City Manager Thornton presented proposed fee schedule revision for Residential and Commercial building plan reviews associated with building permitting and inspections. Revisions were proposed based on an increase in third-party services for plan review.

Council Member Hall motioned to approve the Fee Schedule Revision – Permitting and Inspections; seconded by Council Member Castro and passed unanimously.

7. Adoption of a Tentative 2023 Millage Rate – For advertising purposes.

City Manager Thornton presented information and analysis of the preliminary tax digest, consolidation and revaluation reports as presented by the DeKalb County Tax Assessors Office. Analysis included comparisons of FY2023 budgeted tax revenue at the current millage rate of 18.422 and the calculated rollback rate of 14.540.

Council Member Woods motioned to adoption a Tentative 2023 Millage Rate of 18.422 – For advertising purposes; seconded by Council Member Hall and passed unanimously.

8. Increase of Mayor and Council Salary

Council Member Brantley motioned to approve for the Increase of Mayor and Council Salary; seconded by Council Member Castro and passed unanimously.

9. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel

At 8:20 pm Mayor pro tem Bordeaux motioned to move into Executive Session to Discuss Personnel; seconded by Council Member Castro and passed unanimously.

Executive Session was held.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux motioned at 8:48 p.m. to adjourn from the Executive Session to Discuss Personnel and to reconvene to the Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Castro and passed unanimously.

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10. Appointment and Confirmation – City Clerk – Resolution R-11-2023

Mayor Hammet asked Ned Dagenhard (candidate for appointment – City Clerk position) to introduce himself to Council.

Mayor pro temp Bordeaux motioned to approve the Appointment and Confirmation – City Clerk – Resolution R-11-2023 – with Ned Thomas Dagenhard being appointed to the position; seconded by Council Member Brantley and passed unanimously.

**REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

**Public Comments – 3 minutes each please**

**Staff Reports**

Administration and Public Works  
Public Safety

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

**Reports/Comments**

Mayor

There were not any mayoral comments.

City Council

Council Member Hall commented that she would not be able to attend the Town Hall Meeting that was scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> and requested that the Town Hall be changed to June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Beach House. Mayor and Council agreed to the scheduling change.

Council Member Castro commented that she will be attending the 6th Conference of LGBTI Political Leaders of the Americas and the Caribbean in Mexico City, Mexico from July 20-22, 2023.

City Manager Thornton announced that her interview – meet and greet session for potential entry into the Public Finance Leadership Academy is set for Wednesday, May 31, 2023

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**Information for “The Pine Lake News” eblast.**

**Mapmakers Grant Awarded to Eva Sotus**

Eva was awarded this grant in honor of her cultural contribution to the City of Pine Lake. We have all enjoyed many an evening at the Lounge with great live music provided almost single-handedly by Eva. The next Lounge is June 10th at 8:00 PM. Go and give Eva your congratulations in person.

**First Day of Beach Season Friday June 2nd.**

The lake will be open for swimming June 2, 2023 through September 24, 2023 with swimming Monday-Friday from Dawn to Dusk and Saturday and Sunday from Dawn to Noon and from 3:00 PM to dusk.

**Pancake Breakfast Saturday June 3rd 9:30 – 11:30**

You are cordially invited to the monthly PLAIN pancake breakfast! Come mix and mingle with your Pine Lake community. Our menu: Eggcellent Scrambled Eggs, Purdy-Good Pancakes, Groovy Grits, Savory Sausages, and more! Beverages include Orange Juice, Coffee, and Mimosas!

**Juneteenth Celebration Saturday June 17th 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Join us for our 2nd Annual Juneteenth celebration. We will have an enactment of Sojourner Truth’s conversations with abolitionists by our own Pamela Poole-Starks along with lots of additional educational and entertaining content. We will have tables set up for Voter Registration and for DeKalb’s emergency information system, Code Red. Better Than Terrific BBQ will be setup from 1:00 – 5:00 so even if you can’t make the program, you can celebrate Juneteenth by avoiding cooking and enjoying great BBQ. See [Flyer](#) for more information.

**Town Hall has been changed to June 21st. 7:00 pm in the Beach House**

Town Hall has been changed from June 20th to June 21st at 7:00 pm in the Beach House. The scheduled topics are: What does it take to be an elected official in Pine Lake? and Update on the plans for Poplar Park Improvements. There will also be time for Q&A.

**City Still Accepting Applications for Beach Monitor**

Beach Monitor is a seasonal, part-time position. If you know someone who might be interested in a summer job, please pass on this information.

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Application and full description can be found on the city website at [www.pinelakega.net](http://www.pinelakega.net) employment opportunities/Beach Monitor posting.

**Food Assistance Available to Pine Lake Neighbors**

PLAIN's Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) program assists Pine Lake neighbors in need. If you or someone you know is food insecure or needs other assistance, please call 404 491-0774 and leave a message. A volunteer will call back to discuss needs and help available. All contacts are kept confidential.

**Adjournment** – Council Member Hall motioned to adjourn at 9:11 pm; seconded by Council Member