

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order: Mayor Melanie Hammet called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor Pro Tern Jean Bordeaux, Council Members Tracey Brantley, Nivea Castro, Brandy Hall, and Augusta Woods. Also present were City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, City Attorney Susan Moore, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner, and Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard. Chief of Police Saral Y'Hudah-Green was not in attendance.

Announcements

Mayor Hammet began with a brief recap of the Dekalb County/Rockbridge Road Development Town Hall (which took place Monday, July 17th). Mayor Hammet stated she had requested an "updated" project timeline, which has now been established as having begun in January 2023, and to be completed in November 2023. When Mayor Hammet inquired how local business owners may go about filing an interruption claim, the response from the Dekalb County COO and legal authority were vague and nonspecific. Following consultation with City Manager Miller-Thornton and City Attorney Susan Moore, Mayor Hammet stated she again requested a description of the claim filing mechanism, to understand how such a claim is made actionable. A response from Dekalb County remains pending.

City Manager Miller-Thornton announced the attendance of Public Works employee, DeAndre Hodges. The City Manager thanked Mr. Hodges for his continued efforts to maintain the city's public spaces, and invited attendees to do the same. It was noted in the introduction that DeAndre is presently the only Public Works employee, as City Hall continues to seek to fill a vacancy in the department.

Adoption of Agenda of the Day

Mayor Hammet amended the agenda to include:

1. To place Staff Reports before the second public comments section.

Council Member Hall motioned to adopt the amended agenda; Council Member Castro seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes

- Regular Meeting — July 11th, 2023

Council Member Woods motioned to adopt the minutes for Regular Meeting of July 11th2023; seconded by Council Member Brantley. The motion passed with a 4-0-1 vote. Council Members Brantley, Castro, Hall, and Woods voted in favor. Council Member Bordeaux abstained.

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Public Comment – 3 minutes each please

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

New Business

1. Reenactment of Emergency Ordinance 2023-05 in the form of Emergency Ordinance 2023-05(1) – Fishing Moratorium
 - a. Updates from City Departments and Committees Regarding Lake Area Health and Maintenance and the Moratorium that began on 7/15/2023.

Mayor Hammet reiterated the purpose of the moratorium, and Council Members weighed in on the development of criteria for quantifiable review of lake health and wildlife impact. Council Member Hall discussed the involvement of SEED (Stewards of Environmental Education and Design) in producing pre- and post-moratorium data points. City Manager Miller-Thornton requested direction of City Council in working with City Attorney Susan Moore to develop amendments to Lake Area Policy—which would include verbiage around fishing—upon receipt of SEED and community feedback. Council Member Bordeaux moved to reenact Emergency Ordinance 2023-05 in the form of Emergency Ordinance 2023-05(1) (a 30-day moratorium on fishing within Pine Lake); Council Member Brantley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) II – Project List Considerations

City Manager Miller-Thornton requested that City Council produce a project list in preparation for the upcoming SPLOST II referendum. The City Manager suggested that items on the list be broad categories, and that allocated amounts be characterized as percentages as opposed to fixed dollar amounts, so as to allow flexibility in funding high-priority projects. Also discussed was the proposed amendment to Dekalb County disbursement, adding 1% of total County-wide SPLOST II funds to small cities' (including Pine Lake, Stone Mountain, Lithonia, and Avondale Estates) allotment formula. Given these considerations, a project list will be drafted by City Council Members in the coming weeks. No Council action was required or taken in reference to this agenda item.

3. GMA Lease Option – for purchase of Leaf Machine and Police Vehicle –Amount Financed \$123,185 – 4 year term – Total Lease Payments \$137,348.

City Manager Miller-Thornton announced the terms of a lease agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association for the purpose of procuring a new Leaf Machine, as

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

well as a new Police Vehicle. The interest rate for the GMA lease/loan is set at 4.5%, to be paid over a 4-year term. The principal amount is \$123,185, with a payoff amount of \$137,348. Council Member Hall moved to approve the GMA Lease Agreement; Council Member Castro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

ChaQuias Miller- Thornton — City Manager

Administration and Public Works

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the City Managers report dated July 11, 2023. The City Manager reports are on file at City Hall for reviewing. Please email missvevarnerpinelakega.net to request a copy or call 404-999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Chief Sarai Y'Hudah-Green — Chief of Police

Public Safety

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the Police/Public Safety report dated July 11, 2023. The Police/Public Safety reports are on file at City Hall for reviewing. Please email missyevarnerpinelakega.net to request a copy or call 404-999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Public Comment — 3 minutes each please

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.

Information for "The Pine Lake News" E-blast

Upcoming Events:

Mayor's Final Town Hall: Join Mayor Melanie Hammet tonight (**Wednesday 7/26 at 7pm in Beach House**) for a conversation about what's happening in Pine Lake.

SEED Business Meeting: Pine Lake's environmental panel (Stewards of Environmental Education and Design) is holding their regular business meeting to plan and review environment related events. **Thursday, 07/27/2023; Clubhouse; 7:00 pm.**

Moratorium on Fishing: The City Council renewed an additional 30-day moratorium on fishing in the lake. The City will review renewal of the moratorium during the week of August 21st. During this time the City will continue to focus on lake clean-up, fishing policy, signage, and other improvements to the lake and park experience.

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Other News:

Qualifying For Elected Office: If you are interested in running for one of the three 2024 open seats (2 council seats; Mayor) please contact City Hall. The qualifying period is August 21-23, 2023; City Hall; 8:30am-4:30pm. Forms will be available at City Hall beginning Monday, July 31, 2023. Each of the open seats is for a four-year term.

City Accepting Applications for Two Positions:

Beach Monitor - seasonal, part-time position.

Public Works Laborer - temporary, full time position.

If you know someone who might be interested in a summer job, please pass on this information. Application and position descriptions can be found at: Employment Opportunities

Millage Rate: On 06/27/2023 the City Council lowered the ad valorem tax millage rate from the 2022 rate of 18.422 to the current rate of 16.481.


Ongoing:

Pine Lake City Council Meetings are held the second and last Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Council Chamber / Courthouse at the corner of Forest and Pine.

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 for adjournment at 8:30pm; Council Member Castro seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



Ned Dagenhard
Assistant City Clerk