

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 PM  
Pine Lake Courthouse  
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Hall called the Work Session to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, Council Member Jeff Goldberg, Council Member Thomas Torrent, Council Member Tom Ramsey, and Council Member Augusta Woods. Also present were Interim City Manager Billy Beckett, Chief of Police Sarai Y'hudah-Green, City Attorney Susan Moore, Public Works Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick, and Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard.

**Announcements and Communications**

Mayor Hall mentioned that the final meeting of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners had taken place, and thanked exiting-Commissioner Steve Bradshaw for his continued support of the City of Pine Lake.

The Mayor continued by commenting on the completed Courthouse renovation and "open house" the previous weekend, thanking Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick, and any residence who attended the open house.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux announced that she had been notified of the signing of the SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement with DeKalb for an additional \$2 million to be dispersed to the City of Pine Lake. Ms. Bordeaux continued by expressing direct thanks to former-City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, former-City Attorney Susan Moore, and "Mayor emeritus" Melanie Hammet, crediting these women with the lobbying success.

Council Member Goldberg stated that he had attended his first meeting as a Member of the Georgia Municipal Association's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Council. The first order of business, he added, was changing the name, citing the current political climate.

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**Adoption of the Minutes**

- **November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Regular Meeting**
- **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Work Session**

Council Member Rasmey moved to adopt the Minutes from the previous two meetings; Council Member Torrent seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**Adoption of the Agenda of the Day**

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux moved to adopt the Agenda of the Day; Council Member Woods seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**Public Hearing**

**1. Proposed FY2025 Budget**

Mayor Hall opened the public hearing at 6:06pm.

The public hearing took place, wherein Mayor pro tem Bordeaux advised City Council and the public of her correction of a formatting error in the FY2025 Budget document, which she corrected. All other aspects of the budget remained unchanged, namely figures.

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett gave a summary of budget categories, and reasserted his recommendation of amending the FY2025 Budget via resolution early in 2025 to reflect City Council priorities.

Finance Director Danny Lamonte introduced himself—citing 20 years of local government experience—adding that he looks forward to working with the City of Pine Lake.

Seeing no further requests for comment, Mayor Hall closed the public hearing at 6:17pm.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux moved to adopt the FY2025 Budget; Council Member Ramsey seconded.

No further discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**New Business**

**1. Appointment of Mr. Stanely Hawthorne – City Manager**

Council Member Torrent moved to appoint Mr. Stanley Hawthorne as City Manager of Pine Lake; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

Council Member Torrent stated that he felt “very good” about Mr. Hawthorne, adding that a “big weight has been lifted” off of the City.

Mayor Hall thanked Interim City Manager Billy Beckett for his service to the City, a sentiment that was echoed by other City Council Members.

Council Member Goldberg stated that Mr. Hawthorne was not the only candidate interested in the position, adding that he felt this spoke to the attractiveness of working in Pine Lake.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**2. Appointment of Mr. Chris Balch – City Attorney**

Council Member Ramsey moved to appoint Mr. Chris Balch as City Attorney of Pine Lake; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux seconded.

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett advised that Mr. Balch came “highly recommended” from the two previous City Attorneys of Pine Lake, Laura Henderson and Susan Moore.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**3. Appointment of Ms. Ansley Sluss – Public Defender**

Council Member Woods moved to appoint Ms. Ansley Sluss as Public Defender of Pine Lake; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett stated that the City has not previously retained a Public Defender, but rather reached out to a rolodex of local attorneys on an as-needed basis. Mr. Beckett recommended one of these attorneys—Ms. Ansley Sluss—who has agreed to do one session per month on a \$300 monthly retainer.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux inquired as to whether twelve sessions was sufficient. Asst. City Clerk Dagenhard affirmed this, speaking to the function of Municipal Court, stating that bench trials fall an alternating schedule.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**4. Contractual Agreement with Professional Probation Services**

Council Member Ramsey moved to approve the Contractual Agreement with PPS; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux seconded.

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett stated that the contract had been reviewed by City Attorney Moore, who recommended changes agreed to by Professional Probation Services. Mr. Beckett added that this was the current probation servicer, and that the service is paid for through fines paid by the individual, not city funds.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**5. One-Month Extension of Contractual Agreement with Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick**

Council Member Goldberg moved to approve the One-Month Extension of Contractual Agreement with Mr. Kendrick; Council Member Woods seconded.

Mayor Hall stated that Mr. Kendrick's current contract was set to expire 12/31/2024, and that Mr. Kendrick had graciously agreed to a one-month extension while awaiting further budget and contract review by the entering-City Manager.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**6. PTSD Insurance for Police Officers – GMA/ACCG Sponsored Program**

Council Member Ramsey moved to authorize the City Manager to approve the pending contract with GMA/ACCG; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux seconded.

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett recommended City Council approve the agreement, adding that program enrollment is mandated. Mr. Beckett continued that the estimated cost is \$148.00 per year per eligible employee.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**7. Out-of-Scope Recommended Improvements to Courthouse**

Council Member Ramsey moved to approve the out-of-scope recommended improvements to the courthouse; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick advised City Council of recommended improvements to the courthouse discovered during the interior renovation. These improvements include repairs to the conference room ceiling and Police Department awning, security and insulation, keyless door access, an additional recording module requested by the Court Department, winterization, and duct maintenance. The additional repairs totaled \$34,789.77. As the interior Courthouse Renovation was completed \$46,000~ under budget, the additional repairs would be completed using previously-allocated funds.

Mayor Hall added a recommendation of better exterior lighting for the facility at 462 Pine Drive, citing safety concerns.

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett echoed Mayor Hall's lighting concerns, adding that a project of similar purpose was taking place at City Hall with assistance from Georgia Power, and recommended reaching out. Mr. Beckett added a recommendation to update the generator outside of the Courthouse—which provides emergency power to both the Police Department and de facto shelter, the Pine Lake Clubhouse—as the current generator has exceeded its serviceable life.

A discussion took place regarding additional items suggested by City Council, Mr. Beckett, Chief of Police Y'hudah-Green.

Council Member Goldberg recommended that City Council approve the list of out-of-scope improvements recommended by Mr. Kendrick, suggesting they research and revisit the additional items at a later date.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**8. Acceptance of Withdrawal – Bid Submission, Oak Road**

Council Member Ramsey moved to accept withdrawal of the bid; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick corrected the original title of the item, stating that a bid had yet to be awarded. Mr. Kendrick continued that the contractor failed to properly review the bid, and lacked the expertise to perform the work. Mr. Kendrick, Interim City Manager Beckett, and the contractor had determined it was in the best interest of all parties that the contractor withdraw.

Council Member Torrent asked for confirmation that the contractor was seeking compensation, which was confirmed by Mr. Kendrick.

In response to a question from Council Member Ramsey regarding next steps, Mr. Kendrick suggested the best course of action would be to sit down with the second bidder, and discuss a change in the scope of work if necessary.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**9. Adoption of 2025 City Council Meeting Calendar**

Council Member Woods moved to adopt the 2025 City Council Meeting Calendar; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Council Member Torrent asked that the final meeting of the year (12/30/2025) be rescheduled to an earlier date. Mayor pro tem Bordeaux suggested 12/16/2025, and a consensus was observed.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.



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**10. Request by City Manager to Close City Hall at 12:00PM on December 31, 2024**

Council Member Torrent moved to grant the request by the City Manager to close City Hall at 12:00PM on December 31, 2024; Council Member Ramsey seconded.

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett stated that it was his recommendation to allow staff to leave early on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, citing that celebration of the New Years Day holiday often takes place the previous evening.

Following some discussion, City Council arrived at a consensus in support of Mr. Beckett's suggestion.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**11. Approval of Lease and Maintenance Agreement – Scanner/Copier – City Hall and Police Department**

Council Member Ramsey moved to approve the Lease and Maintenance Agreement; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Mr. Beckett recommended approval of the agreement, stating that the current copier units in the Police Department and City Hall are beyond their useful and serviceable lives. The City, he continued, arrived at the recommendation of EGP Document Solutions following a competitive bid process.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**Reports and Other Comments**

**Mayor**

Mayor Hall thanked “tireless” staff for meeting challenges despite limited resources. The Mayor spoke directly to Interim City Manager Billy Beckett, expressing her gratitude for his guidance amid a tumultuous leadership change.

Mayor Hall continued by thanking exiting-City Attorney Susan Moore, citing a substantive tenure and legacy. The Mayor then turned to her compatriots on Council, asserting that they should “be very proud” of themselves.

**City Council**

All members of City Council echoed the Mayor’s sentiments.

Council Member Goldberg suggested that the Governing Authority schedule more town halls in the new year.

Council Member Ramsey thanked Chief Green for a “virtual code enforcement” education, and thanked Mr. Kendrick for continued wetlands maintenance. Mr. Ramsey then noted the entering-City Attorney’s relationship with the City of Brookhaven, citing an ongoing lawsuit regarding property value assessment by the DeKalb County Tax Commissioner, expressing interest.

**City Manager**

Interim City Manager Billy Beckett expressed gratitude to the Mayor and City Council, as well as staff. Mr. Beckett summarized completed projects, and provided suggestions to the Governing Authority on how best to proceed on those initiatives still in progress. Those suggestions included diversification of revenue sources, and salary improvements for staff. Mr. Beckett concluded by lauding entering-City Manager Stanley Hawthorne’s experience, and by expressing a desire to “stay in touch.”

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**Adjournment**

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux moved for adjournment at 7:32pm.



Ned Dagenhard  
City Clerk or Delegate

