

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 13th, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order: Mayor Brandy Hall called the Regular 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 City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, Public Works Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick, and Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard. Chief of Police Sarai Y’hudah-Green and City Attorney Susan Moore were not present.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

Mayor Hall asked to amend the Agenda of the Day to place the Executive Session after Department Reports, immediately preceding adjournment.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux moved to adopt the Agenda of the Day; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Old Business

- 1. Draft Ordinance 2024-05 – An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code of the City of Pine Lake to Authorize the Operation of Short-term Rentals within the City as a Special Use un the R-1 Single Family Residential District and the Commercial District Transitional Subarea – Discussion – Potential First Read**

A discussion took place, during which Council Member Torrent inquired about the lapse of Special Use Permits, and Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux requested clarification regarding lodging definition.

Council Member Goldberg suggested the language regarding lodging existed to exclude “boarding house”-style uses. Mayor Hall suggested these questions be relayed to City Attorney Moore, who was absent.

Council Member Torrent performed the first read of Ordinance 2024-05.

New Business

- 1. Draft Ordinance 2024-07 - An Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Pine Lake to Impose a Three Percent Tax on the Furnishing of Lodgings; to Provide for Reporting and Submission of Taxes; To Provide for Enforcement; To Provide for Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances; to Provide an Effective Date of this Ordinance, and for Other Purposes.**

Mayor Hall began by asking each Member of Council to share their thoughts on the

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item. Council Member Torrent said that he felt the institution of a 3% “hotel/motel tax” was a great start, and that we would have flexibility for an increase in the future. Council Member Woods and Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux expressed similar thoughts of content. Council Member Goldberg added that he was proud of the City Council’s ability to find compromise and develop policy. Council Member Ramsey stated he had no comments. Mayor Hall thanked Council Member Torrent for heading up the conversation, and multiple Council Members echoed this sentiment.

Mayor Hall performed the first read of Ordinance 2024-07.

2. Employee Group Health Insurance Renewal - Effective Term to begin 10/01/2024 -Recommended plans and authorization of Mayor to sign the necessary documents to provide employee group health benefits. – Resolution R-14-2024

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux moved to approve renewal of the Employee Group Health Insurance Plan, amended to include cancellation of employee plan cost reimbursement program; Council Member Ramsey seconded.

A discussion took place, wherein Council Member Ramsey suggested ceasing the employee plan cost reimbursement program for salaried employees. City Manager Miller-Thornton stated that the city currently employs (3) salaried employees: the City Manager, Chief of Police, and Assistant City Clerk. The City Manager continued that she did not opt in to any of the employee group health insurance benefits, including cost reimbursement, and that neither of the other salaried employees are paid a competitive salary relative to surrounding agencies.

Council Member Goldberg inquired about alternative plans, and the City Manager listed multiple options, highlighting that the Anthem (BCBS) renewal options offered continuity of coverages with some increase in premium.

Mayor Hall expressed reluctance in reducing benefits, echoing the City Manager’s comment regarding the city’s inability to pay competitively; Council Member Woods referenced the high cost of turnover and perceived value in employee retention. Council Member Ramsey reasserted his position on either an 8% cost increase for the recommended renewal plan with the added cancellation of the employee plan cost reimbursement program or the 4% cost increase the Anthem BCBS plan with higher deductibles and higher out-of-pocket costs for employees.

Members voted 4-1-0. Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux, and Council Members Ramsey, Torrent, and Woods voted in favor of the measure; Council Member Goldberg voted against; no members abstained. The motion carried.

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3. Resolution R-15-2024 - FY2024 Budget Adjustment

This item was moved to the August 27th Regular Session agenda.

Reports and Other Business

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton — City Manager (Director of Administration, Courts, and Public Works) – No report.

Chief Sarai Y'Hudah-Green — Chief of Police, Public Safety

Please refer to the Pine Lake website to access the Police/Public Safety report dated June 11th, 2024. Please email neddagenhard@pinelakega.net to request a copy or call (404) 999- 4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Bernard Kendrick – Special Projects Manager, Public Works

Please refer to the Pine Lake website to access the Public Works report dated June 11th, 2024. Please email neddagenhard@pinelakega.net to request a copy or call (404) 999- 4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Reports/Comments

Mayor

Mayor Hall stated that the scheduling of the City Council retreat would take place at the August 27th Regular Meeting. The Mayor thanked Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick for his report, adding that a full analysis [of all equipment and vehicles under the Public Works Department] was “long overdue.”

City Council

Council Member Goldberg thanked Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick for his continued efforts despite insufficient resources, adding, “the city has been held together with duct tape and band-aids, and it is time to put it in order.”

Pine Lake News

City Council Member Jeff Goldberg appointed to GMA’s Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council:

The GMA (Georgia Municipal Association) Board of Directors created the Equity

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and Inclusion Advisory Council to provide a body to oversee the implementation of the recommendations included in the January 2022 Final Report of the Association's Equity and Inclusion Commission.

Congratulations Council Member Goldberg!

Upcoming Events

August 24th, 2024 Pollinator Census:

You're invited to participate with SEED in the Great Southeast Pollinator Census for 2024! On Saturday August 24, residents across the southeast will be counting all of the pollinators they can find in their environment, in partnership with the UGA Cooperative Extension. Come to the Pine Lake beach house between 11 AM and 2 PM to learn how to identify pollinators and complete the count!

September 7th, 2024 6 PM to 9 PM - Pride Lake Fundraiser Gayla:

We will be screening camp classic Rocky Horror Picture Show, holding a Silent Auction, and crowning the Queer of the Year. Tickets will be available next week at PrideLake.org (be patient, website currently being updated).

September 21st, from 2pm until 9pm – Pride Lake Festival:

From 2-6, we will have camp activities for all ages, with a Grand March around the lake at 4pm. The Pre-show begins at 6, and the Drag Show (18+) begins at 7pm. More details next week!

4. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel and Real Estate Matters

Council Member Woods moved that City Council enter Executive Session at 7:49pm; Council Member Torrent seconded.

A discussion took place.

Council Member Torrent moved to re-enter the Work Session at 9:13pm; Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux seconded.

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Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux moved for adjournment at 9:14pm.

S/ Ned Dagenhard

Ned Dagenhard
Assistant City Clerk

S/ ChaQuias Miller-Thornton

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
Acting City Clerk