

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 30, 2025 at 6:00PM
Courthouse & Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA 30072**

Call to Order: Mayor Hall called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, Council Members Jeff Goldberg, Tom Ramsey, Thomas Torrent, and Augusta Woods. Also present were City Manager Stanley Hawthorne, City Attorney Chris Balch, Chief of Police Sarai Y'Hudah-Green, Public Works Director Bernard Kendrick, and Acting City Clerk Ned Dagenhard. Finance Director Danny Lamonte was not in attendance.

Announcements/Communications

Mayor Hall thanked the City Council and staff for a “productive retreat,” referencing the September 24th City Council Planning Retreat. The Mayor added special thanks to Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner for her organizing efforts.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

Council Member Ramsey moved to adopt the Agenda of the Day; 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 Minutes

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux moved to amend the Minutes from the September 24, 2025 City Council Fall Planning Retreat, correcting the line, “...2024 annexation...” to read, “...2017 preliminary study for annexation...”; Council Member Woods seconded.

No further discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote to approve the Minutes, as amended.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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Consent Agenda

1. Resolution R-2025-59, Authorizing Engagement with *Sumter Local Government Consulting* for Finance Director Services

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt Resolution R-2025-59; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Old Business

1. Resolution R-2025-60, Rejection of Proposal for Property Tax Relief Study by Carl Vinson Institute of Government

Council Member Ramsey moved to adopt Resolution R-2025-60; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux seconded.

A discussion took place, during which Mayor pro tem Bordeaux signaled dissent over further publication of a request for proposal (RFP) for the Tax Relief Study, citing budgetary concerns. The City Council expressed consensus over separation of the resolution into two parts. Additionally, staff and the Governing Authority discussed included the order of operations as it pertains to allocating funds for study, publication of the RFP, and signing of a hypothetical agreement resulting from the rewarding of a contract to any responder.

Council Member Torrent moved to amend Resolution R-2025-60, separating into two actions (henceforth R-2025-60(a) and R-2025-60(b): 1) rejection of the proposal for property tax relief study by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and 2) authorization of the City Manager to publish a request for proposal (RFP) for a property tax relief fiscal impact study; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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Mayor pro tem Bordeaux moved to adopt Resolution R-2025-60(a); Council Member Goldberg seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Council Member Torrent moved to authorize the creation and adoption of a resolution for purposes of publishing a new Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain proposals for a study on the fiscal impact of a senior citizen tax relief, that the resolution be prepared after the vote, and that the mayor be authorized to sign that resolution after it has been circulated by the City Attorney to the rest of the Council, and all Council agree that the document aligns with the intent of their vote, as they voted yea or nay, vis-à-vis adoption of the resolution; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

A discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

Council Members Goldberg, Ramsey, and Torrent voted in favor; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux and Council Member Woods voted against; no members abstained.

The motion carried.

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2. Resolution R-2025-61, Employee Group Health Insurance Renewal

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux moved to adopt Resolution R-2025-61; Council Member Woods seconded.

City Manager Hawthorne introduced the item, recommending the Governing Authority continue with Anthem (Blue Cross Blue Shield), arguing that the option would keep the City in a larger “pool” with the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, adding “cushion” in the event of a catastrophic claim. Acting City Clerk Dagenhard referenced the conversation with the City’s insurance broker/administrator, *Landmark Insurance*, wherein the City’s representative cautioned against the proposal by Angle (Aetna), stating that the City being in a smaller “pool” would risk entering the 2026-2027 term less competitively.

Council Member Torrent expressed the desire to proceed with Angle (Aetna), citing cost savings.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux offered a historical account of the City joining the DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce insurance pool, stating that the decision saved the City “around \$30,000.”

Council Member Ramsey voiced support for Council Member Torrent’s position, expressing skepticism regarding the potential that the City would necessarily be in a more competitive position upon 2026-2027 renewal regardless of which carrier with which the City Council chose to proceed.

Council Member Goldberg stated that should the City proceed with Angel (Aetna) and endure a catastrophic claim, it would likely “dramatically impact [the 2026-2027 renewal quote].”

Council Member Ramsey inquired whether *Landmark Insurance* is paid a consistent rate, or following a metric associated with the premium cost paid by the City.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and Council Members Goldberg and Woods voted in favor of the motion; Council Members Ramsey and Torrent voted against; no members abstained.

The motion carried.

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New Business

1. Resolution R-2025-62, 2025 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Resurfacing Project

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt Resolution R-2025-62; Council Member Goldberg seconded

Public Works Director Kendrick recapitulated the earlier bid process, which included a 13-street scope of work, citing the decision to reject all bids as unresponsive. Mr. Kendrick added that the project scope was reintroduced as limited to heavily trafficked sections of Lakeshore Drive, Spring Drive, and Poplar Road, and recommended the City award the contract to *Construction 57*.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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Reports and Other Business

Mayor

Mayor Hall provided a summary of discussion items from the September 24th City Council Planning Retreat. Mayor Hall then asked Public Works Director Kendrick to present an update on various aspects of the lake, dam, and wetlands projects ongoing, in tandem with the City's engineering firm of record, *AECOM*.

The Public Works Director presented an update regarding the inspection of the lake dam, citing heavy vegetation as an impeding completion of said-inspection.

Council Member Ramsey challenged the effectiveness of the inspection. Mr. Kendrick signaled that the remainder of the inspection would take place following vegetation management initiatives. Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Kendrick then discussed the merits of temporary removal of sedimentation currently blocking an intake pipe between the Eastern Wetlands and the lake. Mr. Kendrick stated that previous attempts had only presented temporary clearance, citing the amount of sedimentation regularly entering the pipe.

Mayor Hall offered a description of the wetlands mechanism, hydraulic features, and weirs/dams.

City Attorney Balch fielded questions from Council Member Goldberg regarding registration requirements with the Environmental Protection Division's *Georgia Safe Dams*.

City Council

Council Member Torrent announced that Saturday, October 4th he, Council Member Goldberg, and Acting City Clerk Dagenhard would be holding a "Community Chat" to discuss the website redevelopment. Mr. Torrent also encouraged residents utilizing email as a means of sharing ideas with the Governing Authority.

Council Member Ramsey thanked the public in attendance, asking that they continue in such fashion, adding, "[the Governing Authority] hears you better when there are more of you."

Council Member Goldberg expressed empathy with residents frustrated at the lack of immediate response from the Governing Authority during *Public*

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Comment, citing protocol that discourages active dialogue. Mr. Goldberg also reiterated Council Member Torrent’s announcement of the upcoming “Community Chat.”

City Council yielded time to Chief Green, who shared a comment from the *Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police*, which commended two Pine Lake Police Officers—Lieutenant Robert Palms and Corporal Jason Cooper—who responded to a neighboring jurisdiction with a K-9 Unit, and assisted in the seizure of 142 kilograms of illegal methamphetamine.

Adjournment

Council Member Torrent motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:18PM.



Ned Dagenhard
Acting City Clerk