

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
January 27, 2026 at 6:00PM
MEETING TO BE HELD REMOTELY, PUBLICLY,
AND WITH ADVANCED NOTICE:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81365887047>**

Call to Order: Mayor Hall called the Work Session to order at 6:01PM.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor pro tempore Jeff Goldberg, and Council Members Deborah Hull, Stephanie Kohler, Jane Lowers, and Thomas Torrent. Also present were City Manager Stanley Hawthorne, City Attorney Chris Balch, Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green, Public Works Director Bernard Kendrick, City Clerk Ned Dagenhard, and Finance Associate Stephen Mayer.

Announcements/Communications

Mayor Hall thanked attendees for pivoting to the remote meeting, after affirming with the City Attorney that the emergency nature of the meeting was allowable under the Governor’s declaration of emergency. The Mayor also thanked the Directors of Public Works and Public Safety for winter storm preparatory efforts, and referenced ongoing development of the City’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

Mayor Hall announced she had attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event in the City of Stone Mountain, adding that she looks forward to collaboration with their newly-seated Mayor and City Council Members.

The Mayor also announced that she and staff had met with Georgia Power representatives regarding utility maintenance.

Finally, Mayor Hall thanked those who attended the previous meeting, and gave public comment, adding that the general temperament of the community had lent to the decision to delay a decision on remediation of the Beach House. Other concerns, related to reports from the City’s engineer-of-record, were to be addressed through conversations with the City Manager’s Office and the Public Works Director. Referencing the juxtaposition of the national political climate, the Mayor ensured the community that they were being heard.

Council Member Torrent announced he had attended the planning committee with DeKalb County relating to the upcoming FIFA World Cup, which focused on shoring up public safety resources, and inter-city organization of events.

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Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

Council Member Hull motioned to adopt; Council Member Kohler seconded.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg motioned to was made to amend the agenda, providing *New Business Item 4. Resolution R-2026-10, Beach House Renovations – Proposal* as a discussion item rather than an action item.

Council Member Torrent motioned to move *Consent Agenda Item 2. Resolution R-2025-03, 2026 City Council Meeting Calendar – Adoption to New Business.* Council Member Lowers seconded the motion. (*NOTE: This motion was made following adoption of the amended agenda, thus requiring a second.*)

Mayor Hall called for a vote on the agenda, as amended.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Adoption of the Minutes

- December 9, 2025 – Special Called Meeting
- January 13, 2026 – Organizational Meeting & Work Session

Council Member Hull moved to adopt the minutes; Mayor pro tem 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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Consent Agenda

- 1. Resolution R-2026-02, 2024 Audit Report – Acceptance**
- 2. Resolution R-2026-04, Authorization of City Manager or Designee to Apply for Local Government Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG)**
- 3. Resolution R-2026-05, Authorizing Official Signatures for Truist Bank Accounts**
- 4. Resolution R-2026-06, Consent to Approve Contract for City Attorney, 2026-2028**

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, as amended; Mayor pro tem Goldberg seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

New Business

- 1. Resolution R-2026-07, Authorization to Apply for Tree City USA Designation**

Council Member Kohler moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-07; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg provided background on the item, referencing conversations with Dave Long from the Georgia Forestry Commission. Mr. Goldberg added that an “Arbor Day proclamation” would also be necessary to meet application requirements. *(Following the meeting, a proclamation was made establishing April 25th as “Pine Lake Arbor Day”).*

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motioned carried.

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2. Resolution R-2026-08, Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to Develop 2026 Comprehensive Plan – Approval

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-08; Mayor pro tem Goldberg seconded; Council Member Lowers thirded (observed simultaneously, seconded/thirded alphabetically).

City Manager Hawthorne explained the comprehensive plan development process, alluding to the state mandate of quinquennial adoption by City Council. The City Manager outlined the goals of the plan as it relates to transportation, housing, and economic development. The City Manager stated that—in addition to approval of the Memorandum of Agreement—the City Council needed to select two of the three interested-Council Members to serve on the steering committee, to avoid triggering a quorum.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg opted out, to “make it easy.” (*Council Members Kohler and Lowers were named as representatives on the Comprehensive Plan steering committee*)

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried

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3. Resolution R-2026-09, Municipal Appointment to the DeKalb County Women's Commission

Mayor pro tem Goldberg moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-09; Council Member Kohler seconded.

City Manager Hawthorne provided background for the development of the DeKalb County Women's Commission. A discussion took place among City Council as to whether any female members had interest in- or availability for- membership of the Commission. During the conversation, the Chief of Police was nominated for membership, which she accepted. (*Chief Sarai Y'Hudah Green was named as the City's Commission Representative*)

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

4. Resolution R-2026-10, Beach House Renovations – Proposal Discussion

City Manager Hawthorne provided background regarding project development, which reaches back to meetings in April and July of 2025. The City Manager cautioned that delay of the project could increase costs related to labor and materials, both of which are in a market flux. Public Works Director Kendrick discussed the vendor selection process, reflecting on his origin with the City as "Special Projects Manager," a niche and contracted position created due to the City's inability to receive qualified bidders for capital projects.

A discussion ensued wherein Members of the Governing Authority expressed concern over vendor selection and the speed of project approval and completion. City Attorney Balch provided education regarding the legal parameters of government procurement, assuring the Council that all actions taken in project scope development, selection of vendors, and use of funds fell within the confines of State law and local ordinance.

The City Attorney fielded questions from City Council regarding procurement thresholds and what materials are presented to City Council as part of project development.

No action was taken by City Council.

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5. Resolution R-2026-03, 2026 City Council Meeting Calendar – Adoption

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-03; Mayor pro tem Goldberg seconded.

Council Member Torrent expressed concern about a City Council recess taking place during the FIFA World Cup, and alluded to his interest in moving the fiscal year to a July start-date, asking that the recess be moved to August.

Mayor Hall clarified that staff would still be working during City Council recess, and that the recess would exclusively consist of removal of one City Council meeting from the calendar.

Council Member Lowers flagged a potential conflict in the calendar, stating that the December 29th Regular Meeting would fall in the midst of the winter holiday season, during which personal travel is common. It was suggested, then, that the final meeting of City Council be moved to December 15th. Council Member Kohler expressed that such quick turnaround should be noted ahead of FY2027 budget development.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Reports and Other Business

Mayor Hall expressed a desire to schedule a Town Hall meeting. After deliberation, *Monday, February 23, 2026* was determined as the consensus date.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg thanked members of the public for ongoing engagement, adding that open dialogue and “difficult” conversations lend themselves to a more functional governing body.

Council Member Hull thanked attendees and City staff for helping her “navigate the new role.”

Council Member Kohler offered “general thanks all around.”

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Adjournment

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

Ned Dagenhard

Ned Dagenhard, City Clerk

