

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
February 24, 2026 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 tempore Jeff Goldberg, and Council Members Deborah Hull, Stephanie Kohler, Jane Lowers, and Thomas Torrent. Also present were City Attorney Chris Balch, Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green, Public Works Director Bernard Kendrick, and City Clerk Ned Dagenhard. City Manager Stanley Hawthorne and Finance Associate Stephen Mayer were not in attendance.

Announcements/Communications

Mayor Hall expressed to the public—reflecting on recent “lively” meetings—a reminder regarding meeting decorum.

The Mayor also announced she had attended a District 4 (DeKalb) round table with Commissioner Chakira Johnson, which focused on coagulating various municipal events that may overlap (using as an example, recent Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events occurring simultaneously throughout the County. Ms. Hall added that she, City Manager Hawthorne, and Finance Director Mayer were working with the office of State Senator Kim Jackson, as well as Mayor Burkes of Clarkston, to discuss potential impact of House Bill (HB) 1116.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg announced had met with Urban Forestry Specialist David Long to continue the auditing of the City’s Tree Conservation Ordinance. Mr. Goldberg added that the City’s *Tree City USA* application had been approved at the State level, and would move on to national—and final—approval.

Council Member Hull announced that she, as well as Council Members Kohler and Lowers, would be attending the “newly elected officials training” in Athens for the remainder of the week.

Swearing-in Ceremony

Officers Robert Lightford and Damien Rogers were sworn-in by Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green as the City of Pine Lake’s (2) new reserve officers.

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Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

Mayor pro Tem Goldberg motioned to adopt the agenda; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Mayor Hall amended the agenda to include the nomination and appointment of the City's 2026 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

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

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Adoption of the Minutes

- January 27, 2026 – Regular Meeting
- January 29, 2026 – Staff/Council Orientation
- February 10, 2026 – Public Hearing & Work Session
- February 16, 2026 – Spring Planning Retreat

Council Member Hull moved to adopt the minutes; Council Member Kohler seconded.

Council Member Hull asked to amend the roster of the January 29, 2026 meeting, reminded the Clerk of her absence.

Council Member Lowers asked to amend verbiage used to describe an exchange between Mayor Hall and Council Member Torrent during the January 27, 2026 meeting.

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

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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Old Business

1. Nomination and Appointment of Members to the 2026 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Mayor pro tem Goldberg moved to approve the appointments; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Mayor Hall nominated the following members to the committee: Ned Dagenhard, Bernard Kendrick, Wendy Keith-Ott, Stephanie Kohler, Jane Lowers, Kate Nevins, Berhanu Takiso, and Sarai Y'Hudah-Green.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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New Business

1. Resolution R-2026-11, Women’s History Month Recognition and City’s Co-sponsorship of Women’s History Series: “*Our History is Now – Voices Carry,*” Featured at the Beach House March 2026

Council Member Lowers moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-11; Council Member Hull seconded.

Mayor Hall invited Melanie Hammet to the podium to speak to the efforts of the *Our History is Now* series planning board. Ms. Hammet expressed her appreciation for the support of local stakeholders, including DeKalb CEO Loraine Cochran-Johnson, State Senator Kim Jackson, Commissioner Chakira Johnson, and Pine Lake’s Mayor Brandy Hall. Ms. Hammet added that while the sponsorship by the City—which included free use of the Beach House and Clubhouse facilities—was in-kind and not fiscal, she did not “want to take that sponsorship for granted.”

Council Member Kohler inquired about parking and traffic management, to which Ms. Hammet deferred to her coordination with the Pine Lake Department of Public Safety, which—per a gesture from the Chief of Police—was active and ongoing. A brief exchange took place wherein staff and members of City Council discussed the nature of the Clubhouse address.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motioned carried.

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Reports and Other Business

Mayor

Mayor Hall yielded time to Public Works Director Kendrick, to field questions from the Governing Authority on the replanting proposal for the dam and western side of Lakeshore Drive.

Director Kendrick spoke to the extent of the planting proposal, which would take place in phases to account for varying growth patterns of plants. Mr. Kendrick added that this would be formally proposed in the form of a task order with AECOM, the City's engineer-of-record.

Mr. Kendrick provided responses to City Council questions, clarifying the Small Cities Capital Outlay Fund as the funding source of the proposal, should it be approved.

Multiple Members of City Council urged community involvement in the process of selecting plants, as well as the finalization of the dam inspection report prior to additional work approval.

Additional comments included concern over potentially exposed DeKalb County-managed sewer lines near Snapfinger Creek, and the impact of future dredging on flora. Regarding the latter comment, Mr. Kendrick advised that physical dredging of sediment would occur within the body of the lake, rather than along the shoreline.

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City Council

Mayor pro tem Goldberg announced he had met with the Executive Director of the South Fork River Conservancy, ahead of future discussion within the community regarding formation of a Pine Lake Conservancy.

Council Member Lowers announced her own efforts in developing a communication template for City Council.

Council Member Kohler spoke to her experience being on City Council, reflecting that “staff have humbled my cynicism,” and urging the public to seek the staff orientation presentation on the City’s YouTube channel.

Adjournment

Council Member Torrent motioned to adjourn the Work Session at 7:13PM.

Ned Dagenhard, City Clerk