

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 30, 2021
7:00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet.

Present were Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and Council members Brandy Beavers, Tracey Brantley, Brandy Hall and Augusta Woods. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner, City Attorney Susan Moore and Chief Sarai Y'Hudah-Green.

Announcements/Communication

Council member Beavers announced that on Sunday, April 11th from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm resident Cindy Brown will host the Photo Art Exhibit at the Tennis Court space. The event is free and open to the public; however, face masks/coverings are required.

Mayor Hammet announced that the first of the three-part series will be on Thursday, April 8th, from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm via Zoom for the first community conversation in our series “One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging, and Civic Life.” The conversation will be facilitated by Ed Lee, Emory University and recommended all to visit www.pinelakega.net for the link and additional information on other pieces of the series.

Adoption of Agenda

Acting City Administrator stated that revisions had been made to the March 9, 2021 minutes to incorporate comments from Council member Beavers regarding the opening of the playground and under reports and business to correct attribution of a public comment from Tom Ramsey to Alan Gordon.

On a motion by Council member Beavers, second by Council member Hall and all present voting “aye,” the agenda was adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2021; the Special Called Meeting of March 16, 2021; and the Town Hall Meeting of March 18, 2021.

On a motion by Council member Hall, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all council members voting “aye,” the minutes were adopted as amended to revise the March 9th meeting minutes to incorporate comments from Council member Beavers regarding the opening of the

playground and under reports and business to correct attribution of a public comment from Tom Ramsey to Alan Gordon.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet

Mayor Hammet provided a synopsis of the March 30th weekly Georgia Mayors' call and stated that the United States was one year into the declared pandemic and that the national vaccine rate is approximate three million per day. Mayor Hammet reported that Georgia ranks 47th in the United States with persons receiving the vaccine and is also has the highest case rate in the country.

The Mayor stated that a fourth surge of the Covid-19 virus is underway and that we must continue to be cautious by practicing social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing hands. Mayor Hammet said that there is great concern with spring break activities occurring and more on the way, that the virus will continue to spread.

Ordinance 2021-01

Ordinance O-2021-01 encourages the issuance of citations instead of arrest for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana when it is the sole non-traffic offense.

Discussion was held among Council members and the City Attorney regarding various modifications to the proposed ordinance.

After discussion was completed, Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux moved; and with a second from Council member Hall, and all voting "aye", to amend the ordinance as recommended by City Attorney Moore for section (c) to read:

"(c) No person shall be arrested solely of violating this ordinance or be punished by confinement for any period of time and no additional time served should be added for violation of this ordinance if arrested or cited for another offense."

Council member Hall moved with a second from Council member Brantley, and all voting "aye", **Ordinance O-2021-01** was approved as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. R-06-2021

A resolution of the Mayor and Council expressing condemnation of hate crimes and discrimination targeting members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

On a motion by Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux and second by Council member Woods, and all voting “aye,” **Resolution No. R-06-2021** was approved unanimously.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments

Resident Calvin Burgamy ,4568 Dahlia Drive, raised concerns about the wording in Ordinance O-2021-01 regarding possession of marijuana. He then asked when the beach would open with social distancing and stated that Council was doing a good job except for the marijuana ordinance.

Resident Tina Kite commented that she would like for Mayor and Council to consider reopening the beach if only in the mornings for swimming.

Resident Stephanie Morals commented that she supports the opening of the beach and suggested taking down the hostile signage along the walking paths that is often confusing.

Resident Irene Turner commented on reopening the beach and walking trail and said that it makes sense to fully open the trail for walking during the pandemic with social distancing.

Mayor and City Council

Council member Beavers commented that she has been getting requests to open the beach and that many residents say that the signage along the trails is hostile.

Mayor Hammet thanked the Council and former Council member Megan Pulsts on their work on Ordinance O-2021-01.

Mayor Hammet also commented that the city must work through how to open and keep the beach safe whenever it reopens.

Chief Green stated that she has not received any complaints regarding reopening the playground.

Adjournment.

On motion by Council member Brantley, second by Council member Hall, adjournment was approved unanimously at 8:00 pm.