

**CITY OF PINE LAKE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 13, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**  
**VIA ZOOM**

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**CALL TO ORDER** - at 7:00 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet. Present – 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 and Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green. City Attorney Susan Moore was not in attendance.

**Announcements/Communication**

Mayor Hammet communicated that on April 8<sup>th</sup> the first community conversation in our series “One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging, and Civic Life.” facilitated by Ed Lee and including Pine Lake resident and author Valerie Boyd was a great success. The Mayor stated that there were approximate forty attendees via zoom and that she has received positive feedback and conversations from all she that she has spoken with.

Mayor Hammet announced that on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. the second community conversation in our series “One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging, and Civic Life” focuses on *Policing and Public Safety in Pine Lake*. This conversation will be facilitated by Ed Lee and including Pine Lake Police Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green who will start the evening with Mr. Lee, providing context and perspective.

Council member Brantley communicated that the art show “Pandemic Porch Portraits” hosted by resident and photographer on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the tennis court was a success with safe and social distancing. She also communicated that the Municipal Arts Panel (M.A.P) and PLAIN provided refreshments and that Ms. Brown has books of the Pandemic Porch Portraits available for sale and that Series#2 Art Show will be on Memorial Day on Monday 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Adoption of the Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2021 and the “One City, Many Voices” Meeting of April 8, 2021.

On a motion by Council member Hall, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all council members voting “aye,” the minutes were adopted.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet**

Mayor Hammet reported that during the last two weekly statewide mayoral calls the focus has been on getting the correct vaccination information out through the state. She said that Georgia is improving but is still one of the lowest states of residents getting the vaccine and continues to be in the hot zone. The Mayor said that she will be fully vaccinated on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Renaming Forrest Road to Forest Road.**

#### **Approval of renaming Forrest Road to Forest Road effective June 1, 2021.**

Acting City Administrator Merriss provided a recap of the process of the reaming of Forrest Road to Forest Road and stated that it has been published in the legal advertisement section of The Champion Newspaper as required by the “Street Naming Policy.” Ms. Merriss recommended approval of the renaming of the road effective June 1, 2021 and stated that this will give staff time to provide notice to various organizations as well as to update the signs and signage.

On a motion by Council member Woods, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all council members voting “aye,” the renaming Forrest Road to Forest Road was approved as recommended.

### **Approval for Surveying Services for Road Maintenance and Repair.**

#### **Recommend approval for surveying services for road maintenance and repair projects as part of the SPLOST program.**

Acting City Administrator Merriss provided information and a recommendation for the approval of surveying services in the amount of \$6,000 for road maintenance and repair of two areas of Dahlia Drive and Beaver Road and three areas along Oak Drive. Ms. Merriss stated that funds are available from revenue in the SPLOST Fund and from proceeds of a settlement agreement with DeKalb County.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, second by Council member Woods, and all council members voting “aye,” surveying services for road maintenance and repair was approved.

## **REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Public Comments**

Resident Tom Ramsey stated that he was not able to attend the “One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation” on April 8<sup>th</sup> and inquired when the audio would be posted on the website and if it would be before the next conversation on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Acting City Administrator Merriss informed Mr. Ramsey that the plan was to have a link to the recording available on the website no later than Monday.

## **Staff**

Acting City Administrator Merriss commented about the reopening of the beach and said that there were concerns that needed to be addressed before the beach and lake were reopened, including the following:

- Structural and infrastructural Issues and needs
- Safe Distancing
- Bathrooms verses port-a-lets.
- Days open and times open
- Parking
- COVID-19 signage
- Erosion in the wetlands
- The financial impact because the budget does not include funding for opening the beach and lake.
- Testing for E-coli
- Capacity control
- Managing facilities

Ms. Merriss recommended having a Work Session for this item for discussion. This item will be placed on the April 27<sup>th</sup> Work Session Zoom Meeting.

Acting City Administrator Merriss provided a staff report and stated that she, Mayor Hammet and Council member Woods had a conversation regarding mobility access around the City. She said that Public Works Supervisor Raoul Martinez and Patrick Welch, Crew member, had created a ramp to access the tennis court and that she was proud of their work and that they are looking at mobility solutions for long term at the tennis court and that the city needs permanent and better access to the beach, wetlands paths, and the picnic areas and for access to parking for persons with mobility issues.

Merriss also thanked Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator and Faye Brantley, Deputy Court Clerk for their assistance in getting information for the 2020 Audit. She also thanked Chief Green for being an all-around great Chief and for keeping the Rockbridge Road dialogue constantly open and updated.

## **Mayor and City Council**

Mayor Hammet thanked Acting City Administrator Merriss for the valuable information about reopening the lake and to think about what the city wants to put in place that is sustainable and safe.

**Adjournment** - On motion by Council member Brantley second by Council member Hall, adjournment was approved unanimously at 7:32 pm.