

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Brandy Hall called the Regular Session to order at 6:02pm.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux, Council Member Jeff Goldberg, Council Member Thomas Torrent, Council Member Tom Ramsey, and Council Member Augusta Woods. Also present were Administrative Consultant ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, Chief of Police Sarai Y'hudah-Green, City Attorney Susan Moore, Public Works Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick, and Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard.

**Announcements/Communications**

Council Member Woods stated she attended a faire hosted by State Senator Kim Jackson. Also in attendance were Commissioner Loraine Cochran-Johnson and former-Pine Lake Mayor Melanie Hammett.

Council Member Goldberg announced that he had received some educational materials from the Georgia Municipal Association regarding upcoming ballot referendums HB 581, which deals with a statewide homestead exemption.

Mayor Hall announced that the city was in the final stages of negotiating the intergovernmental agreement with DeKalb County for receipt of an additional \$2 million in SPLOST funds. She extended gratitude to City Manager Miller-Thornton for spearheading the concept of additional funds from the very beginning, which included negotiations and meetings with Mayors and City Managers from cities throughout DeKalb. The Mayor finished by stating she anticipated the IGA would be ready for discussion at the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adoption of the Agenda of the Day**

Mayor Hall asked to amend the Agenda of the Day to move Public Comment to precede New Business; to move New Business Item 2 to the October 29<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting; and to add New Business Item 6,

Council Member Ramsey moved to adopt the Agenda of the Day; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**New Business**

**1. Lake and Wetlands Infrastructure Maintenance - Update**

Mayor Hall asked Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick to present an infrastructure analysis report and maintenance plan for the Lake and Wetlands.

Special Projects Manager Kendrick provided a detailed report to the City Council. Much attention was given to the subject of ownership and permitting for facilities within the engineered wetlands, specifically related to permitting by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. City Council also asked the City Manager to pursue immediately addressing sedimentation and vegetation clearing.

Mr. Kendrick presented a report on water surging in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Helene, which included video documentation.

City Council discussed the issue related to ownership of creek facilities (such as the “run-of-the-river” dam and headwall), specifically those facilities owned by DeKalb County. City Manager Miller-Thornton urged members of Council to communicate with other cities about the issue, adding that there is “strength in numbers” when it comes to high-cost infrastructure projects.

Mayor Hall concluded the discussion by thanking Mr. Kendrick for his due diligence, and for helping the city get set up to tackle these projects appropriately.

No action was taken by Council.

**2. FY2023 Audit Report Presentation – James Whitaker PC – Auditor**

This item was moved to the October 29<sup>th</sup> Regular Session.

**3. Declaration of Surplus – Assets – Courthouse Facility**

Special Projects Manager Bernard Kendrick presented a list of items recommended for surplus, which City Manager Miller-Thornton characterized as “mostly scrap.” Council Member Torrent inquired about the possibility of reclaiming any of the listed materials. City Manager Miller-Thornton then read the policy regarding disposal of surplus items, which stipulates that such items be sold at a public sale.

No action was taken by Council.

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**4. Communications Policy**

Mayor Hall presented overview of the communications policy as it relates to social media presence. City Council discussed at length the best practices for reaching residents via social media, as well as who would monitor the accounts and how posting privileges would be granted.

All members of the body echoed the view that any city-run social media account would be purely informational, and that no dialogue would take place (i.e. comment replies, direct messages, etc.).

No action was taken by Council.

**5. Resolution R-20-2024 – FY2024 Budget Amendment Adjournment**

City Manager Miller-Thornton introduced the resolution, which would appropriate funds into the administration education & training line item, for the purpose of Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard's continued Clerk Certification training.

No action was taken by Council.

**6. Fall 2024 Council Retreat – GMA Service Agreement**

Council Member Ramsey moved to approve a service agreement with GMA for the purpose of facilitating the Fall 2024 Council Retreat; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Members of Council discussed facilitation and cost of the retreat, to take place at the Georgia Municipal Association offices on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**Reports and Other Business**

**ChaQuias Miller-Thornton — City Manager (Director of Administration, Courts, and Public Works)**

Please refer to the Pine Lake website to access the most recent City Manager report. Please email [neddagenhard@pinelakega.net](mailto:neddagenhard@pinelakega.net) to request a copy or call (404) 999- 4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

**Chief Sarai Y'Hudah-Green — Chief of Police, Public Safety**

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**Bernard Kendrick – Special Projects Manager, Public Works**

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**Mayor**

Mayor Hall announced that the next Work Session would include a discussion on service expectations for recreational facilities. The Mayor also expressed thanks to those citizens that had organized relief drives for those in the Asheville, NC area affected by Hurricane Helene.

**City Council**

Council Member Torrent implored those in attendance to take first amendment training, when available.

Council Member Woods invited new business owner, Akili Hall, to speak about her business, since Ms. Hall arrived following the amendment moving Public Comment.

Council Member Goldberg stated that residents from the Les Chateau neighborhood have attended Pine Lake recycling events in the past, thanks to notification by the Pine Lake Association for Involved Neighbors.

Council Member Ramsey thanked former-Mayor Melanie Hammet for bringing up a perceived-issue regarding meeting minutes. City Manager Miller-Thornton reminded City Council that since minutes require their approval before posting.

Council Member Goldberg posited his support for an additional Public Comment section during Work Sessions.

**Adjournment**

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Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux moved for adjournment at 9:14pm.



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Ned Dagenhard  
City Clerk or Delegate

