

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
March 26th, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order: Mayor Brandy Hall called the Work Session to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Bordeaux, Council Member Augusta Woods, Council Member Jeff Goldberg, and Council Member Thomas Torrent. Also present were City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, Chief of Police Sarai Y'hudah-Green, Judge L'Erin Barnes-Wiggins, and Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

Mayor Hall motioned to amend the Agenda of the Day, moving Items 1 and 2 to precede adoption of the prior meeting(s) Minutes, and the first Public Comment Section.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux moved to adopt the agenda as amended; Council Member Goldberg seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members of the body voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

New Business

1. Resolution R-08-2024 – Declaration of Results of March 12, 2024 Special Election

Council Member Woods moved to approve Resolution R-08-2024 declaring the results of the March 12th, 2024 Special Election; Council Member Torrent seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members of the body voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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2. Swearing-in of Council Member-elect Tom Ramsey

Judge L’Erin Barnes-Wiggins performed the swearing-in ceremony for Council Member-elect Tom Ramsey, who took his respective oath of office.

Council Member-elect Tom Ramsey was seated as the newest member of the Pine Lake City Council.

No action was taken by Council.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

• **Regular Session – February 27, 2024**

• **Work Session – March 12, 2024**

Council Member Torrent moved to approve and adopt both sets of Minutes; Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux seconded the motion.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members of the body voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

3. Plan and Preparation - 2024 Beach and Lake Reopening

The Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and Chief of Police discussed at length the timeline for the upcoming beach/swim season—highlighting safety, traffic/parking, communication/signage, and seasonal personnel.

Following discussion, Mayor Hall received verbal consensus from the City Council to keep the beach monitor and beach maintenance positions “as-is,” suggesting that continued efforts to audit the efficacy of these positions would look to the 2025 season for implementation.

No action was taken by City Council.

4. Resolution R-06-2024 – FY2024 Budget Amendment – SPLOST II Collections Adjustment

Council Member Torrent moved to approve Resolution R-06-2024; Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux seconded the motion.

City Manager Miller-Thornton explained to City Council that since SPLOST II

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collections will not begin until April 2025, the City would receive roughly 75% of the expected annual SPLOST II fund disbursement in FY2024, necessitating a budget amendment.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members of the body voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

5. Communications Policy – Social Media Provisions

The City Council discussed at length the development of a communications policy, which would include consideration of a City of Pine Lake social media policy and implementation of official City of Pine Lake social media profiles. Concerns voiced by all members of Council, as well as Mayor Hall and City Manager Miller-Thornton, were related to resources for management of said-profiles, location of profiles (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), and organization of messaging.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux suggested that a necessary part of communications policy overhaul ought to be re-vamping of the City of Pine Lake website.

Mayor Hall summarized the primary goal going forward as redevelopment of the Pine Lake website, implementation of an official Pine Lake Facebook account, and using those spaces as a platform of experimentation.

No action was taken by City Council.

6. PLAIN – Event Proposals/Applications

a. Fundraising Block Party – Sectional Street Closure (Dahlia)

Council Member Goldberg moved to approve the Event Proposal/Application presented by Pine Lake Association for Interested Neighbors (PLAIN); Council Member Ramsey seconded.

City Manager Miller-Thornton stated that Chief Green had analyzed the traffic control measures laid out by P.L.A.I.N., and found them sufficient for maintaining emergency egress. The City Manager also emphasized that approval of the proposal was conditionally based on the existing MOU with P.L.A.I.N.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members of the body voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

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7. Resolution R-07-2024 – FY2023 Budget Amendments

Council Member Woods moved to approve Resolution R-07-2024; Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux seconded.

City Manager Miller-Thornton explained the item, which deals with budget reconciliation for year-end tax revenue allocation. Expenditure items recommended for adjustment included accounting for LakeFest contributions, a decrease in the Administration Department's Special Program Supplies line item, and other year-end budget adjustments.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members of the body voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

8. Confirmation of Mayoral Appointment of Poplar Park Planning Ad Hoc Committee – Calvin Burgamy

Council Member Torrent moved to confirm the Mayoral Appointment; Council Member Woods seconded the motion.

Mayor Hall explained that the seating of Council Member Tom Ramsey on City Council established a quorum of Council on the Poplar Park Ad Hoc Planning committee, which triggers certain state laws relating to public meetings, etc. Mayor Hall recommended removal of Council Member Ramsey from the Ad Hoc Committee and installation of Calvin Burgamy (President of P.L.A.I.N.) in his stead.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members of the body voted in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

Reports and Other Business

Mayor

Mayor Hall deferred to City Council for recommendation on a date for the City Council Spring Retreat, and the City Council decided on Saturday, April 27th from 9am-3pm.

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Mayor Hall thanked Senator Kim Jackson for her support in movement of bill that would annex two commercial properties into the City of Pine Lake. Additionally, Mayor Hall announced ChaQuias Miller-Thornton as the first City Manager in Pine Lake history.

City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux stated that June 15th would be the likely date for the City of Pine Lake Juneteenth Celebration, and that the first organizational meeting would be held in the Clubhouse on Thursday, March 28th.

Council Member Goldberg brought attention to a recent fire which took place on Ridge Drive, adding that there was a 10 minute mobilization and response time by the DeKalb Fire Department. Also mentioned were the actions of two Pine Lake residents in responding to the episode “quickly and caringly.” Council Member Goldberg suggested the Council find a way to formally recognize the actions of the Fire Department and the two residents.

Council Member Torrent informed Council and attendees of two bills before the State legislature—one related to short term rentals, and another related to immigration reporting by local police departments—adding that the two bills potentially impact municipal governments.

Pine Lake News

New Council Member Sworn-in: Tom Ramsey was elected to fill the vacant seat on City Council previously held by Mayor Brandy Hall. He was sworn in by Judge L’Erin Wiggins, and immediately joined the rest of Council for his first meeting as a member. Welcome Councilperson Ramsey.

Pine Lake Transitions to a New Municipal Structure: With the passage of Georgia SB 562, the Georgia Legislature has officially recognized Pine Lake’s transition from a Mayor-Council type of government to a Council-Manager type.

Much of the success of this transition is due to our superbly qualified City Manager, ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, who has brought a level of professionalism and expertise to the city that we could have only imagined two years ago. Thank you, City Manager Miller-Thornton.

For additional information on Municipal Government Structure go to [Georgia Georgia Municipal Association Handbook](#)

Upcoming events:

April 6th PLAIN Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, 9:30 - 11:30 AM at the Beach House. For more info see [PLAIN and Simple News](#).

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Juneteenth Planning Meeting: Thursday April 4th at 6:30 PM We will continue planning for our 2024 Juneteenth Celebration. We need your input and ideas, everyone is welcome. For more information email jeanbordeaux@pinelakega.net

Adjournment: Council Member Goldberg motioned for adjournment at 7:14pm.

Ned Dagenhard
Assistant City Clerk

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
Acting City Clerk