

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 12th, 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, City Attorney Susan Moore, and Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard.

Announcements/Communications

Mayor Hall announced the meeting as being the first Work Session to take place, and reminded attendees that there would be one public comment section at the end.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux announced that the Pine Lake Juneteenth Celebration would take place Saturday, June 15th. A planning session will be held Thursday, March 21st at 6:30pm at the Clubhouse.

Council Member Goldberg announced that he and Council Member Torrent enjoyed a “lively presentation” by City Attorney Susan Moore, acting in the capacity of lecturer during the UGA Carl Vinson Institute “Newly Elected Training.”

Mayor Hall added that the Charter Amendment and Annexation bill had passed the Georgia Senate, and that the bill would be going before the House of Representatives in the following week.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

Mayor Hall motioned to amend the Agenda of the Day to include 1) Item No. 8, Expansion of Contract Terms for the Dam and Outer-Berm Overgrowth Removal Project with *Ewe Can Do It Naturally*, and 2) an Executive Session to take place immediately preceding adjournment.

Pro Tem Bordeaux moved to adopt the Agenda of the Day as amended; Council Member Torrent seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote, and the Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The motion carried.

New Business

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1. Plan and Preparation - 2024 Beach and Lake Reopening

The Mayor, City Manager, City Council, and Chief of Police discussed how traffic, holidays, and safety play into a long-term strategy for formalizing the beginning and end of the Pine Lake Beach recreation area season.

No action was taken by City Council.

2. SPLOST Project Planning – Recreation

a. Public Restroom

b. Accessibility

c. Replacement Structure – Previous Gazebo Location

d. Signage Plan

Mayor Hall introduced the topic of project listing for lake-area recreation facilities, describing the listing as reflective of citizen input and priorities. A discussion took place, wherein the City Manager offered potential aesthetic and practical-financial/budgeting benefits of a cohesive plan involving all four projects listed. Council Member Woods inquired as to whether the public restroom would be handicap accessible, which was then confirmed by the City Manager, who referenced current project planning.

A brief interjection from the City Attorney referenced the possibility of using both SPLOST I and SPLOST II funds, so long as the considered-project is categorized on both project lists.

No action was taken by City Council.

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

The City Manager informed the Mayor, Council, and attendees that since SPLOST II collections begin in January, but disbursement begins following the first quarter, the FY2024 would require adjustment accordingly.

No action was taken by City Council.

4. Communications Policy – Social Media Provisions

Mayor Hall introduced the topic of a codified Communications Policy as it relates to City-maintained social media accounts. City Manager Miller-Thornton outlined various considerations to be made regarding such a policy, informed by existing policies in surrounding jurisdictions.

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City Council began discussing the efficacy of different social media sites, as it relates to the goal of connecting with the most of citizens while not overwhelming the administrators of the City account(s).

At the close of the discussion, Council Member Goldberg and Chief Green encouraged citizens to sign up for DeKalb County Emergency service alerts (ENS).

No action was taken by City Council.

5. Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency- GMA Property & Liability Self Insurance

City Manager Miller-Thornton stated that discussion of the item would take place during the March 26th Voting Session. The item, she described, involves a 15% increase in premium cost for Property & Liability Self Insurance with the Georgia Municipal Association. However, the increased cost, she added, will likely be mitigated by available modification credits.

Council Member Torrent inquired as to why rates were increasing. The City Manager replied that rates are calculated on a national basis, and various natural disasters likely play a role. Mayor Hall described it as the rising cost of global warming.

No action was taken by City Council.

6. PLAIN – Event Proposals/Applications

- a. Fundraising Block Party – Sectional Street Closure (Dahlia)**
- b. Monthly Book Club Access (Beach House)**

City Manager Miller-Thornton introduced—to the Mayor and City Council—an application submitted by Calvin Burgamy, President of P.L.A.I.N. (Pine Lake Association for Involved Neighbors) for a block party on Dahlia Drive that would require a partial road closure. A brief discussion took place regarding a traffic mitigation plan, and the City Manager added that no action need be taken yet, as the event will take place in May.

Additionally, P.L.A.I.N. is seeking approval for a monthly book club to be held at the Pine Lake Beach House. Council Member Torrent raised the question as to whether the standing event would be impacted by a hypothetical paid-request to rent the facility. Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux suggested that, in such a case, P.L.A.I.N. would be given notice of the conflict and have their event moved to the Pine Lake Club House.

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No action was taken by City Council.

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

Discussion of the item was postponed to the March 26th Voting Session.

No action was taken by City Council.

8. Proposed Expansion of Contracted Services for Overgrowth Removal at the Dam and Outer-Berm – *Ewe Can Do It Naturally*

Mayor Hall introduced the measure to authorize expansion of the current landscaping contract with *Ewe Can Do It Naturally*, to include previously-discussed job of grubbing and debris-removal along the dam. A discussion took place regarding the expansion options, referencing a series listed in the contract.

Mayor Hall called for a motion to approve selected items A, C, and D as an addendum to the existing contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux moved to approve the addendum; Council Member Torrent seconded the motion.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Reports and Other Business

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

Please refer to the link to access the City Manager’s report dated March 12th, 2024. Please email 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

Please refer to the link to access the Police/Public Safety report dated March 12th, 2024. Please email neddagenhard@pinelakega.net to request a copy or call (404) 999- 4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Mayor

Mayor Hall announced that scheduling of the Spring City Council planning retreat would be delayed until after the March 12th Special Election.

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City Council

Council Member Goldberg announced that, as part of a community recycling effort organized by P.L.A.I.N., two truckloads of recyclables were pulled from public land in the City.

Council Member Torrent communicated that the Supreme Court of the United States has recently changed the definition of wetlands.

Pine Lake News

PLAIN Recycling Event: Congratulations to PLAIN on a highly successful recycling event where two truckloads of glass, styrofoam, stretchy plastic and electronics were collected and taken to specialty recycling location(s).

Special Elections Results: Tom Ramsey was elected to fill the vacant seat on City Council previously held by Mayor Brandy Hall. Special thanks to both candidates for their willingness to serve and to the 193 Pine Lakers who voted.

Upcoming

Saturday, March 16th DeKalb Recycling Event: DeKalb Sanitation Dept will collect Household Hazardous Waste from 8:00 AM - Noon at 3720 Leroy Scott Drive, Decatur, GA.30032 Additional information.

3rd Annual Juneteenth Planning Meeting: Thursday March 21st 6:30 PM This will be the first planning meeting for our 2024 Juneteenth Celebration. We need your input and ideas, everyone is welcome. For more information email jeanbordeaux@pinelakega.net

Ongoing

Pine Lake City Council Meetings are the second and last Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Council Chamber / Courthouse at the corner of Forest Road and Pine Drive. Mask at your own discretion.

Executive Session

Council Member Goldberg motioned for City Council to enter Executive Session at 8:02pm. Council Member Torrent seconded; and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Executive Session was held.

Council Member Torrent motioned to adjourn Executive Session and to re-enter

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the Regular Work Session at 8:14pm; Council Member Goldberg seconded, and City Council re-entered the Regular Work Session.

No action was taken out of executive session.

Adjournment: Council Member Woods motioned for adjournment of the Regular Session at 8:15pm.

Ned Dagenhard
Assistant City Clerk

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
Acting City Clerk