

CITY OF PINE LAKE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AND WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 9th, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA

Call to Order: Mayor Brandy Hall called the Special Call Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Bordeaux, Council Member Augusta Woods, Council Member Jeff Goldberg, Council Member Thomas Torrent, and Council Member Tom Ramsey. 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.

1. Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency – GMA Property & Liability Insurance

Council Member Tom Ramsey moved to approve the GIRMA Proposal for the 2024-2025 term; Council Member Torrent seconded.

The Mayor, City Council, and City Manager discussed the 17.86% cost increase for Property and Liability Insurance through the Georgia Municipal Association. This increase comes in large part due to an overall increase in insurance premiums nationally. Additionally, liability increased due to procurement of new and used police vehicles, as well as the new pull-behind leaf machine (which required tag registration).

Council Member Torrent inquired as to the necessary number of police fleet vehicles for effective policing. Chief Green responded that her vehicle and two officer shifts per day necessitated at least (3) vehicles. However, due to the constant idling and wear-and-tear, recommended twice the number of vehicles be available, making the current number of (6) police vehicles.

Council Member Goldberg inquired about the liability of the dam near the lake and recreation area. City Manager Miller-Thornton responded that since the dam is a Category 2: Non-Life-Threatening, policy changes for dams do not affect apply to the City's dams coverage..

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

The motion carried.

2. Project Bid No. PW 2024-001 – Pedestrian Bridge Replacement

Mayor Hall introduced the matter. City Manager Miller-Thornton announced that upon solicitation of bid for the project, the City received one bid before the bid closure date of March 12, 2024. Pine Lake had been awarded a Community Development Block Grant for the bridge project, but the announcement of award came following the solicitation of bids for the project. Therefore, the project will

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need to be “re-bid” by the City with required CDBG program language if the City elects to accept the award. City Council discussed at length the details of the sole bid, and terms of the quote as presented by the contractor. Included in the contractor’s proposal was the offer to reduce the cost of the project by \$20,000 if the City would lower the lake by 3 feet. Council Member Goldberg posited that this would raise the temperature of the lake, potentially jeopardizing wildlife and/or leading to an algae bloom. Another variable mentioned was how this project may interfere with the upcoming swimming season and increased use of the recreation area. Several suggestions were made by all members of Council, as well as Mayor Hall, involving various combinations of funding and project details. City Manager Thornton was directed to present Council questions and concerns to the contractor and engineer.

No action was taken by City Council.

Adjournment

Council Member Woods moved for adjournment at 6:38pm.

Work Session Meeting

Call to Order: Mayor Brandy Hall called the Work Session to order at 6:38pm.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt the Agenda of the Day; Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux 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

1. Beach House and Clubhouse Rental Proposal – P.L.A.I.N.

A discussion took place involving the Mayor, Council, City Manager, and representatives from the Pine Lake Association of Involved Neighbors (P.L.A.I.N.), regarding management of the recreational facilities and potential amending of the Memorandum of Understanding between Pine Lake and P.L.A.I.N. Specifically, this discussion item dealt with pro-bono resident use of the recreational facilities, how that would impact liability and value of those

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facilities, and what the function of P.L.A.I.N. would be when dealing with assets owned by the City.

No action was taken by City Council.

2. Initiated Amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Appendix A. – Zoning and the Official Zoning Map of the City of Pine Lake

The Georgia General Assembly recently voted to approve annexation of (2) commercial properties in the City of Pine Lake. City Manager Miller-Thornton explained the administration’s initiation of the process to amend the City’s Zone Code to designate the subject properties as “Village Commercial,” and to amend the official zoning map of the City to include the annexed properties. Designation of the properties with the Commercial(C), Village Commercial (VC) Subarea zoning classification will subject the properties to non-conforming use regulations as provided for in the Zone Code. For the purposes of taxation, the properties will be considered as incorporated parcels as of January 1, 2025.

No action was taken by City Council.

Reports and Other Business

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

No City Manager’s report was presented on 04/09/2024.

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

Please refer to www.pinelakega.net to access the Police/Public Safety report dated April 9th, 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 offered thanks to residents and Pine Lake PD for a quick response to a tree company’s unsolicited presence in the western wetlands.

City Council

Council Member Torrent added to the Mayor’s comments regarding the episode in the western wetlands, thanking a resident by name for their response. Additionally, Council Member Torrent thanks Chief Green and Pine Lake PD for exhibiting community policing when dealing with individuals trespassing on the currently barred inner berm area.

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Council Member Goldberg echoed praise for Pine Lake PD. Council Member Goldberg also reiterated a request that the residents and DeKalb Fire Department be recognized for their response to a recent fire on Ridge Drive.

Pine Lake News

Sheep Project Update: John Wierwille, the shepherd from Ewe Can Do It Naturally, sent a project update to the city at the end of March, but it did not make it into the last New's Brief. Here is [John's update](#).

Beach Opens for Swimming: The beach will open for swimming on Saturday June 1st and will close Monday September 30th.

Upcoming events:

May 5th: PLAIN Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser Block Party: Music, Food and Fun. Sunday, 12:00 - 3:30 PM Dahlia Drive between Olive and Ivy. [See Flyer](#)

April 14th: Pollination Celebration: Municipal Arts Panel (MAP) and Stewards for Environmental Education and Design (SEED) invite you to welcome Spring at Pollination Celebration with Plants, [Music, Food and Fun](#). Sunday, 1:00 – 5:00 PM, located on the Park side of the beach in Pine Lake. [See Flyer](#)

Employment Opportunities:

Part Time Beach Monitor Position: The City of Pine Lake, Georgia is accepting employment applications for the position of Beach Monitor. The Beach Monitor is a seasonal, part-time position. [Additional Details](#), [Application](#).

Full Time Public Works Laborer Position: The City of Pine Lake, Georgia is accepting employment applications for the position of Public Works [Laborer](#). [Additional Details](#), [Application](#).

Full Time Public Works Supervisor Position: The City of Pine Lake, Georgia is accepting resume/employment applications for the position of Public Works Supervisor. [Additional Details](#), [Application](#).

Adjournment: Council Member Ramsey motioned for adjournment at 7:54pm.

Ned Dagenhard
Assistant City Clerk

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
Acting City Clerk