

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
FALL PLANNING RETREAT  
MINUTES  
September 24, 2025 at 8:30 AM  
Little Tree Art Studios  
2834 Franklin Street  
Avondale Estates, GA 30002**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Hall called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:40AM.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, Council Members Jeff Goldberg, Tom Ramsey, Thomas Torrent, and Augusta Woods. Also present were City Manager Stanley Hawthorne, City Attorney Chris Balch, Public Works Director Bernard Kendrick, and Acting City Clerk Ned Dagenhard. Chief of Police Sarai Y'Hudah-Green was not in attendance.

**Welcome/Communications**

Mayor Hall welcomed all attendees, and characterized the meeting as a review of strategic priorities ahead of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget development season. Three (3) candidates for City Council were in attendance, and the Mayor gave special welcome to them, adding thanks for their willingness to serve, as well as the note that the conversation would provide context, informing their tenure.

The candidates—Stephanie Kohler, Deborah Hull, and Jane Lowers—each introduced themselves.

The City Manager gave an introductory address, outlining the subsequent topics as being focused on collective education, followed by open discussion.

**Business/Discussion Items**

**1. 2025 Strategic Priorities, Review**

Mayor Hall yielded the floor to City Manager Hawthorne.

City Manager Hawthorne discussed each of the City Council's strategic priorities (taken from the October 2024 Planning Retreat official minutes, and outline provided by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)).

During review of goals applied to the Public Works Department, City Manager Hawthorne asked Public Works Director Kendrick to address community input regarding wetlands infrastructure repair, as well as environmental impact to the lake and wetlands. The Public Works Director proceeded with a report, fielding questions from the Governing Authority.

No action was taken by Council.

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**2. Development of Emergency Operations Plan Outline**

City Manager Hawthorne walked the Governing Authority through a preparatory guide for developing a local Emergency Operations Plan, authored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The City Manager identified preliminary staff roles and responsibilities.

A discussion took place regarding potential resident support of emergency management processes, and the City's ability to maintain certain resource reserves, such as potable water.

No action was taken by Council.

A motion for recess was made at 12:00PM.

A motion to return from recess was made at 12:49PM.

**3. Discussion of Economic Development Tools**

City Manager Hawthorne introduced the topic of economic development, providing presentations (see: *agenda packet*) on tax allocation districts and public art initiatives.

City Attorney Balch explained development authority options, and fielded questions regarding the nature- and goals of each type of organization, as well as board membership requirements and appointment procedures.

The Governing Authority and staff conferred next steps, which include a continued discussion of development authority "types," and consideration of a Request for Quotation (RFQ) vis-à-vis economic development consultant services.

No action was taken by Council.

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**Final Comments**

The City Manager and members of the Governing Authority discussed revisiting the City's short term rental ordinance and fee schedule, as well as orientation for the new City Council Members following the November 4<sup>th</sup> election.

Mayor Hall thanked exiting members of Council (as of December 31, 2025) for their service.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made at 2:59PM.

*Ned Dagenhard*

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Ned Dagenhard  
Acting City Clerk