

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Courthouse & Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order: Mayor Hall called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00PM.

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

Announcements/Communications

There were no announcements or communications.

Adoption of the Agenda of the Day

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

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

New Business

1. Employee Group Health Insurance Renewal – Landmark Insurance, Proposal

Sara Stephens, a representative City's Employee Group Health Insurance administrator—*Landmark Insurance*—presented plan quotes for the October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026 term.

The Governing Authority and staff discussed questions regarding the history of coverage, and whether prospective changes in employee compensation would impact benefits for the 2026-2027 term.

No action was taken by Council.

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2. Tennis and Pickle Ball Court Programming

Chief Y'Hudah Green presented a draft set of rules and regulations for the Tennis and Pickle Ball Court(s). Council Members Ramsey and Torrent, as well as Mayor Hall, presented comments regarding parking prohibition signage, policing practices, and proposed relocation of the City's bicycle rack.

No action was taken by Council.

3. Comprehensive Cost/Benefit Impact Study of a Proposed Property Tax Relief – Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Proposal

City Manager Hawthorne introduced the topic, recapitulating requests from City Council that led to an inquiry with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIG).

A discussion took place regarding the feasibility of the study, and potential alternatives for collecting the data the City Council views as necessary prior to proceeding with development of a proposed property tax relief plan.

The Clerk observed a consensus regarding rejection of the proposal presented by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIG). Other institutions, such as the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, were discussed.

City Attorney Balch offered an outline for proceeding, which included formal rejection of the CVIG proposal, and further discussion of a project scope to be included with a Request for Quotation (RFQ). City Manager Hawthorne recommended including bookended costs associated with acceptance of any study proposals in the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget discussion.

Regarding incorporation of a property tax relief proposal within downtown development goals, Mayor Hall and Council Member Ramsey deliberated strategic priorities and identified necessary collaborators within the Georgia General Assembly.

No formal action was taken by Council.

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Reports and Other Business

Council Member Ramsey and Public Works Director Kendrick discussed the Fire House renovation project, continued aesthetic upgrades, and security concerns.

Council Member Torrent asked Public Works Director Kendrick about the bench swings on the berm. Mr. Kendrick stated the benches had rotted planks presently being replaced with pressure-treated wood.

Council Member Goldberg asked Chief Y'Hudah-Green about an incident wherein chicken carcasses had been staged near the Clubhouse. The Chief of Police stated that the presentation, combined with the multicultural demography of central DeKalb County, had led the department to infer a ritual of some kind.

Executive Session

Council Member Woods moved to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and potential litigation at 7:32PM; Council Member Ramsey seconded.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

No discussion took place.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The Executive Session took place.

Council Member Torrent moved to re-enter the Regular Meeting at 7:57PM; Council Member Ramsey seconded.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

No discussion took place.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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Adjournment

Council Member Ramsey moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:57PM.

Ned Dagenhard

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Acting City Clerk