

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
WORK SESSION ACTION AGENDA  
August 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM  
Courthouse & Council Chambers  
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Hall called the Work Session to order at 6:00PM.

Present: Mayor Brandy Hall, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux, Council Members Jeff Goldberg, 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. Finance Director Danny Lamonte was not in attendance.

**Announcements/Communications**

Mayor Hall expressed condolences to the family of a DeKalb County Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty during an active shooter event at the Center for Disease Control (CDC), adding commendation for police officers in and outside of Pine Lake.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux thanked Acting City Clerk Dagenhard for providing references to the Strategic Performance Reports supplemental information in the agenda document.

Council Member Goldberg stated that he was "grateful to be here," after being secluded on the Emory University campus during the active shooter event. Mr. Goldberg added that he had been reappointed to the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) Workplace Culture Advisory Council.

**Adoption of the Agenda of the Day**

Council Member Woods moved to adopt the Agenda of the Day; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor Hall called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**New Business**

**1. Planning Retreat Date and Topics (September 2025)**

A lengthy discussion took place regarding updating the City's comprehensive plan, with a focus from the City Manager on creating an active planning and development strategy that doesn't "get shelved for five years."

Other points of discussion referenced the need for an updated emergency operations plan for the City.

The Mayor and City Council further discussed possible dates and topics for the Governing Authority's Fall 2025 Planning Retreat.

Following discussion, a consensus was observed over the promotion of *Wednesday, September 24, 2025 from 8:30AM-3:30PM* as the date and time for the Governing Authority's Fall Planning Retreat.

No other action was taken by City Council.

**2. Proposed Tax Relief Program, Request for Proposal Response/Update**

City Manager Hawthorne reprised the conversation regarding Council Member Ramsey's proposal for a senior property tax exemption, which previously ended with the directive of securing a quote from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government for a budgetary impact study. Mr. Hawthorne stated that while he had engaged with appropriate offices in the Carl Vinson Institute, he was told it would not be possible for a quote would not be developed ahead of the August 12<sup>th</sup> Work Session. The City Manager added that the representatives he spoke with were not unfamiliar with this kind of study.

No formal action was taken by City Council.

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**3. Comprehensive Plan Update**

The Governing Authority and City Manager discussed the merits of soliciting an independent consultant versus using the pro bono services provided by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). References were made suggesting the incorporation of existing project planning documents, such as the 6-year Community Investment Plan (CIP) developed by the Public Works Director.

A consensus was observed over selecting the *Atlanta Regional Commission* to facilitate development of the City's 2026 Comprehensive Projects.

No other action was taken by City Council.

**4. Community Investment Projects' (CIP) Update**

Public Works Director Kendrick introduced to the Governing Authority the City's new Public Works Laborer, Eric Dickerson, who was met with welcome and applause.

Mr. Kendrick fielded questions regarding the status of various capital improvements around the City, from Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) remediation, to the City Hall renovation and tennis/pickleball court revitalization, and more. Additional information related to the status of these projects is made available as part of the August 2025 *Strategic Performance Report* (SPR), published to the City's website.

Council Member Goldberg notified Mr. Kendrick that fishing had been taking place from beneath the pedestrian bridges, leading to potential loss of rip-rap rock used to stabilize the bridges. Strategies for preventing further degradation were discussed.

No formal action was taken by City Council.

**5. Code Compliance (Public Nuisances Chapter) Update**

Chief Green presented a status update on code compliance activities undergone by the Pine Lake Police Department. Additional information is included as part of the August 2025 *Strategic Performance Report* (SPR), published to the City's website.

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**6. Residential and Commercial Property Assessments**

A lengthy discussion took place between the City Attorney, City Manager, and members of the Governing Authority, outlining issues and possible solutions related to the alleged undervaluing of commercial and multi-family residential buildings in the City of Pine Lake. As the valuing of these properties for tax collection falls within the purview of the DeKalb County Tax Assessor's Office, solutions offered include adopting a resolution requesting a methodology presentation from the aforementioned office. Additionally, the Mayor and City Council suggested possible collaborative efforts with other cities, and DeKalb County Commissioners. City Attorney Balch suggested the issue may stem from a lawsuit related to valuation of commercial property in the City of Stonecrest; he added that he would work to confirm or disconfirm this assumption.

No formal action was taken by City Council.

**Reports and Other Business**

- Staff, August 2025 *Strategic Performance Report* (SPR)

Acting City Clerk Dagenhard presented information related to website redevelopment and agenda management tools, provided by the organization *CivicPlus*, the City's partner for online ordinance library management.

Chief Green addressed the tenth anniversary of the death of Pine Lake Police Officer Francis Manuel Ortega, who was killed in the line of duty in 2005. Chief Green also took time to commend Lieutenant Robert Palms for the successful location of a discarded civilian firearm, using a K-9 unit.

- City Council

Council Member Torrent announced that he and Council Member Goldberg would be holding a "community chat" Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Pine Lake Beach House, for the purpose of raising awareness of- and fielding questions regarding the upcoming municipal election qualifying period.

Council Member Goldberg stated that the recent episode at the CDC reminded him "not to take the people in your life for granted." Mr. Goldberg added special thanks and appreciation to public safety officers.

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**Adjournment**

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux moved for adjournment at 8:30PM.

*Ned Dagenhard*

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Ned Dagenhard  
Acting City Clerk