

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 10, 2021
7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order at 7:00PM by Mayor Melanie Hammet. Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux, and Council members Tracey Brantley, Brandy Beavers (electronically) and Augusta Woods. Also, present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner, Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green and City Attorney Susan Moore. Council member Brandy Hall was not in attendance.

Announcements/Communication

Council member Woods announced that ROKS (Rockbridge Opportunity Kick-Start) met regarding moving forward with art plans for the business corridor and are working with business owners for their ideas and concerns.

Mayor Hammet communicated that the reason for the unusual configuration of the court room for the meeting is due to concerns regarding the increase in COVID-19 Delta Variant cases. The Mayor stated that many hospitals in the metro area are becoming overloaded with new cases and that the arrangement for tonight’s meeting is an effort to mitigate contact risk.

The Mayor presented Acting City Administrator Merriss with a floral arrangement and a birthday card from her, City Council and Staff in appreciation for her dedication during her tenure with the City.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Hammet amended the agenda by adding “Policies for Council Meetings in Person” to the agenda under New Business.

On a motion by Council member Brantley, seconded Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux, and all council members present voting “aye,” the agenda was adopted as amended.

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the Minutes of the regular meeting of July 27, 2021

On a motion by Council member Woods, seconded Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux, and all council members present voting “aye,” the consent agenda was adopted.

WORK SESSION

Presentation of the 2020 Audit – Jimmy Whitaker

Mr. Whitaker presented the 2020 Audit report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. He also provided the independent auditor's report and the required reports in accordance with government auditing standards for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. Mr. Whitaker indicated that the City's audit was an unqualified opinion and that the City was working on the correcting the material weaknesses. He added that the depreciation schedule had been updated to reflect current conditions which removed one of the previous long-term findings. Mr. Whitaker acknowledged that the Council had approved purchase of a fund accounting system that would assist in resolving the remaining findings.

Mr. Whitaker addressed questions from the Mayor and Council.

Copies of the Annual Financial Report and the Required Reports for the 2020 Audit are on file in City Hall for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Tuition for Certified Public Manager Program.

Recommend approval of tuition for the Certified Public Manager Program.

On a motion by Council member Brantley, seconded by Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux, and all council members present voting "aye," the tuition for Chief Green to attend the Certified Public Manager Program was approved.

Approval of SPLOST Projects.

Recommend approval to develop implementation plans for various SPLOST capital projects.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux, second by Council member Woods, and all council members present voting "aye," development of implementation plans for various SPLOST capital projects was approved.

Policies for Council Meetings in person

Mayor Hammet opened the discussion by stating that Delta variant COVID-19 cases in DeKalb County has risen drastically. The Mayor asked for Council input on how comfortable and safe they felt it was to continue to meet in person for the foreseeable future.

Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux said that she prefers to meet in person, however; from the last meeting to now conditions with the virus have changed quickly. She also stated that the courtroom was not spacious, but the new configuration created more space for social distancing.

Council member Woods stated that the meeting spaces needed to provide space for people to spread out and everyone needed to wear a mask to attend a meeting in public.

Council member Brantley said that she enjoys attending the meetings in person and if the City can have court, then we should continue in person council meetings.

Council member Beavers said that she will do whatever the Mayor and Council decide but that it was difficult to hear the meeting via Zoom in the courtroom. Ms. Beavers attended this meeting via Zoom.

Acting City Administrator asked if moving the meetings to the Clubhouse was an option.

Mayor Hammet communicated that the next council meeting on August 31st will be an in-person meeting at the Court House. She said that the meeting will proceed in the same manner as tonight's meeting with the chairs and tables spread out more for better social distancing.

Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux stated to make sure everyone feels comfortable because the pandemic changes very fast and that she hopes to continue to meet in person.

Public Comments

Wilmel and Samantha Roberson, Owners of Prepared Inspections, a new business at 4600 Rockbridge Road Suite D, introduced themselves to Mayor, Council and the community. This business assists with planning for food inspections. They stated that they are excited about being in Pine Lake and look forward to being a part of the business community.

Staff

There were no staff reports.

Administrative Coordinator Varner presented Acting City Administrator Merriss with a floral arrangement and a birthday card from her, the Mayor, City Council and Staff in recognition of her birthday.

Mayor and City Council

Mayor Pro tem Bordeaux presented Mayor Hammet with a "Certificate of Recognition" from the Georgia Municipal Association and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government for participating in elected official training programs.

Information for "The Pine Lake News" eblast:

2020 Audit Report Presented to Council

The city's independent auditor, James Whittaker presented to Council the audited financial

statements for the year ending December 31st, 2020. The documents are available on the website at [www.pinelakega.net/city government/finance/year end financial reports](http://www.pinelakega.net/city-government/finance/year-end-financial-reports).

SPLOST funded projects.

As part of the 2017 referendum enacting the SPLOST tax, the City developed and submitted a list of projects, including the amount of SPLOST dollars allocated to each project. Council has authorized the Acting City Administrator to proceed in determining details of several of these projects in order to provide Council with a recommendation for how best to use these funds within the framework of the original project list. Additional detail is contained in the agenda package at [www.pinelakega.net @city government/minutes/agendas](http://www.pinelakega.net/city-government/minutes/agendas).

Lake and Beach will be open for three more weeks.

The final day of the 2021 swimming season will be Monday August 30th. The scheduled sessions and capacity limits have gone very well. Thanks to all of you for your cooperation and also many thanks to our Beach Monitor, Jason Murray. If you haven't met Jason, stop by, and introduce yourself. He will brighten up your day. The hours are Thursday to Monday, with two sessions each day: Morning from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM and Afternoon from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Capacity is capped at 75 for any given session.

Qualification period for November 2, 2021, municipal general election is from August 17, 2021, to August 19, 2021.

A municipal general election shall be conducted on November 2, 2021, for the purpose of electing three (3) City Council Members. If you are interested in running for one of these seats the qualification period is from August 17th, 2021, to August 19th, 2021. Forms will be available in City Hall from 8:30am – 4:30pm each day. The completed form must be notarized, which may be done at City Hall. See "Notice of Election" at www.pinelakega.net for more details.

Adjournment On a motion by Council member Woods, seconded by Council member Brantley, and all council members present voting "aye," the meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.