

CITY OF PINE LAKE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 9th, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA

Call to Order: City Manager ChaQuias M. Thornton called the Organizational Session to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor-elect Brandy Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Jean Bordeaux, Council Member Tracey Brantley, Council Member Augusta Woods, Council Member-elect Jeff Goldberg, and Council Member-elect Thomas Torrent. Also present were City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, Chief of Police Sarai Y'hudah-Green, City Attorney Susan Moore, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner, and Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard. Council Member Nivea Castro was not in attendance.

City Attorney Susan Moore conducted the swearing-in ceremony for the three newly elected officials. Brandy Hall took the oath of office to become Mayor of Pine Lake; Jeff Goldberg took the oath of office to become a City Council Member of Pine Lake; and Thomas Torrent took the oath of office to become a City Council Member of Pine Lake.

Mayor Melanie Hammet, Council Member Tracey Brantley, and Council Member Nivea Castro officially vacated their respective posts.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux motioned for adjournment of the Organizational Session at 7:12pm.

Public Hearing

1. Alcoholic Beverages Privilege License Application - Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LL/dba/Family Dollar #30681: 4615 Rockbridge Rd, Pine Lake, GA – For Retail Packaged Sale of Beer and Wine

Mayor Brandy Hall called the Public Hearing to order at 7:12pm.

Tommy Jackson, designated representative from the Family Dollar #30681, presented the intention before City Council for the Family Dollar location to be permitted to sell retail packaged beer and wine.

Members of the public voiced concern over employee safety at the 4615 Rockbridge Road location, as well as economic impact on other nearby retail package stores.

Mayor Pro Tem motioned for adjournment of the Public Hearing at 7:16pm

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Announcements/Communications

Mayor Hall thanked attendees for showing support for their newly-elected officials. The Mayor added a statement of gratitude to the previous Mayor and exiting Council Members.

Mayor Hall listed goals for the 2024 Pine Lake legislative calendar, including a Courtroom/Council Chambers renovation, annexation of sections of property on Rockbridge Road, the completion of Poplar Park, and a mural project on Rockbridge Road and at Spring and Poplar Road. For their specific help in the latter three items, Mayor Hall thanked State Senator Kim Jackson, Commissioner Loraine Cochran-Johnson, and Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, respectively. Mayor Hall also reminded attendees that Pine Lake expects an extra \$2 million over the next two years from the County's SPLOST II program. The additional funds, she added, are due to the advocacy by City Manager Miller-Thornton.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux offered a welcome to the new Council and Mayor, and thanked them for "stepping up."

Adoption of Agenda of the Day

Council Member Woods moved to adopt the agenda of the day; Council Member Goldberg seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes

- Regular Meeting – December 19th, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux moved to adopt the Minutes from the December 19th, 2023 Special Call Meeting; Council Member Woods seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- 1. Alcoholic Beverages Privilege License Application - Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LL/dba/Family Dollar #30681: 4615 Rockbridge Rd, Pine Lake, GA – For Retail Sell of Beer and Wine**

City Manager Miller-Thornton reintroduced the measure to approve retail alcohol sales permissions to the Mayor and City Council.

Council Member Goldberg referenced public concern over Family Dollar employee safety. Chief of Police Y'hudah-Green referenced an ongoing conversation was taking place with the Administration Department, and that responsiveness along Rockbridge Road would be maintained.

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Council Member Torrent moved to approve the Alcoholic Beverages Privilege License Application for Family Dollar #30681; Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Subaward Agreement between DeKalb County, GA and the City of Pine Lake – American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery

City Council discussed the Poplar Park development, with the actionable item being the appropriation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund of DeKalb County for the purpose of developing the city-owned parcel at Rockbridge Road and Poplar Road.

Mayor Hall added that the project has been an ongoing focus of City Council for the past 4-8 years, as Pine Lake moves to develop its commercial corridor and ease residents' tax burden.

City Manager Miller-Thornton added that the project is an opportunity to connect Rockbridge Road and the Pine Lake residential district, as well as illustrate to DeKalb County adept use of funds and operational follow-through.

Council Member Woods moved to approve the Subaward Agreement; Council Member Torrent seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Change of Council Meeting Times and the Establishment of a Monthly Work Session

City Council discussed the purpose and function of a monthly Work Session in lieu of the first of two monthly Regular Sessions. Additionally, City Council discussed the prospect of changing the meeting times for all City Council sessions.

Mayor Hall introduced the concept of an alternating Voting Session-Work Session meeting schedule as standard practice in surrounding municipalities. A discussion took place wherein Council expressed a desire to have formal separation of the two meeting types base on purpose, with the a process installed for adding voting items specifically and intentionally to work sessions, in cases of urgency, etc.

A discussion took place wherein introduction of Audio/Visual equipment (as part of the approved design for the Courtroom/Council Chamber renovation) was suggested as imperative, should City Council decide to begin streaming meetings via Zoom in tandem with adjusting session meeting times.

Council consented for City Attorney Moore to move forward with draft ordinance depicting the establishment of a work session of Council on the second Tuesday of each month and a change in the monthly meeting schedule for both second

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Tuesday and last Tuesday sessions of Council.

Reports and Other Business

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

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the City Manager's report dated December 19th, 2023. Please email neddagenhard@pinelakega.net to request a copy or call (404) 999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

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

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the Police/Public Safety report dated December 12th, 2023. The Police/Public Safety reports are on file at City Hall for reviewing. Please email neddagenhard@pinelakega.net to request a copy or call (404) 999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Pine Lake News E-Blast

New Mayor and Council members Sworn In : New Mayor, Brandy Hall and new Council Members, Jeff Goldberg and Thomas Torrent were sworn in at the January 9th council meeting by City Attorney, Susan Moore. A celebratory reception was held in the Clubhouse following the meeting. Congratulations to all.

Acceptance of Funds from DeKalb County for Poplar Park: Council approved an agreement to accept a subaward from the American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund ("ARPA fund") in the amount of \$53,250. These monies have been allocated to Pine Lake from DeKalb County for the development of a public park, "Poplar Park", to improve the mental and physical health of residents impacted by long and short term effects of Covid-19.

We are enormously grateful to our District 7 Commissioner, Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, who sponsored this subaward and who attended our meeting to show her support of this project.

Upcoming events:

January 15th, 2024 Office Closing: City offices will be closed Monday, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. day.

January 19th 2024: Will be Missye Varner's last day working for Pine Lake. After ten years keeping City Hall humming, Missye will be retiring to spoil her grand

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babies, among other things. Stop by City Hall before the 19th to wish her well in her next phase of life.

March 12th Elections: On **March 12th**, 2024, a special election will be held in conjunction with the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary Election, to fill the vacancy in the office of Pine Lake City Council. The special election will be held to fill the unexpired term of Brandy Hall set to expire December 31, 2025.

The last day to register to be eligible to vote in this election or any runoff election, is February 12, 2024. Advanced voting will be held Monday February 19th through Friday, March 8th, 2024.

The special election will be held in the regular polling place, City of Pine Lake Clubhouse, 470 Clubhouse Drive, Pine Lake, Georgia 30072. The polls will open at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: Council Member Goldberg motioned for adjournment at 8:42pm.

Ned Dagenhard
Assistant City Clerk

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
Acting City Clerk