

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 22, 2020
7:00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

Call to Order. Mayor Melanie Hammet called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor Pro-Tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Brandy Beavers, Tracey Brantley and Brandy Hall. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss, Administrative Assistant Missye Varner, City Attorney Susan Moore and Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green. Council member Augusta Woods was not in attendance.

Adoption of Agenda

On motion by Council member Hall; 2nd by Council member Bordeaux, the agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Revised 2020 Budget and Proposed 2021 Budget

Mayor Hammet opened the Public Hearing stating that she leads the City with the thought of making sure it is ready for the next Mayor. She thanked previous mayors, who since 2008 have left the City in a good financial position, which has been especially important this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attorney Moore provided an overview of the legal framework for municipal budgeting including the requirement for balanced budgets where anticipated revenues are equal to projected expenditures. Moore also stated that the City is required to use the uniform chart of accounts for delineating line items.

Acting City Administrator Merriss provided an Executive Summary of the revised 2020 Budget and the projected 2021 Budget. Merriss reviewed the General Funds Budget Consolidated Report Draft of 12/15/20; the General Funds Budget Detailed Budget Draft of 12/15/202; Other Funds Budget Draft of 12/17/20 and the Budget Summary Memo of 12/18/20.

Access to the various reports and executive summary is available at www.pinelakega.net in the Quick Links/What’s New/2021 Budget Draft section.

Public Comments

Mayor Hammet opened the meeting for public comment.

Alan Gordon, resident on Oak Drive inquired about a plan for repairs and a timeline. He also stated that the street is very narrow with a dip and needs the drainage issue and big pothole solved. Mr. Gordon said that there are about three residents on Oak Drive and that the church parking lot contributes to the run-off and drainage issues.

Ms. Merriss stated that \$50,000 was included in the proposed 2021 SPLOST budget for engineering for the project and that it would be a priority for early Spring 2021.

Mr. Gordon stated that he thought the amount budgeted for Oak Drive project was too much because he thought the road just needed repairing along with some drainage mitigation as opposed to \$325,000 for an entire new road. Ms. Merriss commented that the budget included funding for a professional evaluation in order to get a formal estimate.

Mayor Hammet commented that part of the church parking lot is located half in the City and half in DeKalb County.

Mayor's Comment

Mayor Hammet commented that approval and a vote on the Proposed 2021 Budget and Revised 2020 Budget will be on the December 29th agenda. The Zoom Meeting will be at 7:00pm. Residents can access this meeting by calling: Conference line 1 929-205-6099; Meeting ID 997 0511 7505.

Council Comment

Council Member Hall inquired about the real estate tax portion of the budget and the reason for the increase in the 2021 revenues. Ms. Merriss stated that the estimates were based on the pandemic and that property tax collections appeared to be slower than in previous years. Ms. Merriss noted that real estate taxes are the City's single largest source of revenue. Council member Hall also asked about Oak Drive project, street engineering, plans and construction.

Council member Hall asked about the dam and wetlands project and Mayor Hammet said that the wetland piece is time sensitive and needs to be addressed in 2021. Ms. Merriss indicated that it was worth thinking about having a discussion with GEFA on the availability of grants and low-interest loans for capital improvements to put the City on the radar for funding. Council member Hall recommended having the entire dam included in the planning. Mayor pro tem Bordeaux recommended having both the berm and wetlands in the planning to be prepared and informed about the whole area.

Council Member Brantley inquired about the real property tax digest and Ms. Merriss provided information.

Mayor Hammet thanked Ms. Merriss for her work on the 2021 budget and thanked everyone who assisted. She said that she is pleased with the proposed budget as it relates to recovering from the pandemic both medically and financially.

Adjournment

On motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux; 2nd by Council member Brantley, adjournment was approved unanimously at 7:46pm.