

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 29, 2020
7:00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

Call to Order ~~Call to Order~~- Due to technical issues the meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet.

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

AGENDA ADOPTION

On motion by Council member Woods; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bordeaux, the Agenda was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATION

- Mayor Hammet announced that she was thankful that during the past year that communications during the pandemic got out to the community and thanked residents Megan Pulsts and Stephanie Spiller for their assistance during the year.
- Mayor Hammet provided information regarding Georgia Power’s removal of trees during the Rockbridge Road Project and that only two trees will be removed instead of five. The Mayor also announced that the transmission pole will be relocated closer to Rockbridge Road.

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the City Council Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2020 and City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes for December 22, 2020.

On motion by Council member Woods; seconded by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS - COVID-19 Pandemic Report

Mayor Hammet did not have a report because she was unable to participate in the weekly Georgia Mayors’ call but stated that COVID-19 was alive and mutating. She encouraged all to continue to practice safety measures.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Revised 2020 Budgets and Proposed 2021 Budgets

Council member’s Beavers commented on court fines and fees and stated that she doesn’t feel that they should be in the operating general fund. Beavers recommended a conversation about policy change in the future

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux; second by Council member Hall; the Budget Resolution and the Revised 2020 Budgets and the Proposed 2021 Budgets were adopted as amended to correct a typographical error in the Municipal Court Agency Fund, with Mayor pro tem Bordeaux and Council members Brantley and Woods voting “aye” and Council member Beavers voting “no.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shirley Kinsey, resident, expressed thanks to Mayor and Council for the changes to the budget and shared Council member Beaver’s concerns. She also commented that from an accounting perspective clarity and transparency needed to be added.

Cindy Brown, resident, thanked council for lowering fees amounts that is expected to be received and said that she’s in agreement with Council member Beavers.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Hammet extended comments and thanks to:

- Council and Ms. Merriss for their hard work on the budget
- An apartment property owner that gave a sizable contribution to the food bank. She also stated that the owner has been carrying his residents financially for three months due to the pandemic
- Ms. Varner, Chief Green and Mayor pro tem Bordeaux for their hard work during the pandemic
- Resident Tom Ramsey for his work with the food bank and the residents that assisted him
- Council members Beavers, Brantley, Hall and Woods for their work and for working together in 2020
- Ms. Merriss for her work on the 2021 budget and for providing greater transparency and restructuring the budget

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux thanked Mayor Hammet for her leadership and untiring efforts in getting things done and figuring them out.

Police Chief Green commented that the City government is a Dream Team and that it is not the quantity of the team or City but the quality and that everything is in sync. Chief Green expressed that the City experienced some of its worst days especially as it relates to the pandemic. She also commented that having the expertise of Ms. Merriss as Acting City Administrator had been very helpful and that she felt hopeful and purposeful for the future.

Mayor Hammet commented that freshman Council Members Beavers and Brantley came into office during the global pandemic but that they have been working nonstop and have risen to the challenge during their first year as elected officials.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:29 pm Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux motioned to move into Executive Session for legal matters; 2nd by Council member Woods and was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Legal Matters

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux motioned to adjourn from Executive Session for legal matters and return to open session; 2nd by Council member Woods and was approved unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux motioned to accept and approve a settlement offer to the City of Pine Lake in the amount of \$28,721 for damage claims; seconded by Council member Woods and was approved unanimously.

Council member Brantley motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council member Beavers and was approved unanimously.