

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
AMENDED AGENDA
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
7:00 PM**

Call to order
Pledge of Allegiance
Announcements/Communication
Adoption of Agenda
Public Comments

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under this item are routine or have been previously discussed by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will not be separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately.

Approval of Minutes of 01/28/20

OLD BUSINESS

Communication Plan – Council member Beavers

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Sign Applications and Permits to Prepare for Adoption of an Updated Ordinance
Facility Policy
Eco-Tourism Draft Proposal
Consideration of Bid for Stormwater Repair – City Administrator

Public Comments
Mayor's Comments
Council Comment
Adjournment

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2020
7:00 PM**

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Melanie Hammet. Also present were Mayor Pro-Tem Jean Bordeaux, Augusta Woods, Brandy Hall, Brandy Beavers and Tracey Brantley. Not in attendance were Chief Sarai Y'Hudah-Green, City Administrator Valerie Caldwell and City Attorney Susan Moore.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Mayor.

Announcements/Communication

Hammet communicated that Bordeaux and Green attended a meeting on January 27th with DeKalb County Officials regarding the impending Rockbridge Road Expansion Project and that work has begun.

Bordeaux thanked Chief Green for having the contact with the county to attend the meeting with the Rockbridge Expansion Project Managers. Bordeaux was provided contact information and provided notes of the meeting (in minute book) and commented that the estimated completion time is 540 calendar days(1.5 years) but could extend to 2 years or more. The normal work hours will be M-F 9:00 a.m. through 3:30 pm with exception. There will be single lane flagged traffic control with no detours and installation of water supply lines south side of the road only is scheduled to start March 2020. Upon completion of the lines installation of sidewalks will begin.

Hammet said that the trees will be arriving soon for the plantings at Dollar General as part grant from the Foodwell Alliance orchard planting initiative. Also, the Alliance has approved a grant for plantings at the beach house area.

The Mayor, Brantley and David Burt, Economic Development Consultant attended a meeting on January 28th with Super District Commissioner Lorraine Cochran Johnson and Commissioner Steve Bradshaw. Johnson recommended a full-time naturalist using county hotel/motel taxes or finding another source for funding the position . The Commissioner also recommended turning the Beach House into an Environmental Education Center and conducting tours. Bordeaux recommended utilizing the old city hall for the center as not to tie up the beach house because it is a rental property.

Hammet communicated that Brantley will meet with Susan Edwards, Tom Ramsey, Jennifer Bridges and David Burt to create the proposal for this vision to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners by February 21st.

Hammet communicated that the Mayor and Council Retreat was excellent and thanked all who attended on January 26th.

Adoption of Agenda

Hammet amended the agenda by removing the Consideration of Bid for Stormwater Repair and adding Town Hall meeting for informational purpose of educating the residents on the Rockbridge Road Project. Adoption of amended agenda 5-0 on motion by Bordeaux and seconded by Hall.

Public Comments

Shirley Kinsey, 579 Spruce Drive thanked Mayor and Council for updated information on the Rockbridge Road Project. She commented that she is concerned about how to get door mail delivery. She recommended having a crosswalk crossing on Rockbridge Road to the post office. Ms. Kinsey also asked mayor and council to make them aware that there needs to be a safe way to get daily mail.

Kinsey commented that education is needed regarding ecology tourism if this happens and to have organized structured activities if the wetlands is part of tourism.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes of 01/13/20

Approved 5-0 on motion by Hall and seconded by Woods.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Anti-Discrimination Ordinance No. 2020-01

The ordinance ORD. # 2020-01 was approved on motion by Bordeaux and seconded by Woods. 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

February Town Hall and State of the City Address

The Town Hall Meeting and State of the City Address will be on February 18th in the Beach House at 7:00 pm.

Town Hall for informational purposes of Rockbridge Road Project

A meeting date will be determined after the city has obtained updated information from DeKalb County. The topic will be education and updates the on the Rockbridge Road Expansion Project. Hammet stated that there would be a dedicated page on the website for the project. There are also plans for educating the residents through social media outlets and possibly having mailbox insert. Chief Green met with the postmaster, but a decision hasn't been made to date.

Appointments for MAP (Municipal Arts Panel) and SEED (Stewards of Environmental Education and Design)

Hammet appointed Melanie Seymore and Emily Baccus to MAP and Sabrina Kite to SEED.

Communication Plan

There was discussion for plans on managing city communications and press releases. Beavers will confer with Georgia Municipal Association to gather information for plans for communications. This item will be on future agendas until finalized.

Authorization for Payment of Invoice – Chief Green

Mayor Hammet led the discussion. Bordeaux motioned to authorize the invoice for Gwinnett Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram #174660 and seconded by Woods. 5-0

Consideration of Bid for Stormwater Repair

This item was removed from the agenda.

Public Comments

Shirley Kinsey commented that all communications regarding the Rockbridge Road Expansion Project state that Georgia Department of Transportation and DeKalb County has control not the city when providing updates to the citizens. Kinsey also stated that there are police cars being recalled and recommended the Chief to visit a website periodically for recalls and class action lawsuits pertaining to recalled vehicles.

Ms. Kinsey stated that she has a retired friend in the communications field and that she will contact her regarding being the communications liaison for the city.

Mayor's Comments

On January 29th at 8:00 am she and Brantley will attend a breakfast meeting with Super District Commissioner Lorraine Cochran Johnson. The mayor would like for the information kiosk to become interactive again.

Council Comments

Bordeaux commented that she agrees with Kinsey to have all communications for Rockbridge Road Expansion Project come directly from the county before posting on social medias or the website.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm with motion by Woods; 2nd Brantley.5-0

Missye Varner, Admn Assistant

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-02

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON SIGN APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS TO PROVIDE TIME FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO RESEARCH AND PREPARE FOR ADOPTION AN UPDATED ORDINANCE GOVERNING SIGNS WITHIN THE CITY OF PINE LAKE

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare;

WHEREAS, the City Council wants to enhance the economy and businesses within the City by promoting the reasonable, orderly, safe and effective display of signs;

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to balance the First Amendment and property rights of property owners to erect signs with the scenic beauty, natural resources, livability and economic potential of the City;

WHEREAS, in updating the City's sign ordinance it is important to address modern types and lighting of signs to ensure such signs do not obstruct vision, distract drivers or otherwise impair the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, it is important that updating the City's sign ordinance is done in a thoughtful and informed manner and that city residents and businesses have an opportunity to provide input.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Pine Lake, as follows:

Section 1. There is established a moratorium on the receipt of applications and the issuance of permits for signs within the City of Pine Lake. Such moratorium is effective immediately and shall last no longer than ninety (90) days but may be terminated earlier by act of the City Council.

Section 2. All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict with the terms of this ordinance are hereby superseded and repealed as to the subject matter of this ordinance.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon its approval by the City Council, signature by the Mayor, and approval as to form by the City Attorney.

ADOPTED this _____ day of 2020.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PINE LAKE, GEORGIA

Mayor Melanie Hammet

ATTEST:

Valerie Caldwell, City Clerk (SEAL)

Approved as to Form:

Susan J. Moore, City Attorney

DRAFT

Pine Lake ecoArts Center *where art meets habitat*

Executive Summary

Introduction

“Atlanta Audubon is thrilled to partner with the City of Pine Lake to add this beautiful lake, park, and adjoining wetlands to our network of more than 550 certified wildlife habitats in Atlanta and north Georgia. This is an amazing area and a true gem in the Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Program”

-Melinda Langston, Atlanta Audubon board member and wildlife sanctuary program coordinator

A quick google search of “eco-arts tourism in the United States” quickly reveals the scarcity of destinations that can truly claim to provide an enriched experience for both nature and art lovers alike.

The City of Pine Lake, “*arts’ natural habitat*” can make that very claim.

Located in the geographic center of Dekalb County, The City of Pine Lake is a leader in building an ecology and arts community that provides residents, neighbors and visitors with an Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuary, a safe lake for swimming and fishing, walking trails and wetland paths, while offering monthly concerts and artists markets, an annual “Pollination Celebration,” and a twenty-year old arts festival every October.

The vision of this proposal is to take this record of success and stewardship into an exciting future through next-level environmental design and expertise that guides visitors into a deeper experience through habitat and arts programming that will enthrall, educate, and inspire.

As the smallest city in Dekalb, we are the perfect messenger to remind visitors that the natural world and our resident species of flora and fauna are alive and well because we live in stewardship, not in exploitation. The destructive impact of our lifestyle and our densely urban environment register for us in real-time and are solved by human hands.

We are a man-made environment where nature has returned, flourished, and we work to collaborate. We are a city of unusual capacities; a large part of the reason our wildlife, our canopy, our lake, and our artists are thriving.

This unique combination of art and environment welcomes thousands of visitors to our city each year.

Background: why Pine Lake?

“[in Pine Lake] Older trees and remnants of the original forest can still be found on the steep slopes, and native forest is also recovering along the stream bank corridor”

-Kathryn Kolb, Director ecoAddendum, Master Naturalist

Our one-square mile city has methodically built our environmental and arts resources and events through local, county, state, and federal funding over the last two decades. The residents and our city leadership have carefully managed this funding and nurtured these fragile environmental assets. Long-term evidence demonstrates our ecosystem is not just surviving but thriving in a densely urban environment. Similarly, we have supported our local artists by creating local markets and funding local arts grants. For more active oversight and planning the city government created two advisory panels, one for the arts (MAP — the Municipal Arts Panel) and one for the environment (SEED—Stewards for Environmental Education and Design) to ensure participation and greater outreach.

Pine Lake hosts visitors year-round at our monthly, seasonal, and annual arts events. Our environmentally-themed public art is open to the public daily and our constructed wetlands are ringed with a trail system and informational signage.

In summary, Pine Lake is already set for ecoArts success. Every activity, program, and structure is running in existing versions. Through exhibit facilities, enhanced visitor information and welcome centers, interactive wayfinding signage, improved trails, and upgraded performing arts facilities, we are absolutely poised to take the next steps for becoming a bigger part of Dekalb County’s tourism array. All that’s missing is funding to bring it to the next level.

What is ecoArts tourism?

“My pretty countryside | Had been paved down the middle | By a government that had no pride.”

-Christie Hynde, “My City Was Gone”

ecoArts tourism is a unique, multifaceted form of travel, which emphasizes authentic experiences in a location or area that has natural, arts, and cultural resources and a commitment to those resources. This type of travel contributes to the responsible use of managed natural areas to conserve the environment and improve economic and social welfare and to an appreciation of synergies between the natural environment, arts and culture, and education and curiosity.

Our Ask: Looking to the future

“Show me the money.”
-Cuba Gooding Jr.

This funding request is dedicated to raising the visibility of Pine Lake as an ecoArts destination through education, arts, and community involvement opportunities. With programming and events that create enduring appreciation and delight, we aspire to further establish our city as a shining star in the constellation of Dekalb County’s must-visit natural scenic jewels.

Highlights include

***Pine Lake ecoArts Center**

- *Beach House*: performances and classes
- *Art Cottage*: visual arts center

***Outdoor Performing Arts Spaces**

- beach stage
- forest stage

***Naturalist and programming to include public school/community outreach**

***Visitor experience redesign: interactive wayfinding signage; entryways reimaged; increased accessibility**

***Inaugural Georgia Food and Wine Beach Festival**

Budget