

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
AGENDA  
March 30, 2021  
7:00 PM  
VIA ZOOM**

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Call to Order

Announcements/Communication

Adoption of Agenda

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Adoption of the Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2021; the Special Called Meeting of March 16, 2021; and, the Town Hall Meeting of March 18, 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS**

COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet

Ordinance 2021-01

Ordinance O-2021-01 encourages the issuance of citations instead of arrest for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana when it is the sole non-traffic offense.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution No. R-06-2021

A resolution of the Mayor and Council expressing condemnation of hate crimes and discrimination targeting members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

**REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Public Comments

Staff

Mayor and City Council

Adjournment

Residents can access this meeting by calling:

Conference line 1 929-205-6099

Meeting ID 967 0462 7805

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 9, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**VIA ZOOM**

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet.

Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Brandy Beavers, Tracey Brantley, Brandy Hall and Augusta Woods. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss, City Attorney Susan Moore, Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green and Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner.

**Announcements/Communications**

- Mayor Hammet announced that the Makers Mart Artist group will host a Driveway Arts & Artist Craft Show on March 20<sup>th</sup> at various homes throughout the city.
- Mayor Hammet congratulated business owner and resident Cindy Brown for obtaining funding for the Tennis Court Quarantined Photo Event. The grand opening is April 11, 2021.
- Mayor Pro Tem Bordeaux communicated that the Comprehensive Plan is on the website and that the Atlanta Regional Commission is assembling information for residents to provide input.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mayor Hammet amended the agenda to table Ordinance 2021-01 under Old Business to the March 30, 2021 Council Meeting.

On a motion by Council member Woods, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all present voting “aye,” the agenda was adopted as amended to table Ordinance 2021-01 as Old Business for the March 30, 2021 Council Meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Adoption of the City Council Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2021.

On a motion by Council member Hal, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and four council members voting “aye,” the minutes were adopted. Council member Beavers abstained.

**OLD BUSINESS**

COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet

The Mayor provided a synopsis of the March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> weekly Georgia Mayors’ call and presented a slide showing the combined number of cases and that Georgia is in the top ten percent of all states for cases in both patients and deaths. Mayor Hammet stated that the way

to stop the spread of new variants of the Coronavirus virus is to increase the rate of vaccinations.

The Mayor commented that on March 15<sup>th</sup> Governor Kemp will present new eligibility criteria for receiving COVID-19 vaccines. Mayor Hammet said that many Georgians are hesitant to take the vaccine.

### **Ordinance 2021-01**

Ordinance O-2021-01 encourages the issuance of citations instead of arrest for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana when it is the sole non-traffic offense.

This agenda item was removed from the agenda and tabled until the March 30, 2021 Council Meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Renaming Forrest Road to Forest Road**

Mayor Hammet stated that at the June 9, 2020 Council meeting she initiated action to change the street name.

On a motion by Mayor Hammet, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all council members voting "aye," action to change Forrest Road from having two "r's" to one "r" using the current street naming policy method was initiated.

#### **Playground Opening**

Mayor Hammet opened discussion of the Playground Opening for recommendations. Acting City Administration Merriss provided an overview of decision items for developing playground usage guidelines. After discussion, the following guidelines were agreed upon:

- 1) There shall be no age limit.
- 2) COVID safety protocols to include that children be properly supervised by a caregiver.
- 3) That person's two years of age and older would wear masks.
- 4) All persons would practice safety distancing of 6 feet between household parties.
- 5) Operating hours shall be 10:00 am – 7:00pm daily.
- 6) Capacity shall be 25 persons.
- 7) A budget amendment will follow later to cover unbudgeted re-opening and on-going maintenance and safety expenses.
- 8) Equipment will be cleaned and sanitized two times per week on Friday and Monday mornings.

Mayor Hammet stated that the City will not be liable for incidents that may occur at the playground and that adherence to the guidelines will be self-monitored as the Police Department will not continuously monitor the area. Public Works will begin immediately to make repairs and preparations to re-open the playground.

Re-opening the playground for March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am was agreed to by consensus.

## **REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Public Comments**

Tom Ramsey, resident commented on Oak Drive and his concern regarding small lots that are for sale. Mr. Ramsey stated that he did not believe that the lots were buildable and asked what the city's legal stance is and could the city conserve them. Acting City Administrator Merriss commented that platted parcels can be sold but that does not mean they are buildable because they must meet the requirements of the City's zoning and development ordinances. She also commented that the buyer must do their due diligence, talk with an engineer, and read the zoning ordinance. Mr. Ramsey asked for the city to assist in looking into this matter.

Shirley Kinsey, resident commented on the COVID-19 situation and that she received her first shot at the Farmers Market in Macon and that her experience was great. Ms. Kinsey provided the website for vaccines at [www.myvaccine.ga.com](http://www.myvaccine.ga.com).

### **Staff**

Acting City Administrator Merriss commented that the Oak Drive project was underway, and that the City's engineering consultants were marking the street and working with Public Works Supervisor Raoul Martinez to identify problem areas. Merriss also stated that the wetlands project has begun.

Police Chief Green that reopening of the playground should create opportunities and that the guidelines are not designed to punish little kids but are for their safety.

### **Mayor and City Council Town Hall Planning Discussion**

Mayor Hammet led a discussion to develop topics for the March 18<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting. The following were agreed upon by consensus.

- 1) Ed Lee will make an introduction of "One City-Many Voice" to began April 8, 2021.
- 2) Update of Rockbridge Road and flooding and runoff
- 3) Consideration of re-opening public spaces.
- 4) Update of what is happening in the wetlands.
- 5) Update preview of the Food-Well Grant 2021

### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux; second by Council member Hall, and all present voting "aye," the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

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Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2021  
8:30 AM  
VIA ZOOM**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Mayor Melanie Hammet.

Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Tracey Brantley, Brandy Hall and Augusta Woods. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss and Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner. Council member Brandy Beavers, Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green and City Attorney Susan Moore were not present.

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution R-04-2021 opposes House Bill 531, Senate Bill 241 and all other bills limiting voting in the State of Georgia.

On a motion by Council member Woods, seconded by Council member Hall, and all present voting “aye,” Resolution R-04-2021 was adopted.

Resolution R-05-2021 opposes House Bill 286 prohibiting Police Department Budget cuts.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, seconded by Council member Brantley, and all present voting “aye,” Resolution R-05-2021 was adopted.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Council member Woods, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all present voting “aye,” the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

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Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 18, 2021**

**7:00PM**

**VIA ZOOM**

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet.

Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and Council members Brandy Beavers, Tracey Brantley, Brandy Hall and Augusta Woods. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss and Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green.

**Introduction of the “One City, Many Voices” series beginning April 8, 2021**

Mayor Hammet introduced Ed Lee who will facilitate and moderate the upcoming community conversations series.

Mr. Lee gave an overview of three topical conversations: Race and the History of Pine Lake; Policing and Public Safety in Pine Lake; and, Belonging and Community in Pine Lake. In response to questions, Mr. Lee responded that feedback from the conversations was meant to inform how the City would move forward to come together as a community and how the community would be lifted up.

**Updates:**

**What’s happening at the Dam & Wetlands**

Council member Brantley gave an update on the dam and wetlands maintenance and repair project.

**Playground Opening**

Council member Hall provided an update on the playground reopening and the guidelines for using the playground in the COVID-19 environment.

**Rockbridge Road**

Mayor Hammet reported on the progress with the Rockbridge Road transportation and stormwater improvements with an emphasis on the improvements to reduce stormwater run-off into the residential neighborhood.

**Preview of the FoodWell Grant 2021**

Council member Hall provided a preview of upcoming activities that are part of the FoodWell grant.

**2021 Comprehensive Plan.**

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux discussed the 2021 Comprehensive plan and showed participants how to access the community survey via the City’s website.

**Community Q and A**

In response to questions from Tina Kite, Mayor Hammet stated that consideration of re-opening of the beach was in progress and there was not a definitive answer right now. Mayor Hammet added that there were still many questions about the newly adopted American

Rescue Plan legislation and that guidelines and rules for using the funds had not been published.

Cindy Brown commented on the visitor restriction rules for attending Municipal Court and requested consideration of a system that would allow visitors in the Court. In response to a question from Ms. Brown, Acting City Administrator Merriss stated she would find out how many people were on probation from municipal court.

Mike suggested that the Municipal Court could maintain a guest list to address the issue of maintaining a safe courtroom. In response to his question, Mayor Hammet explained that the resolution adopted by the City regarding police budgets, was to oppose state legislation that would prohibit local governments from reducing police department budgets more than five percent. He thanked the Mayor and Council for offering the opportunity for voices to be heard.

Amy from voiced concerns about the condition of Oak Drive.

In response to a question from Kathie deNobriga, Acting City Administrator Merriss stated that the City was scheduled to begin recruiting to fill the City Administrator position in the Fall, 2021.

The meeting was closed at 8:15pm.

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Peggy Merriss, Acting City Administrator

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-01

**AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE TO AMEND CHAPTER 50 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO ESTABLISH THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATION OF POSSESSION OF ONE OUNCE OR LESS OF MARIJUANA; FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO ISSUE CITATIONS FOR SUCH OFFENSE RATHER THAN EFFECTUATING ARREST; AND TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that the enforcement of the State law prohibiting possession of less than one ounce of marijuana has been inequitable; and

**WHEREAS**, arrest or conviction for the State law offense of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana presents obstacles throughout life for those arrested or convicted including in education, employment, and housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to facilitate equity in the administration of criminal justice; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 36-32-6 grants municipal courts concurrent jurisdiction to try and dispose of cases wherein a person is charged with possession of one ounce or less of marijuana when such conduct occurs inside a municipality.

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

**Section 1.** City of Pine Lake law enforcement officers are hereby encouraged by the City Council to issue citations to individuals for violation of the city ordinance prohibiting possession of less than one ounce of marijuana rather than arresting such individuals, when possession of marijuana is the sole offense by the individual observed by the officer.

**Section 2.** City Code Section 50-22 is hereby amended to strike the existing language and insert in lieu thereof the following:

“(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess one ounce or less of marijuana within the corporate limits of the City.

(b) Conviction for violation of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$75.00, which fine shall be subject to alternative sentencing.

(c) No person convicted solely of violating this ordinance shall be punished by confinement for any period of time and no additional time served should be added for violation of this ordinance if arrested or cited for another offense.”

**Section 3.** The various clauses and subsections of this ordinance are intended to be severable. Should any of the provisions of this ordinance be deemed invalid by a court of competent



jurisdiction, it is the intent of the City Council that the remaining provisions remain in full force and effect.

**Section 4.** All ordinances and portions of ordinances in conflict with the terms of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to the subject matter of this ordinance.

**Section 5.** 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF PINE LAKE, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Melanie Hammet

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Merriss, Acting City Administrator  
(SEAL)

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan J. Moore, City Attorney

**RESOLUTION NO. R-06-2021**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PINE LAKE, GEORGIA EXPRESSING THEIR CONDEMNATION OF HATE CRIMES AND DISCRIMINATION TARGETING MEMBERS OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, Pine Lake is an open and inclusive community that prides itself on promoting diversity, equality, and tolerance among all its citizens and businesses and prides itself as a city that welcomes people from all backgrounds and nationalities; and,

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities have been subjected to increases in both verbal and physical assaults throughout this country; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center has documented over 2,800 hate incidents nationally against Asian Pacific Islander Americans in 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, racism towards AAPI people has been exacerbated by racist rhetoric used during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, six Asian women were recently killed by a gunman blaming them for his sex addiction; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Pine Lake, Georgia affirms that no individual should be discriminated against by another individual or body based upon their individual gender, gender identity, race, color, age, disability, national origin, religion, beliefs, or sexual orientation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE** Mayor and Council of the City of Pine Lake, Georgia, that this governing body forcefully condemns violence and harassment of members of the AAPI community and will work to ensure that AAPI people feel safe and welcome in our city – both during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

**Resolved this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.**

**BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Hammet, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Peggy Merriss, Acting City Clerk