

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
AGENDA  
April 27, 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 April 13, 2021 and the "One City, Many Voices" Meeting of April 20, 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS**

COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet

**WORK SESSION**

Discussion with Mayor and Council regarding issues to be considered to determine if the beach and lake should be reopened.

**NEW BUSINESS**

~~Designation of second meeting of each month as a work session.~~

**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**

**April 13, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**VIA ZOOM**

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**CALL TO ORDER** - at 7:00 pm by Mayor Melanie Hammet. Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and Council members Brandy Beavers, Tracey Brantley, Brandy Hall and Augusta Woods. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner and Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green. City Attorney Susan Moore was not in attendance.

**Announcements/Communication**

Mayor Hammet communicated that on April 8<sup>th</sup> the first community conversation in the series “One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging, and Civic Life.” facilitated by Ed Lee and including Pine Lake resident and author Valerie Boyd was a great success. The Mayor stated that there were approximate forty-seven attendees via zoom and that she has received positive feedback and conversations from all she that she has spoken with.

Mayor Hammet announced that on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. the second community conversation in the series “One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation about Racism, Belonging, and Civic Life” focuses on *Policing and Public Safety in Pine Lake*. This conversation will be facilitated by Ed Lee and will include Pine Lake Police Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green who will start the evening with Mr. Lee, providing context and perspective.

Council member Brantley communicated that the art show “Pandemic Porch Portraits” hosted by resident and photographer Cindy Brown on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the tennis court was a success with safe and social distancing. She also communicated that the Municipal Arts Panel (M.A.P) and PLAIN provided refreshments and that Ms. Brown has books of the Pandemic Porch Portraits available for sale and that Series#2 Art Show will be on Memorial Day on Monday 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Adoption of Agenda**

On a motion by Council member Brantley, second by Council member Woods and all present voting “aye,” the agenda was adopted.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Adoption of the Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2021 and the “One City, Many Voices” Meeting of April 8, 2021.

On a motion by Council member Hall, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all council members voting "aye," the minutes were adopted.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Report – Mayor Hammet**

Mayor Hammet reported that during the last two weekly statewide mayoral calls the focus has been on getting the correct vaccination information out through the state. She said that Georgia is improving but is still one of the lowest states with residents getting the vaccine and continues to be in the hot zone. The Mayor said that she will be fully vaccinated on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

#### **Approval of renaming Forrest Road to Forest Road effective June 1, 2021.**

Acting City Administrator Merriss provided a recap of the process of the renaming of Forrest Road to Forest Road and stated that it has been published in the legal advertisement section of The Champion Newspaper as required by the "Street Naming Policy." Ms. Merriss recommended approval of the renaming of the road effective June 1, 2021 and stated that this will give staff time to provide notice to various organizations as well as to update the signs and signage.

On a motion by Council member Woods, second by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, and all council members voting "aye," the renaming Forrest Road to Forest Road was approved as recommended.

### **Approval for Surveying Services for Road Maintenance and Repair.**

#### **Recommend approval for surveying services for road maintenance and repair projects as part of the SPLOST program.**

Acting City Administrator Merriss provided information and a recommendation for the approval of surveying services in the amount of \$6,000 for road maintenance and repair of two areas of Dahlia Drive and Beaver Road and three areas along Oak Drive. Ms. Merriss stated that funds are available from revenue in the SPLOST Fund and from proceeds of a settlement agreement with DeKalb County.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux, second by Council member Woods, and all council members voting "aye," surveying services for road maintenance and repair was approved.

## **REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Public Comments**

Resident Tom Ramsey stated that he was not able to attend the "One City, Many Voices: A Pine Lake Conversation" on April 8<sup>th</sup> and inquired as to when the audio would be posted on the website and if it would be available before the next conversation on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Acting City Administrator Merriss informed Mr. Ramsey that the plan was to have a link to the recording available on the website no later than Monday.

## **Staff**

Acting City Administrator Merriss commented about the reopening of the beach and said that there were concerns that needed to be addressed before the beach and lake were reopened, including the following:

- Structural and infrastructural Issues and needs
- Safe Distancing
- Bathrooms verses port-a-lets.
- Days open and times open
- Parking
- COVID-19 signage
- Erosion in the wetlands
- The financial impact because the budget does not include funding for opening the beach and lake.
- Testing for E-coli
- Capacity control
- Managing facilities

Ms. Merriss recommended having a Work Session for this item for discussion. This item will be placed on the April 27<sup>th</sup> Work Session Zoom Meeting.

Acting City Administrator Merriss provided a staff report and stated that she, Mayor Hammet and Council member Woods had a conversation regarding mobility access around the City. She said that Public Works Supervisor Raoul Martinez and Patrick Welch, Crew member, had created a ramp to access the tennis court and that she was proud of their work and that they are looking at mobility solutions for long term at the tennis court and that the city needs permanent and better access to the beach, wetlands paths, and the picnic areas and for access to parking for persons with mobility issues.

Ms. Merriss also thanked Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator and Faye Brantley, Deputy Court Clerk for their assistance in getting information for the 2020 Audit. She also thanked Chief Green for being an all-around great Chief and for keeping the Rockbridge Road dialogue constantly open and updated.

## **Mayor and City Council**

Mayor Hammet thanked Acting City Administrator Merriss for the valuable information about reopening the lake and to think about what the city wants to put in place that is sustainable and safe.

**Adjournment** - On motion by Council member Brantley second by Council member Hall, adjournment was approved unanimously at 7:32 pm.

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Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator

**CITY OF PINE LAKE**  
**ONE CITY, MANY VOICES COMMUNITY CONVERSATION MINUTES**  
**April 20, 2021**  
**6:00 PM**  
**VIA ZOOM**

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The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm with an introduction 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. In addition, approximately 44 interested persons were in attendance.

The conversation on “Policing and Public Safety in Pine Lake” was facilitated by Ed Lee who stated that the purpose of the conversation was to explore strategies for cultivating more responsive community policing practices.

Mr. Lee was joined by Pine Lake Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green who participated as a guest speaker in discussion with Mr. Lee about the topic.

As part of the conversation small group discussions were held.

Mr. Lee facilitated a debriefing session with all participants present.

The conversation concluded at 7:30pm.

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Peggy Merriss, Acting City Administrator



# Memo

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Peggy Merriss, Acting City Administrator  
**Date:** April 8, 2021  
**Re:** Beach/Lake Reopening

*Peggy Merriss*

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with an overview of the issues to be considered in making a decision regarding reopening the beach/lake.

Safety concerns.

The COVID pandemic continues with cases increasing, including those attributable to variant strains with the UK strain becoming widely prevalent. DeKalb County continues to be rated as a very high risk for exposure to COVID-19 based on cases per capita and test positivity<sup>1</sup>. A review of the literature indicates that herd immunity is somewhere between 50%-70% vaccination rate and Dr. Fauci has indicated that it would need to be somewhere between 75% - 85% in the United States. Currently US vaccinations are at 22% for fully vaccinated and 36% of the population having at least one dose. Vaccination numbers have been steadily climbing but with the very recent disruption in shipping and the pause for the Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine, the rate of fully vaccinated may slow for some time-period. President Biden has suggested that it might be possible for smaller gatherings to begin on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The water in Pine Lake predominantly comes from stormwater runoff to the east of the City. In previous years, the lake is regularly tested throughout the time it is open for swimming for the level of e coli bacteria present in the water. Posting of the test results occurs at the beach and on the website. Swimming in the lake is at the swimmer's own risk and the City does not have liability insurance coverage for any actions or events that occur to the swimmers.

Issues to be considered in addressing safety concerns:

- Safe distancing requirements at the beach.
- The beach and lake draw patrons from throughout central DeKalb County and not only the City of Pine Lake.

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<sup>1</sup> The only risk level designation that is higher is noted as "Extremely High."

- Capacity controls.
- Extent of liability for accidents or harm for swimmers at the lake.
- Number of times testing of the water occurs.
- Should the lake be closed if e coli is measured at a high level.

#### Structural Needs.

Reopening the beach/lake requires addressing infrastructure needs so that patrons can enjoy their experience, traffic and parking can be managed and the facilities are available, clean and usable. In addition, erosion in the eastern wetlands area has resulted in the formation of a gap that is allowing stormwater to go around the wetlands and it is not being cleaned properly and is flowing more directly into Snapfinger Creek.

Issues to be considered in addressing structural needs:

- Provision of bathroom facilities – rental of port-a-johns or use of Beach House.
- Operating days and hours.
- Opening all parking along Lakeshore.
- Providing access to the beach and lake for persons with mobility issues.
- Replace older and faded signage that provides guidelines for use.
- Add COVID warning signage.
- Repair the erosion in the wetlands to improve water quality and flow into the lake.

#### Budgetary Needs

The 2021 Budget for the City of Pine Lake was developed in November and December of 2020 when there were a lot of unknowns about the future of the COVID virus, vaccinations and when reopening of facilities would be possible. At that time, it was estimated that the beach and lake would not reopen for the summer of 2021. Answers to many of the issues described above could have financial and staffing impacts that were not budgeted.

Issues to be considered in addressing resource needs:

- Will additional staffing be needed to support safety guidelines that may be adopted, to manage capacity controls, including access to bathroom facilities and to clean and maintain the beach and area.
- How will repairs to flow and water quality in the wetlands and provision of accessibility improvements be funded.
- Can funds from the American Relief Plan be used.

Research regarding the issues above is currently under being done. It is recommended that the Mayor and Council consider holding a work session, possibly before the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss these issues and provide guidance and input to staff so that recommendations can be completed for consideration.