

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 31, 2021
7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order at 7:00PM by Mayor Melanie Hammet. Present – Mayor Melanie Hammet, Council members Brandy Beavers (via zoom), 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. Mayor pro tem Jean Bordeaux and City Attorney Susan Moore were not in attendance.

Announcements / Communications

Mayor Hammet announced that she and ROKS Liaison, Council member Woods, attended a ROKS meeting to plan a business and community cookout at Poplar Park.

The Mayor also announced that on September 1st, she and Council member Woods will meet with Commissioner Steve Bradshaw to discuss developing an arts presence on Rockbridge Road

Adoption of Agenda

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

**PUBLIC HEARING
2021 Comprehensive Plan**

Mollie Bogle, Senior Planner for Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) presented the draft 2021 Comprehensive Plan with updated information and additional data. Ms. Bogle stated that the plan has to be submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs with an attached transmittal letter for review and comments on the plan. She added that final adoption of the plan will be in October 2021.

Mayor Hammet opened the public hearing for public comments. There were no public comments, and the public hearing was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the Minutes of the regular meeting of August 10, 2021.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization to Transmit the 2021 Comprehensive Plan.

Authorization for Mayor Hammet to sign a letter transmitting the 2021 Comprehensive Plan.

On a motion by Council member Woods, second by Council member Hall, and all council members present voting “aye,” Mayor Hammet was authorized to sign the letter of transmittal for the draft 2021 Comprehensive plan.

Extension of Open Beach/Lake Season

Consideration of extending the open Beach/Lake season into September 2021.

Mayor Hammet opened discussion by stating that the 2021 Beach/Lake season had been successful. She asked Council members to contribute thoughts on what had worked and had been helpful.

Council members stated that the following policy decisions were key to the successful operation:

- Continuance of the limited parking availability.
- Having two sessions with hours between 7am – 11am and 4pm – 8pm that avoided peak hours and did not encourage people to be there all day.
- Being open Thursday – Monday which allowed two days for the beach to have an environmental rest.
- Capacity controls.
- Having a beach monitor during weekend evening sessions (Friday – Sunday)
- Position of the Beach Monitor Chair so that it was visible and supported the formalized role of the beach monitor.
- Opening the beach later in the summer after July 4th.

Following additional discussion of requests to extend the beach/lake season, it was determined by consensus of City Council that the season would be extended to September 27, 2021, with the current rules and regulations remaining in place.

Employee Group Health Insurance Renewal

Recommend authorizing the Mayor to sign the necessary documents to provide employee group health benefits.

Acting City Administrator Merriss presented the options for employee health coverage from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and Humana insurance companies.

On a motion by Council member Hall, seconded Council member Woods, and all council members present voting “aye,” Mayor Hammet was authorized to sign the necessary documents to provide employee group health benefits.

Closing Date for Pine Lake Porch Portraits Exhibit.

The City Council agreed by consensus to set the closing for the Pine Lake Porch Portraits Exhibit for September 10th through September 12th. Mayor Hammet will contact Cindy Brown, owner of the exhibit, to let her know of the closing.

DISCUSSION

Foodwell Grant Implementation/Beach House Entrance/Beach Entrance

Council member Hall provided an overview of the plans for implementation of the Foodwell Grant/Beach House Entrance/Beach Entrance based on conceptual plans and said that the purpose of the grant was to add urban agriculture to an area on the eastside of the Beach House and that it would also be an appropriate time to make landscaping and other improvements to the front of the Beach and Beach House.

Council member Brantley said that she has spoken with PLAIN, and they will participate by providing volunteers to assist with the projects. Ms. Hall also stated that Foodwell has offered to loan the city equipment and services for the various projects.

Gazebo

An assessment of the condition of the Gazebo from Safebuilt Inspector and Plan Reviewer Deborah Nichols was provided in the agenda materials. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to get two quotes, one to demolish the gazebo and the other to renovate the gazebo by removing the roof and picnic tables, installing different railings and to use a composite material for the decking. Ms. Merriss will provide quote updates at a future meeting.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments

Greg Creech, 459 Spruce Drive, thanked Mayor and Council for making the right decision on swimming in the lake and the season extension. Mr. Creech also stated that PLAIN will provide volunteers to assist with any projects that the City has.

Shirley Kinsey, 579 Spruce Drive, commented on the Safebuilt inspection report for the Gazebo and said that based on the footings, grade beams, wood joist and posts are all in good condition and is the bulk of the cost for repairs or rebuild. She also said that the price of treated lumber had were decreasing. Ms. Kinsey recommended the City consider and invest in utilizing composite decking because of its durability.

Staff

There were no staff comments; however, Administrative Coordinator Varner was presented with flowers and a birthday card.

Mayor and City Council

Mayor Hammet reflected on the Safebuilt inspection report for the Gazebo and stated that Council was taking a responsible approach towards making a decision by requesting two options.

Information for “The Pine Lake News” eblast:

Swimming Season Extended.

Council has extended the 2021 swimming season to September 27th. The scheduled sessions and capacity limits will remain the same. Thanks to our administrative staff and to our Beach Monitor, Jason Murray for their flexibility in keeping the beach open for a few extra weeks.

Family Dollar follow up.

On 02-17-2021, Pine Lake Police responded to 4615 Rockbridge Rd. (Family Dollar) in reference to an Armed Robbery call. Three suspects burst through the door and jumped over the register demanding money, while the fourth waited in the getaway vehicle. After weeks of investigation and working with Law Enforcement partners (including DeKalb Police) on Sept. 1, 2021, the last of the 4 subjects was taken into custody. Thank you, Pine Lake and DeKalb County Police and Chief Green - Great job!!!

Scam Alert

Pine Lake Police have been made aware of an old scam that appears to have resurfaced. It begins with a call to the victim regarding an over payment of a refund deposited into the victim's bank account. The victim is given instructions on how to withdraw a large amount of money. PLPD prevented almost \$15K in cash from being sent to these scammers.

BE CAREFUL!!! CHECK ON YOUR SENIOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS! DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO ACCESS YOUR COMPUTER SCREEN OR PLUG UNKNOWN DRIVES INTO YOUR COMPUTER. AND PLEASE NEVER GIVE OUT YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION.

Adjournment: On a motion by Council member Hall, seconded by Council member Brantley, and all council members present voting “aye,” the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator