

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
MINUTES
November 23, 2021
7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order – Mayor Hammet called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Mayor Hammet; Mayor pro tem Bordeaux; and Council members Brantley, Hall and Woods. Council member Beavers attended electronically. Also present were Acting City Administrator Peggy Merriss and Police Chief Sarai Y’Hudah-Green.

Announcements/Communications:

Council member Hall announced that the Food Well grant volunteer phase I planting was a huge success with over 22 volunteers participating in planting 100 plus plants in two days. Council member Hall thanked the volunteers for their assistance. She also thanked the City’s public works staff for removing the shrubbery from in front of, and adjacent to, the Beach House

Adoption of Agenda

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the Minutes of the regular meeting of November 9, 2021.

On a motion by Mayor pro tem Bordeaux; second by Council Member Woods; and all voting “aye”, the agenda was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Indoor Mask Requirement for Public Spaces

Discussion of existing policy for wearing masks indoor in public spaces.

Mayor Hammet stated that it was a good time to review the City’s policy of requiring masks to be worn indoors. She added that after a period of declining cases, the most recent data indicate a 39% increase in the 14-day case numbers. Mayor Hammet noted that it appears that a winter surge is beginning in DeKalb County as well as throughout the United States and the rest of the world.

Council member Woods indicated that she felt it was not quite time to change the City's policy and that it was better to wait and see if the surge continues and to revisit the policy at a later date.

In response to a question from Council member Brantley, Ms. Merriss indicated that she did not know what DeKalb County's current policy was but that the City of Decatur was still requiring masks for indoor settings.

Council member Hall stated that there had been a brief period of COVID-19 indicators declining but the recent data showed increases, so she favored retaining the current policy.

Mayor pro tem Bordeaux stated that she also supported retaining the current policy particularly because there was not a reasonable way to determine whether someone was vaccinated or not.

Council member Beavers indicated she supported letting people have a choice.

After discussion, it was agreed by consensus of a majority of Council to retain the existing policy requiring masks to be worn indoors.

Date for "Lighting of the Lake".

After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that the "Lighting of the Lake" would be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm.

Beach House Garden.

Confirm December 19, 2021 for opening celebration of the Beach House Garden.

After discussion, it was agreed by consensus to table this item for future review.

OLD BUSINESS

Food Well Grant Project

Select an additional planting date.

After discussion, it was agreed by consensus that the additional volunteer planting date would be held on January 22, 2021.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments

Kevin Polite, owner of property at 447 Oak Drive, noted that the City of Pine Lake had the highest property taxes in Georgia. He indicated that he had requested a pre-construction meeting with Ms. Merriss and the City Arborist for development of his property because there was not a feasible option for placing a sewer line without requiring the removal of a tree. He stated that there would be plantings on the property to replace trees. He also noted that the City should remove the requirement that tree removal companies have a business license as that added costs for residents.

Staff

Chief Green provided an update on the Rockbridge Road utility relocation and noted that she has spoken with ATT representatives regarding moving their equipment to the new utility poles and that they had let her know that an ATT service interruption would be necessary on November 30th beginning at midnight in order to complete the transfer.

In response to a question from Mayor Hammet, Chief Green said she would follow-up on the restriping.

Ms. Merriss reminded Mayor and Council that the purchase of a new police vehicle was included in the 2021 budget and reported that efforts to purchase the vehicle using SPLOST funds was in progress.

Ms. Merriss also reported that the storage room construction and the HVAC system replacement was underway at City Hall.

Mayor

Report on City Administrator Recruitment

Mayor Hammet reported that the City Administrator Recruitment Committee had met and were moving through the process.

City Council

Information for "The Pine Lake News" eblast.

- Update on Rockbridge road construction, including ATT disruption and restriping
- Lighting of the Lake

- Food Well project
- Budget Hearing date

On a motion by Council member Brantley; second by Council Member Woods; and all voting “aye”, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39pm.