

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 11, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

NOTE: All attendees are reminded to silence cellular phones and other devices that may cause interruption of the session proceedings.

Call to Order: Mayor Melanie Hammet called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Mayor Melanie Hammet, Council Members Tracey Brantley, Nivea Castro, Brandy Hall, and Augusta Woods. Also present were City Manager ChaQuias Miller-Thornton, City Attorney Susan Moore, Administrative Coordinator Missye Varner, Assistant City Clerk Ned Dagenhard, and Chief of Police Sarai Y'Hudah-Green. Mayor Pro Tem Jean Bordeaux was not in attendance.

Announcements/Communication

Mayor Hammet announced:

- She will host a Mayor's Town Hall to answer questions and engage in discussion with Pine Lake citizens. The Town Halls will take place at the Beach House, each Wednesday in July (7/12; 7/19; 7/26) at 7pm.

- DeKalb County will host the Rockbridge Road Meeting on Monday, July 17th at 6:30pm in the Club House to update the community about progress and timelines regarding the four-year reconstruction of Rockbridge Road.

- Stewards of Environmental Education and Design (SEED - Pine Lake's environmental panel) will host the Community Input Session that will be a discussion to create expanded volunteer opportunities to address reported concerns related to fishing and wildlife, water quality, and safe "green space" recreation in Pine Lake. The meeting is on Thursday, July 18th, 2023 on the Beach House at 6:00 pm.

Adoption of Agenda of the Day

Mayor Hammet amended the agenda to include:

1. The addition of– under New Business– Permission for City Manager to Accept an In-Kind Donation of (2) Police Vehicles

2. To place Staff Reports before the second public comments section.

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Council Member Brantley motioned to adopt the amended agenda; Council Member Castro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes

- Special Called Meeting – June 30, 2023

The motion was passed with a 3-1 vote. Council Members Brantley, Castro and Woods voted in favor. Council Member Hall abstained.

- Regular Meeting – June 27, 2023

Council Member Woods motioned to adopt the minutes for Regular Meeting of June 27, 2023; seconded by Council Member Brantley. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote. Council Member Hall abstained.

- Special Called Meeting – June 29, 2023

Council Member Brantley motioned to adopt the minutes for Special Called Meeting of June 29, 2023; seconded by Council Member Castro. The motion passed with a 3-0-1 vote. Council Members Brantley, Castro and Woods voted in favor. Council Member Hall abstained.

Public Comments – 3 minutes each please

Copies of the Public Comments are on file in City Hall for reviewing. Please email missyevartner@pinelakega.net to request copy or call 404-999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

New Business

1. Ordinance 2023-02 - Fee Schedule Amendment - Plan Review Fees amended by Council action on 5/30/2023 -2nd Read

Mayor Hammet provided the Second Read of Ordinance 2023-02 - Fee Schedule Amendment - Plan Review Fees amended by Council action on 5/30/2023. Council Member Hall motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-02; Council Member Castro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Council Confirmation - Mayoral Appointment of Melody Paris to Stewards of Environmental Education and Design (SEED)

Council Member Hall moved to approve Mayor Melanie Hammet's appointment of Melody Paris to SEED; Council Member Woods seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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3. Update on Lake Health and Management

City Manager Miller-Thornton presented the Mayor, Council, and Attendees a detailed summary of the issues surrounding an uptick in E. Coli count for the lake, as well as what was initially suspected as a potential causal issue regarding sewer maintenance in the eastern wetlands. City Manager Miller-Thornton outlined intergovernmental efforts and accomplishments with DeKalb County. Several other actions will be taken regarding Lake Health and Management i.e., future placement of new and an increased number of trash receptacles, placement of signage and creation of brochures relevant to the fishing moratorium, allowance of increased hours for beach maintenance and monitoring, and scheduling of community meetings by SEED to gather community input.

4. City Facilities and Public Spaces Access Assessment

City Manager Miller-Thornton shared the efforts of two Council Members who walked public spaces throughout Pine Lake in search of potential accessibility issues. From this effort, a report and subsequent project list was produced for the City Manager, who deemed the projects listed as within the approximate functional and financial scope of the city. Pine Lake's building official will be engaged to draw up a scope of work for each project; proposals and quotes will be gathered from various contractors. These quotes will be presented to City Council for approval at a future date.

5. Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax II (SPLOST 11)- Work Session and Agreement Considerations

City Manager Miller-Thornton led a preliminary discussion on the SPLOST II, county collected tax disbursement, noting that SPLOST is for capital improvements. City Manager Miller-Thornton added a suggestion that plans relate back to Lake and Recreational areas. The City Manager requested Council to choose to discuss the SPLOST II project list and to determine referendum language. The meeting date will be determined.

6. Permission for City Manager to Accept In-Kind Donation of Police Vehicles from Sandy Springs

Chief Y'Hudah-Green is collaborating with the City of Sandy Springs regarding the in-kind donation of (2) police vehicles from Sandy Springs Police Department to the City's Police Department. Council Member Hall motioned for permission to be granted to the City Manager to accept the in-kind donation of said vehicles, pending conclusion of an analysis of the vehicles' condition and maintenance history; Council Member Castro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments – 3 minutes each please

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Staff Reports

ChaQuais Miller- Thornton
Administration and Public Works

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the City Managers report dated June 27, 2023. The City Manager reports are on file at City Hall for reviewing. Please email missyeverner@pinelakega.net to request a copy or call 404-999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Chief Sarai Y'Hudah-Green
Public Safety

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the Police/Public Safety report dated June 27, 2023. The Police/Public Safety reports are on file at City Hall for reviewing. Please email missyeverner@pinelakega.net to request a copy or call 404-999-4931 to schedule an appointment to review the copy on file.

Reports/Comments

Mayor Hammet

Mayor Hammet thanked the community for engaging with each other regarding issues at the lake and stated that the city is working with limited recourses. The Mayor also thanked City Manager Miller-Thornton and Chief of Police Green for participating in the past meetings on the Rockbridge Road project and encouraged the community to attend the DeKalb County hosted Rockbridge Road Project Update meeting on July 17th at the Club House at 6:30pm.

City Council

Council Member Hall thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and for their public comments. Council Member Hall also stated that the source of communications for the city is not Facebook, and that the city has an official website and the city news blast is emailed out to registered residents every two weeks. Mrs. Hall also communicated that if residents are not registered, they may sign up through City Hall by calling 404-999-4931 to receive the bi-weekly news blasts. In conclusion, Council Member Hall stated that the minutes are posted to the website, once they are approved at the meetings.

Information for the “The Pine Lake News” eblast.

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Upcoming events:

Mayor's Town Halls: Join Mayor Melanie Hammet each Wednesday in July (7/12; 7/19; 7/26) for a conversation about what's happening in Pine Lake. Beach House; 7pm.

Rockbridge Road Meeting: Dekalb County is holding a meeting this coming Monday evening, July 17th, to update the community about progress and timelines regarding the four-year reconstruction of Rockbridge Road. Clubhouse; 6:30 pm.

SEED Community Input Session: Pine Lake's environmental panel (Stewards of Environmental Education and Design) are hosting a discussion to create expanded volunteer opportunities to address reported concerns related to fishing and wildlife, water quality, and safe "green space" recreation in Pine Lake. Thursday, July 18th, 2023. Beach House; 6:00 pm.

Moratorium on fishing: beginning this Saturday, July 15th, there is a moratorium on fishing in the lake. The city will review renewal of the moratorium at the Council meeting on July 25th. During this time the City will focus on lake clean-up, fishing policy, signage, and other improvements to the lake and park experience.

Other news:

New Seed Member: Please welcome Melody Paris as the newly- appointed fifth member of the SEED panel. SEED members also include Jennifer Bridges, chair; Tim McLeod, Kate Nevins, and Wendy Keith-Ott.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Beach Monitor volunteer needed this weekend to fill Saturday and Sunday shifts from 3pm to close. Split shirts from 3pm-6pm and 6pm to 9pm are also available. If you are available to serve, please contact City Manager Thornton at chaquiasmthornton@pinelakega.net.

Eastern Wetlands: On July 8th DeKalb County replaced lids to multiple sewerage system junction boxes in the City's eastern wetlands. The replacement of lids should help to reduce both the smell of sewer and the population of mosquitoes in the area. DeKalb Public Health has set up mosquito trapping stations in the area as well.

Millage Rate: On 06/27/2023 the City Council lowered the ad valorem tax millage rate from the 2022 rate of 18.422 to the current rate of 16.481.

Ongoing:

Pine Lake City Council Meetings are held the second and last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber / Courthouse at the corner of Forest and Pine.

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Food Assistance is made available to Pine Lake Neighbors through PLAIN's Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) program. If you or someone you know is food insecure or needs other assistance, please call 404 491-0774 and leave a message. A volunteer will call back to discuss needs and help available. All contacts are kept confidential.

Correction To:

**Pine Lake News Brief
Pursuant to July 11th, 2023, 2023 Council Meeting**

Please note that the date of the SEED Community Input Session is a **Tuesday** rather than **Thursday** as originally reported. Sorry for the confusion.

SEED Community Input Session: Pine Lake's environmental panel (Stewards of Environmental Education and Design) are hosting a discussion to create expanded volunteer opportunities to address reported concerns related to fishing and wildlife, water quality, and safe "green space" recreation in Pine Lake. **Tuesday**, July 18th, 2023. Beach House; 6:00 pm.

Links to remember:

[Pine Lake Website](#)

[City Manager's Report](#)

[Chief of Police Report](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

Adjournment

Council Member Castro motioned for adjournment at 8:30pm; seconded by Council Member Brantley, and the motion passed unanimously.

Missye Varner, Administrative Coordinator