

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA**

Call to Order: Mayor Melanie Hammet called the Regular Session to order at 7:03pm.

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

Adoption of Agenda of the Day

Council Member Woods moved to adopt the agenda of the day; Council Member Castro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Minutes

- Special Called Meeting – August 22, 2023
- Regular Meeting – August 29, 2023

Council Member Castro moved to adopt the minutes from the August 22nd Special Call Meeting, and the August 29th Regular Meeting; Council Member Brantley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Lake, Parks, and Recreational Facilities Policy
 - a. Revisit draft Ordinance 2023-04 – To Amend Chapter 62 Public Works, ARTICLE IV – Lake, Parks, and Recreational Facilities
 - b. Council consideration of intent to continue fishing moratorium set to expire Thursday, September 21, 2023.

City Manager Miller-Thornton noted the current moratorium is set to expire September 21st. Since the moratorium exists under emergency pretenses, the City Manager added, City Council would need to justify such an emergency. Additionally, the current code verbiage stipulates that fishing be permitted in the absence of such an emergency. Following discussion among City Council and Mayor Hammet, it was determined no such emergency is present. City Manager Miller-Thornton also suggested that the Mayor and Council draft more explicit language regulating fishing in the lake area. City Council Members Woods and Brantley have been tasked with consulting wildlife and public land management agencies, as well as collecting citizen input, in preparation for drafting a new city ordinance. A first read of an ordinance regulating fishing is tentatively scheduled for the September 26th Regular Meeting. No action was taken by City Council.

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New Business

1. Confirmation of Appointment – Ad Hoc Committee for City Representation on DeKalb County Stormwater Master Plan and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

City Council appointed Greg Zarius and Brandy Hall to the Ad Hoc Committee on DeKalb County Stormwater Master Plan and Intergovernmental Agreement, which also includes City Manager Miller-Thornton and City Attorney Susan Moore. Council Member Brantley moved to confirm the appointment; Council Member Castro seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Contracted services for Sheep to Overgraze the Dam/Bank and Inner Walking Berm – Discussion 3. Resolution R-18-2023 – FY2023 Budget Amendment

A presentation was heard by the owner of Ewe Can Do It Naturally, an organization that “leases” herds of sheep for ecologically-conscious landscape overgrowth management. The purpose of his presentation was to educate City Council and attendees on the process of hosting these animals. No action was taken by City Council.

3. Resolution R-18-2023 – FY2023 Budget Amendment

City Council discussed paths for funding efforts to address overgrowth in the lake and wetland areas. Following deliberation, Council agreed to use funds from the American Rescue Plan earmarked for dam maintenance. Council Member Castro moved to approve Resolution R-18-2023; Council Member Woods seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports and Other Business

ChaQuias Miller- Thornton — City Manager (Director of Administration, Courts and Public Works)

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the City Manager’s report dated August 8, 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 — Chief of Police, Public Safety

Please refer to [the link](#) to access the Police/Public Safety report dated August 8, 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)

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Pine Lake News Blast

Upcoming events:

Elections: On November 7, 2023, a municipal general election will be held in the CITY OF PINE LAKE. Mayor and two City Council seats up for election.

Key Dates:

08/21/2023 - First day to request a mail-in absentee ballot.

09/23/2023 - Earliest day for registrar to mail an absentee ballot.

10/27/2023 - Last day to submit absentee ballot application.

10/11/2023 - Last day to register.

10/16/2023 - Early in-person voting begins.

Other news:

Moratorium on fishing expires September 21: The City has been collecting information on lake and greenscape impact and management through research and recommendations from SEED. Many thanks to them for the Town Hall and for the trash auditing tool, currently operationalized via this link: [Join Litter Study](#)

In addition, Councilpersons Tracey Brantley and Augusta Woods are working on additional considerations and best practices in consultation with Department of Natural Resources and a lake analysis for pragmatic and enforceable future fishing policy.

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.

Links to remember:

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City Manager's Report

Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes

Adjournment

Council Member Brantley motioned for adjournment at 8:33pm; Council Member Woods seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ned Dagenhard

Ned Dagenhard
Assistant City Clerk

C.M. Thornton

ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
Acting City Clerk