

**CITY OF PINE LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 31, 2026 at 6:00PM  
Courthouse & Council Chambers  
459 Pine Drive, Pine Lake, GA 30072**

**Call to Order:** Mayor pro tem Goldberg called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01PM.

Present: Mayor pro tempore Jeff Goldberg, and Council Members Deborah Hull, Stephanie Kohler, Jane Lowers, and Thomas Torrent. Also present were City Manager Stanley Hawthorne, City Attorney Chris Balch, Chief of Police Sarai Y’Hudah-Green, Public Works Director Bernard Kendrick, and City Clerk Ned Dagenhard. Finance Associate Stephen Mayer was not in attendance.

**Announcements/Communications**

Council Member Kohler extended thanks to the community for attending the recent Town Hall, and to resident-Kathie deNobriga for facilitating. Ms. Kohler added that they expected a to organize an April *Community Chat* event.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg stated that a recording of the Town Hall was being transmitted to the City Clerk for publication. Mr. Goldberg added that the City Council was planning items for future *Community Chat* events.

**Adoption of the Agenda of the Day**

Council Member Torrent motioned to adopt the agenda; Council Member Lowers seconded.

No discussion took place.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**Adoption of the Minutes**

- February 24, 2026 – Regular Meeting
- March 10, 2026 – Work Session

Council Member Hull moved to adopt the minutes; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote on the minutes.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**New Business**

**1. Resolution R-2026-12, House Bill (HB) 1116 Property Tax Limitation**

Council Member Lowers moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-12; Council Member Hull seconded.

City Manager Hawthorne explained the apparent thesis behind HB 1116, which sought to set limitations on property tax rate increases and install a floating sales tax. For small municipalities, Mr. Hawthorne stated, the legislation posed a threat to funding sustainability.

The City Manager continued that the resolution proposed included language provided by a fellow DeKalb County municipality, and adoption—while largely symbolic—would present a unified rebuke.

Council Members Torrent and Kohler praised the resolution, adding comments that any opportunity to voice opposition to HB 1116 should be taken.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg clarified with the City Manager the limitations the legislation would put on property tax collection authority, which would be limited and not outright removed.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**2. Resolution R-2026-13, Appointment of PLAIN Liaison**

Mayor pro tem Goldberg named Council Member Deborah Hull as City Council's Liaison to PLAIN; Council Member Lowers seconded; Council Member Kohler thirded.

A discussion took place, wherein Mayor pro tem Goldberg made a process inquiry to the City Attorney.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**3. Resolution R-2026-15, Authorizing Purchase of (2) Police Patrol Vehicles (SPLOST)**

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-15; Council Member Hull seconded.

Chief Y’Hudah-Green presented the requisition request, adding that while the purchases had been appropriated in the previous fiscal year budget, the recent identification of the vehicles after January 1, 2026 necessitated additional approval under purchasing procedure.

Council Member Lowers inquired as to the previous budgeted amount—sourced from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds. Chief Y’Hudah-Green responded that the upset limit had been \$50,000, and this purchase would come in at \$42,000.

Council Member Hull asked about the mileage and warranty associated with the vehicles. Chief Y’Hudah-Green explained the different purposes of patrol vehicles as investigative and “on-the-road,” and cited a 30-day warranty.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**4. Resolution R-2026-16, Amending Classification and Pay Plan to Include Public Safety Position of “Sergeant”**

Council Member Torrent moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-16; Council Member Hull seconded.

City Manager Hawthorne clarified that the City Council action would create a position within the existing pay and classification scale for “Seargent,” rather than authorize promotion of an employee.

Council Member Hull asked whether the position was a standard in other cities; Chief Y’Hudah-Green responded in the affirmative.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**5. Resolution R-2026-17, Rejection of Beach House Renovation Bid**

Council Member Lowers moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-17; Council Member Torrent seconded.

Director Kendrick recommended that—following *Collins Constriction Group's* disinterest in a reduced scope of work—the City Council should reject the bid proposal, and proceed with the limited scope as a maintenance project.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**6. Resolution R-2026-18, Beach House Electrical and Plumbing Improvements**

Council Member Hull moved to adopt Resolution R-2026-18; Council Member Lowers seconded.

Council Member Torrent inquired as to whether outside lighting was included in the electrical work scope; Director Kendrick responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Hull and Director Kendrick engaged in a brief discussion regarding ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) installation.

Mayor pro tem Goldberg called for a vote.

All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

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**7. Resolution R-2026-19, Call for Municipal Special Election – May 19, 2026**

Council Member Torrent moved to table Resolution R-2026-19.

City Attorney Balch explained to the City Council that, because the Secretary of State's Office requires municipalities to abide by Federal standards vis-a-vis overseas absentee ballot submission deadlines, a May 19<sup>th</sup> Special Election to fill the mayoral vacancy would not be possible. Mr. Balch recommended that City Council table the item until the appropriate time to call for the next available Special Election date (November 3, 2026).

The City Attorney fielded questions from multiple members of City Council, focused mainly on process and timing, as it relates to seating the new Mayor following the November election, and the potential for City Council vacancies in the event that one or more members of City Council opt to run for Mayor.

No other action was taken by the City Council.

**Reports and Other Business**

Mayor pro tem Goldberg provided clarity that—following counseling with the City Attorney regarding Charter provisions around the role of the Mayor pro tempore—he was not the Mayor, but rather continuing in his current role under temporary mayoral authority.

Mr. Goldberg reiterated previous comments thanking residents, attendees, and facilitators at the Town Hall.

Council Members Lowers and Torrent thanked Mayor pro tem Goldberg for his leadership.

**Executive Session**

Council Member Torrent motioned to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation.

The executive session took place.

Council Member Torrent motioned to re-enter the Regular Meeting.

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**Adjournment**

Council Member Torrent motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:57PM.

*Ned Dagenhard*

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Ned Dagenhard, City Clerk

