

**CITY OF PINE LAKE
TOWN HALL MEETING
MAY 3, 2016
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Melanie Hammet called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Megan Pulsts, Council members Jean Bordeaux, Erika Brown and Tonja Holder.

INTRO

Mayor Hammet introduced herself and presented the following bullet points of the January-April 2016 accomplishments and status:

- Comprehensive Plan Update – Active Status
- Economic Development Planning & Work – Active Status
- Residential Zoning –Passed
- Commercial Zoning Update – Active Status
- Green Haven City Bid for 2016
- DOT/DeKalb Co. Prep on Rockbridge Road Work

Hammet stated that Public Works was working on the Mayor's List of things to do and to date some of the completed tasks are the painted entrance sign, painting and corked information boards throughout the city, painted wall at the beach/lake and other projects.

1st SEMESTER RECAP: Mayor Pro Tem Pulsts

Pulsts said that the biggest accomplishment was getting the new residential code adopted. The new code went from 62 pages to 20 pages and is user friendly for understanding. She talked about grandfathering of properties and the increase of lot coverage to 35%. Pulsts stated that the new code will stream line the building permits process.

Pulsts stated that the commercial zoning code is projected for completion in late summer of 2016. She also said that the Comprehensive Plan is underway and that there was a meeting on April 24 with Atlanta Regional Commission who is assisting with the plan for long term planning.

Mayor Pro Tem Pulsts announced that the Memorial Cookout will be at the Beach House on May 28th beginning at 11:30 am. She also announced that the Community Breakfast will be on May 7th starting at 8:30 am. Pulsts requested residents to donate soap, new socks and tee shirts for the Emory Medical School of Migrant Farm Workers Project collection box.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Council Member Brown

Brown stated that the main source of the city revenue property taxes and that the Mayor was looking for ways to diversify the revenue stream so that the city can be more financially secure and provide better service to the citizens. She also said that Hammet attended the Georgia Academy of Economic Development workshop before taking office to look at ways of additional income for the city and to learn the mechanism of economic development for municipalities. Brown shared these goals:

Short Term Goals:

- Replacement for new a Facilities Manager contracting Cheryl Hubbard who is doing a great job renting out the facilities and that the projection for 2016 revenue will double
- Hammet has created the Municipal Arts Panel (MAP) which promotes and supports resident artist, solicit donations, and to fund a grant to be awarded to a Pine Lake Artist in Hand Craft Arts. MAP operates in the city; however their revenues are not city revenues. MAP has met with Savannah College of Art and Design and is working towards the goal of collaborating on urban planning and design.
- The city has contracted with Christopher Jones, Economic Development and Commercial Zoning Consultant and he is working on bringing new business and promoting the city. The commercial code will be the future guide for development.

Intermediate Goals:

- Jones is actively working to bring new commercial business

- MAP to develop events that will serve as Market Place Events to generate revenue

Long Term Goals:

- To attract Development and businesses to Rockbridge Road Commercial Corridor

DOT REPORT: Council Member Holder

Holder talked about the widening of Rockbridge Road with it being 12 feet on the south of the post office side with a turning lane in the middle. She said that the DOT timeline of the processing the right of way is June 2016 with construction beginning in Fall 2016 and completion of the project within 9-12 months. Holder stated that Mayor Hammet has met with DOT for an option of safer pedestrian crossing going to the post office. Holder also stated that DOT will attempt to save as many trees as possible and that work will not be done during peak times due to high traffic volume.

A citizen inquired about a roundabout and the Mayor answered that per DOT there will not be one. There was conversation about additional crosswalks and sidewalks. Holder said that pedestrian safety was the #1 priority and preserving greenspace was important. She also said that funding was coming from a Pine Lake Grant, DeKalb County and the Department of Transportation.

A resident asked for DOT to do something to slow the flow and calm traffic at the hill on Rockbridge Road. Hammet said that there were three major concerns regarding the widening of Rockbridge that are pedestrian safety, lighting and plantings to be infused

GREEN HAVEN: Council Member Bordeaux

Bordeaux passed out a Greenhaven fact sheet that included web addresses and a map of the proposed city. She stated that it would be the second largest city in the state. Bordeaux said that the bill did not pass to make Greenhaven a city in 2016 but that it will be re-introduced in 2017. She said that the governor has to sign the bill for it to be placed on the ballot. Greenhaven representative were to talk with municipalities before the 2016 legislative session and did not. Bordeaux talked about proposed annexation planning. Bordeaux said that there are four fully functional cities that would be affected by economic development.

On May 18th there will be a Town Hall Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse and Greenhaven will be the topic for discussion.

Kathy deNobriga, Resident stated that Greenhaven will not have a police department and that it is important to keep DeKalb County strong.

Pulsts said that Pine Lake would be landlocked if Greenhaven becomes a city and that the city needs to look at immediate options for annexation. A citizen asked if there could be an opposition initiative.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

deNobriga said that there is an issue with annexation that was identified in 2015 on the side of Rockbridge Road that is not in the city. She also stated that currently Pine Lake does not have an ordinance for liquor sales and that that owners that have a license with the county could lose their license and close. deNobriga proposed a referendum for the November 2016 to vote on packet sales. She said that the city has 620 registered voters and need about 250 signatures of registered voters by July 2016. deNobriga said that she has a petition requesting the referendum and that the petition must be citizen driven and not of the city.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Missye Varner, Administrative Assistant