

CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

February 8, 2022

Present: Mayor Jim Thornton; Council Members Nathan Gaskin, Tom Gore, Willie Edmondson, Mark Mitchell and Jim Arrington

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor; City Planner Mark Kostial; Youth Council Advisor Adam Speas

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Jimmy McMillian of Baptist Tabernacle, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on January 25, 2022.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to annex/zone property located on New Airport Road. No comments were received and Council heard the first reading of the following ordinances:

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO ANNEX TO THE CITY CONTIGUOUS REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ROBERT E. CMPANALE AND LOCATED ON NEW AIRPORT ROAD; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO CLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE TO BE ANNEXED INTO THE CITY LOCATED ON NEW AIRPORT ROAD AND OWNED BY ROBERT E. CAMPANALE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

\*\*\*\*\*

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to rezone property located in the 1400 block of Vernon Street. Noah Randall, Managing Director of Development with Alliance Residential, spoke in support of the project. Mr. Randall said he believes their proposal and vision are worthy of consideration, as they care about place making and giving people good quality of life. Chris Harrell, Civil Engineer with Summit Engineering Consultants, reiterated that Vernon Street is a very busy street that is controlled by GDOT and they working with them on what they want to see, an intersection control analysis has been done but he doesn't know if another signal will be required. Merg Hoffman, Developers of the Publix anchored shopping center that will be located in the same area, spoke in favor of the rezoning and stated he has been working with developers on the project.

David Sample, 1201 Vernon Street, was the first to speak against the rezoning, and introduced the other speakers that would follow him. Laura Daniel, believes the rezoning does not meet UDO standards, and stated a buffer must be provided or we would not be enforcing the development standards. She stated the proposed rezoning adversely affect existing use of adjacent properties and single family properties. Janice Ingram spoke against rezoning, stating the comprehensive study responses are in favor of single family units and that multi-family were almost last. Kim Burch spoke next, stating that the developers are not investing in our community, and their plan is to come in, build and sell in 3-7 years. Traffic is great concern to her. Mitch Cummings spoke on behalf of the Buckeye Creek homeowners association against the rezoning, stating it's not good

for citizens near downtown LaGrange and that a large scale apartment complex is not in best interest of anyone, and they will have an adverse effect on single family homes in the area.

Council Member Jim Arrington recused himself from consideration and discussion of the rezoning.

There were no other comments and the public hearing was closed. Council heard the first reading of the following ordinance:

#### AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON VERNON STREET AND OWNED BY SYNOVUS TRUST COMPANY, N.A. IN ITS CAPACITY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST CREATED UNDER THE WILL OF FULLER E. CALLAWAY, JR. FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHARLES D. HUDSON, JR., ET AL. AND SYNOVUS TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE FOR ALICE HAND CALLAWAY, ET AL. U/T/A DTD 12-29-76, WITH FULLER E. CALLAWAY, JR. AS SETTLOR; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

\*\*\*\*\*

Adam Speas introduced Intern Lauren Farris, LHS Senior and Intern for the GIS and Economic Development Departments. Ms. Farris interned for eight weeks and with the GIS Department was shown how mapping works and how GIS changed the functionality of utility mapping, as well as police and fire districts. Ms. Farris worked with the Economic Development Department, and had no idea how many manufacturing companies are located in LaGrange. She learned that Economic Development not only recruits new businesses but also supports existing businesses and industries. Overall, Ms. Farris said she had an amazing experience during her internship, and is beyond thankful for opportunity. Mayor Thornton thanked Ms. Farris for her report and her dedication to the city.

Mr. Edmondson reported that, because February is Black History Month, he wanted to salute several African Americans from our community. Dr. Benjamin Woods and Dr. Epps were the first African American doctors here; John Moore was the first and only African American to own a drugstore downtown; African American military men and women; Horace Ward, the first Federal judge from LaGrange; teachers such as Mrs. Ethyl W. Kight; Horace King, African American bridge builder, and so many others. Mayor Thornton joined Mr. Edmondson in the recognition and celebrating black history month.

Mr. Gaskin expressed his concern about the continued deterioration of the Griggs Center. He said it's been a cornerstone for the youth in the African American community, and that the amenities are poor, the building leaks and overall is in bad shape. He realizes that this building does not belong to the City, but he wants more put into his community.

Ms. Kelsey presented copies of the January 2022 financial statements and payment of bills over \$2,000 for Council's information.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Heard County Water Authority. This agreement will eliminate the base charge of the 6" meter that currently serves Rock Mills Road in exchange for the City being responsible for maintenance on the meter.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the Development Authority, authorizing the City to convey 100 plus acres located adjacent to Upper Big Springs Road to the Development Authority that they will then convey to CEA Fresh Farms.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that the LaGrange Youth Council had an incredible event last night with the Boys & Girls Club of West Georgia. Every year the Youth Council adopts three projects, and this year they have adopted Mental Health, Sustainability and Mentorship. The Mentorship Committee hosted a pizza and ice skating party at Sweetland

Amphitheatre where each Youth Council member was paired up with two Boys & Girls Club members and spent time talking to them about themselves and getting involved in Youth Council. The Youth Council served the young group pizza and cookies and both groups had such a wonderful time, we are hoping to make this an annual event. Special thanks to the Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Sabrina Allen for helping this event become an incredible success.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

---

Mayor

---

City Clerk