

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

November 8, 2022

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Hugo Oropeza, First Hispanic Church of LaGrange, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mayor Thornton presented a 25 year service award to Jeff Snellgrove, Telecommunications Technician. Mayor Thornton expressed his appreciation to Mr. Snellgrove for his years of service and dedication to the City of LaGrange. Alan Slaughenaupt, I.T. Director, also thanked Mr. Snellgrove for his service.

Staff member and Youth Council Advisor Adam Speas introduced members of the LaGrange 101 Class to discuss recent events they had recently attended. Simone Acosta gave information on the 2022 GMA Youth Symposium in Dublin, Georgia and McKenzie Aldridge and Zykia Gray discussed the Youth Day Celebration that they attended. Mayor Thornton thanked them for their continued work in this program.

Kenneth Cox came before the Council to discuss the naming of the new McGregor Street Park. Council had previously decided on the name of Moss Wood Park after former members of the community. Mr. Cox and his family believe the park should have been named after his father, former Council Member Frank Cox, due to the Georgia DOT acquiring the City owned property where Frank Cox Union Street Park was located, for the Highway 27 widening project. Mr. Cox stated they had a petition with over 400 names on it that supported naming the new park after Frank Cox. Mayor Thornton explained to Mr. Cox that the City had hoped there would be a piece of that park left that would continue to hold Frank Cox's name, but that right now he is not sure exactly how that will play out. No action was taken.

Mr. Edmondson reported that he had attended a Leadership Troup meeting and stated that it was a great and enlightening program.

Mr. Arrington reported that he had been asked about signage for court fines and fees and if it could be posted on our website. Staff will contact Judge Baker and report back to Council.

Mr. Gaskin reported his concerns with the amount of trash that was left at Callaway Stadium after the recent LaGrange High School vs. Troup High School football game. The City's monthly trash pick-up team was in the area the next day so they went over and helped pick up the trash. Mr. Gaskin asked who is responsible for the trash being scattered and stated that we should all be helping each other.

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

Ms. Kelsey reported that the Redevelopment Agency had met earlier this date to discuss the Redevelopment Plan, LaGrange Logistics Center Tax Allocation District #6. Ms. Kelsey stated that the Redevelopment Agency is recommending to the Council to create the TAD and to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Troup County Government and Troup County School System. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously call for a public hearing to be held on November 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Kelsey reported that DASH has requested the City to abandon an alley in the 700 block of Lincoln Street to complete their missing middle housing development in the Hillside area. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to abandon the alley.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Sale of Excess Capacity and Sale of Excess Reserve Capacity to the City of Buford.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to approve 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 CODE SO AS TO REMOVE PARKING RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO THE FORMER CENTER PLAZA DRIVE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

That Section 10-20-98 of the Code of the City of LaGrange, regarding tow-away zones, be modified by deleting therefrom the entry and sentence regarding *Center Plaza Drive*.

SECTION 2:

That Section 10-20-96 of the Code of the City of LaGrange, regarding parking, be modified by deleting therefrom the entry and sentence relating to *Center Plaza Drive*.

SECTION 3:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4:

This ordinance after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor shall become effective immediately.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ October 25, 2022

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ November 8, 2022

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ November 8, 2022

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that we are excited about the opening of Sweetland on Ice, Friday, November 18th. Sweetland on Ice is free and open to the public, you just have to pay to skate. Also, we wanted to thank everyone who came out to support our monthly litter cleanup this past weekend in and around the area of Berta Weathersbee Elementary School on Forrest Avenue. Thank you Mayor Thornton and Councilman Gaskin and many others including several service clubs Kiwanis, Rotary and Optimist who helped us leave LaGrange better than we found it. We want to share a video of Saturday morning with you all.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular meeting.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk