

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

June 13, 2023

Present: Mayor Willie Edmondson; Council Members Tom Gore, Nathan Gaskin, Mark Mitchell, Leon Childs and Quay Boddie

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Director Katie Van Schoor; City Planner Mark Kostial

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Edmondson, the invocation was given by Rev. Jimmy Pruitt, of Grace Baptist Church, and Mayor Edmondson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Gore, seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on May 23, 2023.

Mayor Edmondson presented a Georgia Emergency Management Training Certificate to Council Member Gaskin, Council Member Mitchell, and Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone property located adjacent to Panther Way and Pine Street from GP-GB (general campus business) and TN-R (traditional neighborhood residential) to TN-MR (traditional neighborhood medium density residential). Charlene Baxter spoke first, and questioned whether the proposed development would ever be rented to the public, as opposed to use for LaGrange College housing. On behalf of LaGrange College, Jerry Forrester stated that the plan is for the structures, once developed, to be used by the college exclusively. There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation that the Mayor and Council adopt certain UDO text amendments. No comments were received and the public hearing was closed.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on the proposed 2023-24 budget. No comments were received by the public, with City Manager Kelsey noting the removal of a proposal electric and gas rate increases in the proposed budget.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on the proposed Redevelopment Plan for TAD #7. No comments were received.

Communications Director Katie Van Schoor introduced Aniah Rutledge, a local high school student who recently completed an internship with the Communications Department. Ms. Rutledge recounted what she had learned during the six-week experience, and thanked all involved for allowing her to participate in the program.

Russ Pickron addressed the Council regarding miscellaneous grievances.

Kevin Littlefield addressed the Council regarding Mr. Pickron's means and methods of airing his grievances.

Under Council Member Reports, Council Member Boddie expressed his concerns about current issues, generally, and encouraged all to set aside personal feelings and lead LaGrange forward.

Council Member Childs asked about the status of a traffic report discussed earlier in the day at Committee Meeting with City Manager Kelsey responding that she would obtain the information from Chief Fiveash and provide it to Council.

Council Member Gaskin apologized for his outburst at the Mayor at the Work Session and called on all to work together in good faith to meet our common goals.

Mayor Edmondson explained the changes to the proposed budget, and reiterated that holding off from rate increases this year does not mean that the Mayor and Council will not have to seriously consider increases next year.

Ms. Kelsey presented copies of the Financial Statements and payment of bills over \$2,000.00 for Council Members' information.

Upon motion of Mark Mitchell, seconded by Nathan Gaskin and unanimously adopted, the Mayor and Council declared approximately 14 acres of property located on S.L. White Boulevard as surplus, setting a minimum bid of \$840,000.00. Staff was directed to prepare and publish the appropriate notices to allow for sealed bids.

On Motion of Mark Mitchell, seconded by Quay Boddie and unanimously adopted, Council rescheduled the regular meeting of June 27, 2023, for June 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. due to conflicts with Georgia Municipal Association commencing in Savannah.

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 HARRIS STREET AND VERNON STREET AND OWNED BY LAGRANGE COLLEGE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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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 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY SO AS TO MODIFY PROVISIONS RELATING TO NOTICE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW TO CONFORM TO STATE LAW; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Council heard the first reading of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF LAGRANGE FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Council heard the first reading of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

TO LEVY AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE CITY OF LAGRANGE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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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 ARTICLES II AND III OF CHAPTER 15-10 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE FEES FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE AND COMMERCIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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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 CHAPTER 15-10 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE CHARGES FOR DISPOSAL OF VEHICLE TIRES AT THE CITY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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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 CODE OF THE CITY TO MODIFY THE FEE FOR INSUFFICIENT FUND PAYMENT REFUNDS; TO MODIFY CERTAIN RE-ESTABLISHMENT SERVICE FEES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Upon motion of Mr. Gore, seconded by Mr. Mitchell and unanimously passed, Council voted to reappoint Alton West to a one-year term to Alpha-Multi Purpose Center.

Upon motion of Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Boddie, Council unanimously voted to reappoint June Nelson and Ben Yates to the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals, each to a four-year term.

Upon motion of Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Gore and unanimously adopted, Council voted to reappoint Chase Hudson, Tabitha Coverson and Carlton Wood to two-year terms on the Board of Visit LaGrange.

Upon motion by Mr. Gore, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council unanimously reappointed Jay Bartlett to a four-year term on the Tree Advisory Board.

The Good News for tonight is that Governor Kemp recently awarded the city a \$1.4 million grant for local public safety improvements. The money will be used to replace the city's Computer Aided Dispatch, or CAD system, and Records Management System, or RMS, that LPD, the Troup County Sheriff's Office, and Troup County 911 all use. Congratulations.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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City Manager