

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

September 26, 2023

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Edmondson, the invocation was given by Father Tim with St. Peters Catholic Church, and Mayor Edmondson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin, seconded by Mr. Child, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on September 12, 2023.

Staff member and Youth Council Advisor Adam Speas introduced Alisa Lee to the Council. Alisa is a current senior at LaGrange High School, and Chair of this year's Youth Council. Miss Lee spoke on the enjoyment she gets from being involved in the community and her hopes to bring more cultural awareness into our community. Miss Lee also mentioned how exciting it was that LaGrange was hosting the 2023 Youth Council Symposium. This will be an opportunity for our Youth Council to network with other councils and participate in workshops to gain practical skills through simulations and team work.

Ms. Van Schoor offered good news in the form of an update on the ongoing planning of the 1st ever Mayors Ball, Saturday, December 9th at Oakfuskee Conservation Center. The event will recognize all living Mayors and Council Members and raise money for the Mayor's student scholarship program, as well as Toys for Tots. Guest will be treated to a special performance by Singer, Songwriter & Grammy Award Winner, Regina Belle and a grand finale firework show.

Ms. Faye Gilliam of the Theta Xi Zeta LaGrange came before Council to spotlight the Chapter's "Dare to Soar Scholarship's" offered to area children in need wishing to further their education. The LaGrange Zeta's also have adopted several schools in the community to offer their support for book and back to school supplies. Mayor Edmondson thanked the Zeta's for all of the wonderful work they are doing in the community as well as promoting unity in LaGrange.

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to approve the Infrastructure for Phase One of the Silverton Townhome Development.

Ms. Kelsey stated that Mr. Bowie, Utilities Director, had presented information to the Council during the Work Session concerning the need for his department to begin the ordering process for the Filter Plant upgrades. Ms. Kelsey said due to supply chain issues and extensive wait times on receiving materials she would like to request approval to move forward with ordering, with the understanding that no monies would come from this budget cycle. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Arrington Council voted unanimously to approve staff to start the ordering process.

Chief Fiveash updated the Council on the budget amendment allocating additional money to be used for overtime at the Police Department. Chief Fiveash said a portion of the overtime funds had been used on the first crime suppression detail, which included 7 officers leading to 65 citations issued, 43 arrest, 13 Drug Investigations, 22 Warrant's Issued, 5 Guns Seized, and 23 Field Interviews. Chief thanked the Council for the support and said his officers were grateful and appreciated the support. Mr. Gaskin said he would like the community to know and appreciate that Chief Fiveash works 16 hour days and drives a marked patrol car so he is available to help officers patrol our streets. The Council thanked Chief Fiveash and all police officers for their commitment to keeping our citizens and community safe.

Council head a 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 MODIFY THE CODE SO AS TO CLARIFY THE RULES FOR MEADOWAY CEMETERY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted to deny the following ordinance. Messrs. Arrington, Mitchell, Gore & Boddie voted against the ordinance, Mr. Gaskin abstained and Mr. Childs voted in favor of the 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 GORDON CIRCLE AND OWNED BY WILLIAM LUTHER JONES; 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 the zoning map and ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended so as to reclassify from use zone SU-R (suburban single-family residential district) to TN-MR (traditional neighborhood medium-density residential district) the following described real estate, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land located at 433 Gordon Circle and known as Troup County Tax Map Parcel Number 061-1C-013-004.

SECTION 2:

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

SECTION 3:

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

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ September 12, 2023 _____

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ September 26, 2023 _____

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ September 26, 2023 _____

BY: /s/ Willie T. Edmondson, Mayor _____

ATTEST: /s/ Melissa Robertson, City Clerk _____

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted 4-1 to approve the following ordinance, with Mr. Childs voting no:

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 RENDER STREET AND EAST RENDER STREET AND OWNED BY JOSEPH D. THOMPSON; 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 the zoning map and ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended so as to reclassify from use zone TN-R (traditional neighborhood low-density residential district) to CR-MX (corridor mixed use district) the following described real estate, to wit:

All those tracts or parcels of land located at 201 Render Street, 203 Render Street, 205 Render Street, 207 Render Street, 206 East Render Street and 208 East Render Street also known as Troup County Tax Map Parcel Numbers: 050-3A-019-001, 050-3A-019-002, 050-3A-019-003, 050-3A-019-004, 050-3A-019-030 and 050-3A-019-029.

SECTION 2:

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

SECTION 3:

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

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ September 12, 2023

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ September 26, 2023

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ September 26, 2023

BY: /s/ Willie T. Edmondson, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melissa Robertson, City Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Arrington, the 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 ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 10-30 TO MODIFY THE REGULATIONS REGARDING TETHERING OF DOGS; TO DEFINE AND PROHIBIT THE OVERBURDENING OF DOGS; 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 the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting Section 10-30-31, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 10-30-31 to read as follows:

“Sec. 10-30-31. – Proper enclosure of dogs.

- (a) The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this code section, unless otherwise specifically stated:

Proper enclosure means any structure or device used to restrict a dog to a limited amount of space such as a fenced area, electronic animal confinement system, building, house, pen, or other device or structure out of which a dog cannot climb, dig, jump, or otherwise escape. Proper enclosures must have an adequate space for exercise based on a dimension of at least one hundred (100) square feet per each dog that weighs fewer than twenty (20) pounds and two hundred (200) square feet per each dog that weighs more than twenty (20) pounds. Proper enclosures shall also contain appropriate shelter of sufficient size to allow each dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down.

Electronic animal confinement system shall mean a commercially produced, functioning electronic fence which utilizes an invisible electrically generated perimeter, in which the animal within the perimeter wears an electronic collar that produces an electric shock when the animal approaches or exceeds the perimeter.

- (b) It shall be the duty of every owner of a dog to ensure that the dog is securely and humanely enclosed within a proper enclosure as a means of primary restraint. Such enclosure must be securely locked at any time the dog is left unattended. Except when a dog is tethered as allowed within Section 10-30-32, when outside the proper enclosure but on the owner's property, it shall be the duty of every owner of a dog to ensure that the dog is humanely secured by a leash or lead and under the control of a responsible and competent person; or off leash but under the direct control of a responsible and competent person who is physically

present with the dog, provided that such dog is obedient to that person's command.

- (c) Any dog that is housed outside of its owner's house shall be housed in a proper enclosure that complies with the provisions of this Code.
- (d) If an electronic animal confinement system is used to confine a dog, it shall provide a properly fitted and working signal device that will be worn by the dog to be enclosed.”

SECTION 2:

That the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by inserting therein a new Section 10-30-32, to read as follows:

“Sec. 10-30-32. - Tethering of dogs.

- (a) The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this code section, unless otherwise specifically stated:

Attended means in the immediate physical presence and line of sight of a responsible and competent individual.

Tether means attach, whether by chain, rope, tie, leash, or other fastener, whether inside a structure or vehicle or outdoors, to anything, including, but not limited to, any dog house, tree, fence, other animal, vehicle, runner, railing, trolley system, house, or furniture; provided, however, that a leash, attached to a properly fitted harness or collar worn by a dog, that is held by an individual, or attached to a belt or similar item worn by an individual, is not considered a tether.

- (b) Except as set forth in subsection (c) below, it shall be an offense for any person to tether a dog.
- (c) A dog may only be tethered if it is attended.
- (d) The following are additional offenses if the dog is tethered in violation of subsection (c) of this section:
 - (1) using a choke, prong, pinch, martingale, or similar collar; wrapping the tether directly around the dog's neck; or using a slip lead as any part of the tethering device except while the dog is being groomed or provided veterinary care;
 - (2) using a chain as a tether, provided that a premanufactured leash with a chain component shall not be considered a chain;
 - (3) attaching any weight or lock to the dog, its collar or harness, or tether; and
 - (4) using a tether that, together with all items that have their weight borne by the dog, weighs more five (5) percent of the body weight of the tethered dog.
- (e) The following are additional offenses if a dog is tethered in violation of subsection (b) of this section:
 - (1) restricting the dog's range of movement to less than ten (10) feet, after taking into consideration the length of the tether, the height at which the tether is

attached to a thing, any tangling, wrapping, or other shortening of the useful length of the tether, any obstacles, and any other circumstances reducing the animal's range of movement; and

- (2) tethering the dog in a way that the tether can become tangled or so that the dog can reach an object (including, but not limited to, a railing or fence) or edge that could result in injury to the dog, whether or not such injury in fact occurs.
- (f) It shall be an offense for an owner of a dog not to ensure such animal is not tethered in violation of this Section or of any of its subsections.
- (g) Each violation of this Section and of any of its subsections shall be a separate offense.”

SECTION 2:

That the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by inserting therein a new Section 10-30-33, to read as follows:

“Sec. 10-30-33. – Overburdening dogs.

It shall be an offense for any person to overburden a dog. A dog shall be considered overburdened if the combined weight of all items whose weight is borne by the dog (including, but not limited to, any collar, harness, lease, chain, weight, and lock) exceeds five (5) percent of the dog's body weight.”

SECTION 4:

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

SECTION 5:

This Ordinance after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor shall become effective April 1, 2024.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ September 12, 2023

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ September 26, 2023

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ September 26, 2023

BY: /s/ Willie T. Edmondson, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melissa Robertson, City Clerk

The Good News for tonight is we would like to make the citizens of LaGrange aware of two upcoming events in our community. The National Night Out, schedule for October 3rd is a nationwide community campaign to promote partnership between police officers and the communities that they serve. Each year, law enforcement agencies across the country host community events to help develop positive relationships between the members of the community and the police. Additionally the Faith & Blue event is scheduled for October 9th and aims to create safer, more inclusive communities by connecting law enforcement officers and the residents they protect and serve through houses of worship. The community is encouraged to come out and enjoy both of these events.

There being no other business, Mayor Edmondson adjourned the meeting.