

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

March 14, 2023

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Mitchell; Council Members Tom Gore, Nathan Gaskin, Leon Childs and Quay Boddie

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; 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 Pro-Tem Mitchell, the invocation was given by Dr. Charlie Metcalf of Clearview Chapel, and Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell 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 February 28, 2023.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone three parcels on Whiteline Street & Kissler Street from Traditional Neighborhood Residential (TN-R) and Corridor Mixed Use (CR-MX) to Traditional Neighborhood Mixed Use (TN-MX). No comments were received and 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 WHITELINE STREET AND KISSLER STREET AND OWNED BY ANDREW L. MOODY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Russ Pickron came before the Council to discuss transparency. He commented on and questioned the Council as to why certain incidents with the police department were not investigated until he filed a complaint. Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Pickron for coming. Mr. Childs responded to Mr. Pickron regarding a comment directed at him, and his recommendation for Maiya Dowell to be appointed as a District 2 Council Member. Mr. Childs stated that he personally knew Ms. Dowell and he has never known her to hide any documents.

Wanda Barrett came before the Council on August 9, 2022 to express concerns about an incident that happened with her husband's gravesite at Southview Cemetery. At that time, she asked the City to change the Code to allow her to put a concrete slab over this gravesite. Council agreed to make no changes at that time. Ms. Barrett came back to the Council on March 14, 2023, to ask them to reconsider and allow her to place a concrete slab over her husband's gravesite. Mr. Childs asked if we could check back with our landscape workers to see if there could be a resolution. Mr.

Mitchell asked Ms. Barrett to come to the work session on March 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. to further discuss this situation with the appropriate staff. No action was taken.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to deny a Notice of Claim for Damages filed on behalf of Eric McCants and referred them to the City's insurance company for handling.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a request to annex and rezone one (1) acre of property located at 187 South Davis Road. On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to proceed with the annexation.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to annex and rezone property located in the 1700 block of West Point Road. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on April 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Boddie, Council voted unanimously to accept certain streets in Bryant Lake Subdivision, Phase 2A.

Mr. Childs reported that the Council will be moving forward to secure restrooms at Moss & Wood Park.

Ms. Kelsey presented copies of the February 2023 financial statements and payment of bills over \$2,000 for Council's information.

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 SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO COMPROMISE NUISANCE ABATEMENT LIENS PERFECTED UNDER ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 25 C-5 OF THE CODE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 SO AS TO NAME CERTAIN STREETS IN BRYANT LAKE SUBDIVISION; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Good News for tonight is that the City of LaGrange recently won the bid to host the 2024 Youth Symposium for all youth councils in the state of Georgia, October 13th - 15th at Great Wolf Lodge. Hundreds of teenagers will be staying in LaGrange that weekend. We have been trying for years to land this GMA event.

Also, we are also excited to announce the lineup at Sweetland Amphitheatre so far... there are six scheduled – we have a video for you about the upcoming concerts. Sweetland will announce its last round of concerts the week of April 10th – 14th.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem

City Clerk