

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

April 24, 2018

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Teresa Taylor; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Director of Community Development Alton West; Director of Public Services Dion Senn; Director of Public Safety Louis Dekmar; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor.

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

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on April 10, 2018.

Mayor Thornton presented a 25 year service award to Lt. Chris Taylor, retired Public Information Officer of the LaGrange Fire Department. Mayor Thornton expressed the gratitude of the Mayor and Council for Mr. Taylor's service to the City of LaGrange. No action was taken.

Ms. Millie Rice, representative for Neighborhood Grocery Store, appeared before the Mayor and Council and requested that Council waive the 300 feet distance requirement from a church to allow the business to sell alcohol. City staff inadvertently granted the license in November of 2017 when it appeared that a church less than 300 feet away from the business was inactive. Upon further evaluation, the license was revoked prior to the business opening in March of 2018. No action was taken.

Tripp Foster appeared before the Mayor and Council and announced his candidacy for Troup County Commission Chair in the 2018 election. No action was taken.

Herb Cranford, recently appointed District Attorney, appeared before the Mayor and Council and provided a brief update on gangs and gang prosecution within the community. No action was taken.

Mr. Biff Hadden appeared before the Mayor and Council and announced his candidacy for a state Senate seat in District 29. No action was taken.

Ms. Kelsey informed the Mayor and Council that the applicant withdrew the request to rezone 409 Broad Street from R-3 Residential to OIR, Office Institutional Residential. No action was taken.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing on June 12, 2018 to gain citizen input on amending the sign ordinance.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson and seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing on May 8, 2018 to gain citizen input on a proposed Eastside Master Park Plan.

Ms. Cannady appeared before the Mayor and Council and discussed her concerns about an article in the Washington Post concerning Chief Dekmar's position on the right to carry a concealed weapon. She interpreted the article to mean that Chief Dekmar supported the banning of concealed carry. Chief Dekmar stated that he supports conceal carry, but his opposition to the congressional act was due to state rights not concealed carry. No action was taken.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session to discuss property disposition and property acquisition. At the end of the executive session, on a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gore, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the meeting.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem McCamey.

Mayor

Assistant City Manager