

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

April 14, 2020

DUE TO THE CURRENT ORDERS FROM THE CDC AND GOVERNOR KEMP REGARDING SOCIAL DISTANCING, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MET VIA WEBEX TELECONFERENCE.

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Director of Public Utilities Patrick Bowie

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Jimmy McMillian of Baptist Tabernacle, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on March 24, 2020.

Amy Fenn, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing and Clinical Services for District 4 Public Health, gave the Council an update on Coronavirus (COVID 19) in Troup County. Mayor Thornton thanked Ms. Fenn for the information and for keeping the Council and the community updated. No action was taken.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to deny a Notice of Claim for Damages filed on behalf of Susan Hodges and referred it to the City's insurance company for handling.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to deny a Notice of Claim for Damages filed on behalf of A'nylah Daniel and referred it to the City's insurance company for handling.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to deny a Notice of Claim for Damages filed on behalf of Zantureda Thompson and referred it to the City's insurance company for handling.

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

Ms. Kelsey informed the Council that she has been in conversation with Jeff Todd regarding transitioning from his private practice to in-house Counsel. For over 20 years Jeff has added tremendous value and been an integral part of our work here. He knows our culture and understands municipal law. This move will provide some costs savings to the City but more importantly will give us a fully focused legal perspective that we need as we continue to grow as a community. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to approve the transition for Jeff Todd from his private practice to in-house Legal Counsel effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Todd thanked the Council and the City Manager for their confidence in him and stated that he looks forward to being a full time team member with the City of LaGrange.

Ms. Kelsey gave the Council information on the King Arthur Force Main Project that is currently ongoing, stating concerns that we are currently behind schedule on this project and that the sewer project may not be completed by early July as was expected. Staff is asking to expedite the bid process and continue forward with the process by filing under the emergency powers of the Public Works law. On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to proceed to expedite the bid process on a shortened time scheduled.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Utility Aid and Assistance with the City of Grantville. Mr. Mitchell voted in opposition to the agreement, therefore, the agreement passed by a vote of 5 – 1. A copy of the agreement is on file in the City Manager's Office.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Troup County for Allocation of Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) Award. A copy of the agreement is on file in the City Manager's Office.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to approve the Emergency Resolution related Coronavirus (COVID 19). This Resolution is unrelated to Governor Kemp's orders, and restores certain powers to the City Manager.

In closing comments, Mr. Arrington stated that he had spoken with Troup County School Superintendent Dr. Brian Shumate, and he expressed his appreciation to the City for the use of our facilities for their Board meetings.

Mr. Edmondson reported that he had looked at pictures of the new Greenville Street Bridge and was very pleased with the progress. He also stated that the sidewalks on Colquitt Street had been completed and they looked great.

Mr. Gaskin reported that he had walked the new Greenville Street Bridge and taken photos. He expressed the need for new sidewalks on Greenville Street.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the citizens of our community for following the Governor's Shelter In Place Order by staying home.

Mr. Kelsey reported that Troup County has agreed to use their SPLOST Funds to pave a portion of Greenville Street after the completion of the Greenville Street Bridge project.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk