

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

April 28, 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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Mike Reeves of Open Range Cowboy Church, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on April 14, 2020.

Congressman Drew Ferguson called into the meeting to give the Council an update on Coronavirus (COVID 19) and to discuss federal funding available for small business owners. Mayor Thornton and the Council thanked Mr. Ferguson for the information and for keeping the City and the community updated. No action was taken.

Ms. Kelsey presented information to the Council on a request to annex 35.39 acres located on Cameron Mill Road. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to move forward with the annexation process for property located on Cameron Mill Road.

Mr. Arrington told the Council that the Department of Public Health's website has great information regarding COVID 19, and encouraged citizens to use this website for questions, information and updates.

Mr. Gaskin asked that we continue to pray for all of our first responders.

Ms. Kelsey updated the Council on COVID 19's effects on the City. She stated that no changes are planned before May 13, 2020, which is the date that the Governor's State of Emergency expires, and the Resolution that was adopted by the City Council on April 14, 2020 for the City's Emergency Provisions will also expire on that date. Tentatively, City Hall should open to the public on May 14, 2020, and the situation will be evaluated as to what measures need to be in place for our employees and the public in order to maintain their safety.

Ms. Kelsey told the Council that she continues to work on the budget for the 2020-2021 year. There are a few shortfalls thus far with hotel/motel tax but she continues to work through the process.

Finally, she stated that Troup County announced that public parks will potentially re-open on May 18, 2020.

Mr. Gaskin asked when Municipal Court is expected to re-open, and expressed his concern for the return of the eviction process once court reconvenes. He is concerned for the possible strain this could put on our sanitation services and the potential for homelessness in the area. He encouraged landlords to work with their tenants who may not have been able to pay their rent due to lack of work during this time. He asked that the Judges are made aware that the burden will fall on the City.

Mayor Thornton stated that he had spoken with Troup County Chairman Patrick Crews in reference to re-opening the courts. Mr. Crews stated that they are evaluating how to go about re-opening the court house and the court system. The judicial emergency currently in place prevents opening before mid-May. Courts will be phasing in their re-opening. Mayor Thornton reminded

the Council that Magistrate Court handles the evictions and they are enforced by the Troup County Marshall's office. The City cannot interfere in the judicial process, but can communicate our concerns about the implementation of eviction orders and the strain on our services. Mr. Edmondson concurred, and stated that he hopes the County will help alleviate some of the problems to allow others catch up on their rent.

Ms. Kelsey stated that she hopes Municipal Court will be able to re-open on May 18, 2020.

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

Mayor

City Clerk