

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

July 14, 2020

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL HELD THEIR MEETING AT DEL AVANT, 141 MAIN STREET, LAGRANGE, GEORGIA.

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; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor; City Attorney Jeff Todd

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Aaron McCollough of the Troup County Baptist Association, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on June 23, 2020.

Mayor Thornton presented a 30 year service award to Lt. Jim Ormsby with the LaGrange Fire Department. Mayor Thornton expressed his appreciation to Lt. Ormsby for his years of service to the community and to the citizens of LaGrange.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to annex and zone property located on Cameron Mill Road. No comments were received and Council heard the first reading of the following ordinances:

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO ANNEX TO THE CITY COONTIGUOUS REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY SYNOVUS TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE OF THE TESTAMENTARY TRUST UNDER THE WILL OF FULLER E. CALLAWAY, JR. AND LOCATED ADJACENT TO CAMERON MILL ROAD; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 CLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ADJACENT TO CAMERON MILL ROAD AND OWNED BY SYNOVUS TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE OF THE TESTEMENTARY TRUST CREATED UNDER THE WILL OF FULLER E. CALLAWAY, JR.; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to rezone property located at 610 Greenville Street. 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 AT 610 GREENVILLE STREET AND OWNED BY BLACKWELL REALTY AND LANDHOLDING COMPANY, LLC; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to rezone property located at 105 Cooley Road. 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 AT 105 COOLEY ROAD AND OWNED BY JAMES AND CONNIE STOTHARD; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to rezone property located at 407 N. Greenwood Street. The applicant, Phillip Abbott, spoke to the Council in favor of the rezoning. No other 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 AT 407 NORTH GREENWOOD STREET AND OWNED BY PARK HILL PROPERTIES, LLC; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on modifying the restaurant/eating establishment size allowed in the C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) District. 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 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY SO AS TO MODIFY THE SIZE OF RESTAURANT OR EATING ESTABLISHMENT ALLOWED WITHIN THE C-1 DISTRICT; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on amending the sign ordinance in the C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) District. 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 SIGN ORDINANCE SO AS TO CLARIFY THAT BUILDING SIGNS ARE ALLOWED WITHIN THE C-1 DISTRICT IF VISIBLE FROM A PUBLICLY MAINTAINED MULTI-USE TRAIL; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to deny a request to extend the sidewalk in the 100 block of Gordon Street to its intersection with Broad Street. Sandy Winslow spoke in opposition of the sidewalk extension. Discussion was held regarding a residence under construction owned by Mike Patton and located on the corner of Gordon Street and Broad Street. Mayor Thornton pointed out that Mr. Patton's newly constructed driveway is in the City right-of-way and if, in the future, the City decides to make improvements or address utility infrastructure, it would be the homeowner's financial responsibility to construct any improvements disturbed. Council agreed that the City is in need of a policy that addresses construction within the public right-of-way.

Mayor Thornton noted that Amending the Noise Ordinance would not be first read at this meeting due to the need of a public hearing. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on August 11, 2020.

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 ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 10-20 IN ORDER TO CREATE SHORT-TERM PARKING WITHIN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT; TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION AND NUMBER OF SAID PARKING SPACES; 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 ALCOHOLOIC BEVERAGES ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE BARRIER REQUIREMENT FROM SIDEWALK CAFÉ REGULATIONS; TO MODIFY THE

DEFINITION OF PREMISES TO ALLOW CERTAIN OUTSIDE SALES WITHOUT A PHYSICAL BARRIER; 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 ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 10-20 IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN OFF-ROAD VEHICLES FROM OPERATING ON PUBLIC STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER AREAS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; 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 CITY UTILITIES CHAPTER OF THE CODE TO ADOPT A TARIFF IN SUPPORT OF THE SOUL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Lou Dekmar to a three year term on the LaGrange Gas Authority.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Adam Johnson to the Tree Advisory Board.

Matt Williams, a new resident of LaGrange that recently moved here from New York, came before the Council to ask about public health and the use of masks within our community.

Bobbie Hart came before the Council to express her concerns about COVID-19 in our community.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that the City has been involved in the Mask Troup County campaign and has given out over 70,000 masks in the community, and that if anyone is in need of a mask they can contact the City or Dennis Knight with Emergency Management.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss litigation.

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

Mayor

City Clerk