

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

October 22, 2019

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

Absent: Council Member LeGree McCamey

Also Present: City Planner Leigh Threadgill; City Clerk Sue Olson; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Ben Wills of First United Methodist Church and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on October 8, 2019.

Chief Lou Dekmar presented a Retirement Badge to Billy Baker, formerly with the LaGrange Police Department. Chief Dekmar thanked Mr. Baker for his many years in public safety.

Mayor Thornton presented a 35 year service award to Captain Andree Robinson with the LaGrange Police Department. Mayor Thornton expressed the gratitude of the Mayor and Council for Capt. Robinson's years of service to the citizens and the City of LaGrange. Chief Lou Dekmar also thanked Capt. Robinson for her years of service and dedication to the LaGrange Police Department and to the citizens of LaGrange.

Melsnease Render with Global Empowerment Imaging Consulting came before the Council to express the need for a women's homeless shelter in LaGrange. She stated that we have a men's shelter and a battered women's shelter, but believes there is a gap there and that many homeless women and children are being left without a temporary place to go. Mayor Thornton stated that the City Council recognizes the need for such a shelter and asked that she meet with Chief Dekmar to discuss the needs.

Ms. Threadgill presented to the Council a recommendation from the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals to rezone 1702 Adamson Street from R-2 (Residential) to R-3 (Residential). On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on November 12, 2019.

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

Ms. Threadgill presented information to the Council regarding a request from DLDA for improvements to Sweetland on Ice. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to give \$150,000 to DLDA to create a permanent slab for the tent/pavilion area.

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 BY MODIFYING THE DEFINITION
OF ADEQUATE SHELTER FOR DOMESTICATED ANIMALS;
TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN
EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor shared with the Council a music video that was created showcasing the Hillside “Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It” litter cleanup on October 12th. The video features Council Member Nathan Gaskin who was the inspiration behind the “Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It” slogan. The next cleanup will be November 2nd at the LaGrange Fire Department Headquarters and will be partnering with LaGrange College.

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

Mayor

City Clerk