

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

January 12, 2021

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

Absent: Council Member LeGree McCamey

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor; Community Development Director Alton West

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Michael Jackson of Confidence Missionary Baptist Church, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on December 22, 2020.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to zone property located at 71 Busch Drive to G-I (General Industrial). 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 CLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE TO BE ANNEXED INTO THE CITY LOCATED ON BUSCH DRIVE AND OWNED BY YOGAO, LLC; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. West presented information to the Council regarding a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone property located at 111 and 115 Fort Drive from R-3 (Residential) to C-3 (General Commercial). On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on February 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Ms. Kelsey reported to the Council that it was time once again for the Comprehensive Plan Update. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on January 26, 2021.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
QUALIFYING FEES FOR 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-131 (a)(1) requires that qualifying fees for public offices be fixed and published; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-131 (a)(1) requires that the governing body of a municipality fix and publish qualifying fees for each of its offices not later than February 1 the year the general election is to be held; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. Sec. 21-2-131 (a)(1) states the qualifying fee for each office to be filled in the upcoming election shall not be more than three (3) percent of the income derived from such office paid in the preceding calendar year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange, Georgia, do hereby fix the qualifying fee for the office of Mayor at Three Hundred Sixty (\$360.00) dollars and Council Member at Two Hundred Eighty Eight (\$288.00) dollars do hereby publish the same.

This 12th day of January, 2021

James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sue Olson, Clerk

Council heard the first reading of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO ANNEX TO THE CITY CONTIGUOUS REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY YOGAO, LLC AND LOCATED AT 71 BUSCH DRIVE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to approve 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 EXEMPT RESTAURANTS AND SPECIAL EVENT CENTERS WITHIN THE C-2 AND C-3 ZONING DISTRICTS FROM THE DURATIONAL RESTRICTIONS FOR PORTABLE CONCESSION STANDS; TO MODIFY DURATIONAL RESTRICTIONS AS TO ALL PORTABLE CONCESSION STANDS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA, HEREBY
ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

That subparagraph c. of subsection (2) of Section 25-35-64 be amended by deleting said subparagraph, in its entirety, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 25-35-64 (2) c. to read as follows:

- “c. Up to one (1) portable concession stand, provided that it has been approved by the health department; it is located within one hundred (100) feet of a bathroom facility containing a toilet and wash sink that has been approved for public use by the owner; and the unit is not located in a required parking space and will not interfere with safe traffic circulation on the site. Once a portable concession stand has been used to conduct business or has otherwise been placed on a lot within this zone, it may remain on said lot for up to three (3) days or portions of days per week.”

SECTION 2:

That subsection (2) of Section 25-35-64 be amended by inserting therein a new subparagraph d. to read as follows:

- “d. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, a portable concession stand may be removed from and returned to a particular lot during nonbusiness hours during the three (3) day period of limitation referenced herein. Merchants participating in events on public property sanctioned and approved by the Downtown LaGrange Development Authority or the Troup County Parks and Recreation Commission shall be exempt from the durational requirements of this section. Also, a portable concession stand operating on the lot of an existing and operating restaurant (as defined in Section 30-20-96) or special events center shall be exempt from said durational requirements.”

SECTION 3:

That subparagraph c. 1. of subsection (4) of Section 25-35-65 be amended by deleting said subparagraph, in its entirety, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 25-35-65 (4) c. 1. to read as follows:

- “c. Up to one (1) portable or stationary concession stand, provided that it satisfies the following applicable requirements:

1. Up to one (1) portable concession stand, provided that it has been approved by the health department; it is located within one hundred (100) feet of a bathroom facility containing a toilet and wash sink that has been approved for public use by the owner; and the unit is not located in a required parking space and will not interfere with safe traffic circulation on the site. Once a portable concession stand has been used to conduct business or has otherwise been placed on a lot within this zone, it may remain on said lot for up to three (3) days or portions of days per week. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, a portable concession stand may be removed from and returned to a particular lot during nonbusiness hours during the three (3) day period of limitation referenced herein. Merchants participating in events on public property sanctioned and approved by the

Downtown LaGrange Development Authority or the Troup County Parks and Recreation Commission shall be exempt from the durational requirements of this section. Also, a portable concession stand operating on the lot of an existing restaurant (as defined in Section 30-20-96) or special events center shall be exempt from said durational requirements.”

SECTION 4:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5:

This ordinance, after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor, shall become effective immediately.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ December 22, 2020 _____

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ January 12, 2021 _____

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ January 12, 2021 _____

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor _____

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk _____

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to deny 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 REMOVE WINDOW AREA RESTRICTIONS FOR GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS OF VACANT BUILDINGS WITHIN THE C-2 DISTRICT; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

That subsection (o) of Section 25-10-16 of the code be deleted, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection 25-10-16 (o) to read as follows:

- “(o) Window signs. Window signs on residentially zoned or used properties (including OIR-1). Also prohibited are individual or aggregate window signs exceeding twenty (20) percent of the window area per building elevation for all other districts, except for the ground floor windows of vacant buildings within the C-2 district, for which there shall be no window area restrictions.”

SECTION 2:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3:

This Ordinance after adoption by the Council and approval by the Mayor shall become effective immediately.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ December 22, 2020

SECOND READING AND REJECTED _____ January 12, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED/DISAPPROVED _____

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to reappoint the following Board Members:

- Carolyn Haamid to a one year term on the Community Action for Improvement Board
- Tommy Wood to a five year term on the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals
- Speer Burdette to a five year term on the LaGrange Development Authority
- Jim Thornton, Mark Mitchell, LeGree McCamey, Willie Edmondson, Tom Gore, Nathan Gaskin, Jim Arrington and Meg Kelsey to one year terms on the LaGrange Governmental Finance Corporation
- Dr. Richard Freeman to a three year term on the LaGrange Memorial Library Board
- Luther Jones to a one year term on the LaGrange Troup County Memorial Park Board
- James Baker to a one year term as Municipal Court Judge
- Luther Jones to a one year term as Assistant Municipal Court Judge
- Tom Gore to a one year term on the Records Committee
- Jim Thornton, LeGree McCamey, Willie Edmondson, Tom Gore, Mark Mitchell, Nathan Gaskin and Jim Arrington to one year terms on the Solid Waste Management Authority
- Norma Tucker to a one year term on the Troup County Board of Health
- John Brant to a one year term on the Troup County FEMA Board

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted to appoint Tom Gore to a one year term as Mayor Pro-Tem. Mr. Gore abstained from voting.

Mr. Gaskin expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Council for having the opportunity to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for the 2020 term.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported the City will be working with the Georgia Center for Nonprofits to offer free PPE, or personal protective equipment, to our local nonprofit organizations. These supplies should be handed out January 13th, once they come in. The City is grateful to the Callaway Foundation and the Georgia Center for Nonprofits to be able to offer this to our nonprofits who can help our community continue to be safe during this pandemic.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk