

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

June 8, 2021

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; City Planner Mark Kostial; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. J. R. Ware of Welcome Baptist Church, 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 May 25, 2021.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). 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 AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND THE CODE SO AS TO DELETE THEREFROM TITLE 25, INSERTING IN LIEU THEREOF A NEW TITLE 25 TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAGRANGE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE; TO MODIFY THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY; TO MODIFY AND/OR RECODIFY FORMER CODE PROVISIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SIGNS, BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, BUFFERS, LANDSCAPE AND TREES, SUBDIVISIONS, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, SOIL EROSION, SEDIMENTATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL, AND ON-SITE SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MAINTENANCE WITHIN A NEW UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; 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 MODIFY REFERENCES WITHIN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO CONFORM TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on the 2021-2022 Budget. Mayor Thornton explained the budget process and the amount of time and hard work put in by Ms. Kelsey and other City staff. Ms. Kelsey stated that she had presented to the Council a balanced budget of \$109,000,000 with no property taxes, but with fee increases in sanitation services and gas rates.

Dr. Israel Barsh addressed the Council with questions concerning the elimination of the probation department in this budget. Ms. Kelsey responded to Dr. Barsh's questions and explained that it was not a quick or easy decision, and that staff had worked closely with all involved employees to assist them with finding other employment, some within the other City departments.

Leon Childs and Kenneth Brewer spoke to the Council on behalf of Adaptive Growth and Cultural Advancement Organization and Sanigreen Cleaners. During the budget process, the Council decreased the total amount that was requested from this group. Mr. Childs pled with the Council to reconsider the request for the entire amount. Mayor Thornton thanked Mr. Childs and Mr. Brewer for their time and work in the community.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was declared closed.

Mr. Edmondson stated that he wanted to thank Ms. Kelsey and staff for the amount of time they have spent over the last few months preparing the budget. He stated that all agencies are receiving what they need, and reminded the Council that there have been no City taxes for 23 years.

Mr. Gaskin reported that he would like to see better communications between the LPD and the electric department, regarding street lights that are out. He would like for the PD to call and report when they see a street light out.

Mr. McCamey stated that he agreed with Mr. Gaskin regarding reporting of street lights.

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

Council heard the first reading of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF LAGRANGE FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council heard the first reading of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

TO LEVY AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE CITY OF LAGRANGE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; 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 SECTION 20-10-3 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY SCHEDULES 40, 41, 42, AND 48 OF THE GAS SERVICE RATE ORDINANCE; 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 ARTICLES II AND III OF CHAPTER 15-10 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE FEES FOR CERTAIN

RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE AND COMMERCIAL GARBAGE
COLLECTION; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES;
TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that we will soon have 1000 cyclists rolling into LaGrange this Friday, June 11th as part of BRAG or the Bicycle Ride Across Georgia. They will be riding in from Country Club Road, Piney Woods and spend the night in tents in the Granger Park area. We are excited to showcase our beautiful community to them. So be warned our downtown LaGrange will be busy with visitors on Friday. We are encouraging the community to share the road and welcome our visitors. Ms. Van Schoor then showed a video created by LGTV to let everyone know what to expect.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk