

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

September 22, 2020

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD AT DEL AVANT, 141 MAIN STREET, LAGRANGE, GA.

Present: Mayor Jim Thornton; Council Members Nathan Gaskin, Mark Mitchell, Tom Gore, Jim Arrington, Willie Edmondson, 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; Community Development Director Alton West

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Michael Jackson, Confidence Missionary Baptist 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 September 8, 2020.

Ms. Van Schoor, along with Emma Strickland, 2019-2020 LaGrange Youth Council Chair, introduced the 2020-2021 LaGrange Youth Council made up of 24 high school juniors and seniors. City Attorney Jeff Todd swore them in as a group and Mayor Thornton and Ms. Kelsey presented each of them with a LaGrange Youth Council pin.

Mr. West presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone a portion of Hunnicutt Avenue from G-I (General Industrial) to R-2 (Residential). On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on October 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. West presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation for C-3 (General Commercial) to allow Farm Winery as a permitted use. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on October 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Thornton discussed with the Council, earlier this date in the Work Session, his appreciation for the dedication of the City employees during the past six months of the Coronavirus pandemic. The City applied for funds made available through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act from the Federal Government, and passed along to the States to distribute to the local governments, and received a reimbursement of \$1.6 million. Mayor Thornton is recommending that all full time City employees receive \$500 Hazard Pay and all part time employees receive \$250, for the first payroll period in October, November and December. On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to approve the payments to all employees. Mr. Gaskin thanked the employees for their hard work and dedication.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to accept Mill Creek Parkway.

Ms. Kelsey explained to the Council that the City owns a piece of property adjacent to Upper Big Springs Road that a prospect is interested in. The prospect has yet to announce, but hopes are that this will happen within the next two weeks. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an Intergovernmental Contract with the Development Authority of LaGrange, regarding conveyance of industrial property adjacent to Upper Big Springs Road. A copy of the Contract is on file in the City Manager's office.

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 SO AS TO NAME A CERTAIN STREET WITHIN THE CITY “MILL CREEK PARKWAY”; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson 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 REGULATIONS CONCERNING CURB CUTS AND DRIVEWAYS; TO REQUIRE A HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT FOR OWNERS OF DRIVEWAYS CONSTRUCTED OVER CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR STANDARD REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT FOR DRIVEWAYS DAMAGED OR REQUIRED TO BE RELOCATED DUE TO A CITY ROAD OR UTILITY MAINTENANCE ISSUE; TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS; 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 Section 15-5-20 of the code of the City be amended by inserting therein new subsections (c), (d) and (e) as follows:

“(c) Given that driveways are constructed at least partially within city street and utility right-of-way, and often above critical utility infrastructure, the city may, in the discretion of the city manager or director of public utilities, require an applicant to hold the city harmless for any injury or damage to city utilities and improvements existing within said right-of-way and over which any driveway or other improvement is to be built.

(d) Subsequent to completion of a permitted driveway the city will reconstruct, repair or replace any driveway damaged or required to be relocated due to a city road or utility maintenance issue; however, the obligation of the city shall be limited to a driveway meeting the minimum customary specifications required by applicable regulations, and will not include replacement or repair of upgrades or other hardscape or landscaping (except grass and minimal landscape features, to be determined in the discretion of the city) which has been constructed within the right-of-way by the property owner. The city shall have no obligation to contribute toward reconstruction, repair or replacement of a driveway should the owner choose to undertake the work in order to exceed the minimum customary driveway specifications. Notice of this policy is to be included on driveway permits.

(e) In the discretion of the city manager, repair or relocation of permitted driveways and other improvements within the city right-of-way may be undertaken by the city for road relocation projects and pedestrian pathway improvement projects.”

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 upon approval by the Mayor shall become effective immediately.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ September 8, 2020

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND ADOPTED _____ September 22, 2020

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ September 22, 2020

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

Mr. Edmondson thanked Ms. Van Schoor and staff for the work they have done with the upcoming LaGrange Youth Council class, and encouraged the class to work hard to achieve their goals.

In good news, closing comments Ms. Van Schoor reported that she is excited to welcome this year’s LaGrange Youth Council, and that big things are expected from them. She also announced that our Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It litter campaign is back on. The next litter cleanup will be in the Hillside community, Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. We will be partnering with the Kiwanis Club of LaGrange and DASH.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk