

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

October 26, 2021

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Hugo Oropeza, First Hispanic Church of LaGrange, 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 October 12, 2021.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to annex/zone property located at 1360 LaFayette Parkway. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on November 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Edmondson announced that “Hands Helping Hands” will have their 3rd Annual Tree Lighting at Calumet Park on November 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

Mr. Gaskin reported that the Autumn Artisan Market downtown event on Saturday, October 23, 2021 was a huge success, and thanked all that were involved.

Ms. Kelsey reported that the City has been in discussions with the owners of property located at 133 Bull Street regarding improvements to the property and the City leasing a portion of this property for a streetscape venue. On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a 25 year lease agreement for 133 Bull Street.

Ms. Kelsey also reported that the City needs to acquire a remnant piece of property located at 517 Hamilton Street that will be adjacent to the new park that will be constructed on McGregor Street. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of this property for \$25,000.

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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE A UNIFORM METHOD OF MEASUREMENT FOR DISTANCE PROHIBITIONS; TO CONFORM DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS WITH STATE LAW; 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 SIDEWALK CAFES ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SIDEWALK

CAFÉ UPON APPROVAL OF THE CITY MANAGER; 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 CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE DEPOSIT FOR METER AND BACKFLOW DEVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH FIRE HYDRANT USE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported on the success of the Autumn Artisan Market this weekend in the parking lot of the Colonial Building. Visit LaGrange participated and gave tours to the community. We are excited about the success of this event because it helps to bring more of the community up to the north side of downtown. We can thank Nikki Franklin from Emberglow Handmade & Downtown LaGrange for making this happen. They expect to have a bigger event in the Spring of 2022.

Ms. Van Schoor also reported that the Marketing/Communications Department would like to share this beautiful video they created to help with the LaGrange Fire Department recruitment.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk