

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

November 13, 2018

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Teresa Taylor; City Clerk Sue Olson; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Director of Community Development Alton West; Senior Planner Leigh Threadgill; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Dr. John Beyers of First United Methodist 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 October 23, 2018.

Mayor Thornton presented a 30 year service award to Patrick Bowie, Director of Public Utilities. Mayor Thornton expressed the gratitude of the Mayor and Council for Mr. Bowie's years of service to the citizens and the City of LaGrange.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on increasing the size of the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals. 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 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY SO AS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PLANNING AND ZONING APPEALS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on modifying the notice requirements for rezonings initiated by the Mayor and Council. 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 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY SO AS TO MODIFY THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR REZONING INITIATED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mayor Thornton recognized the inaugural class of LaGrange 101 and presented certificates to each of them for completing the six week course. The class was designed to give citizens an opportunity to learn about the LaGrange City government.

Leon Childs came before the Council with concerns for Tall Pines Apartments residents due to the deteriorating conditions. Several residents addressed the Council with their individual concerns and situations. After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to instruct the City Manager and the City Attorney to file a Nuisance Abatement Order in Municipal Court against Tall Pines Apartments.

Ms. Threadgill presented to the Council a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to amend the zoning ordinance as related to food trucks, to exempt merchants on public property at events sanctioned with the Downtown LaGrange Development Authority. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on December 11, 2018.

Mr. Edmondson reminded the Council that the District 2 Council Members were planning a Christmas tree lighting and parade on November 16, 2018. They will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a tree lighting at Calumet Park, then parade down Union Street to Frank Cox Union Street Park for the tree lighting there. The public is invited to attend.

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

Ms. Kelsey updated the Council on the search for a Fire Chief for the City. She stated that current Deputy Chief John Brant was the sole finalist for the position and that he will move into the position following the 14 day waiting period.

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 MODIFY THE CODE SO AS TO CREATE THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF THE FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY; TO DELETE THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND REINSTATE THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously voted to reappoint Edward Smith, Curtis Brown and Carl Von Epps to four year terms on the Development Authority of the City of LaGrange.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously voted to appoint Tripp Penn and Susan Black to four year terms to succeed Cole Pugh and D Lindner on the Development Authority of the City of LaGrange.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Jamie Bradfield and Sarah Bowie Barintine to three year terms on the Historic Preservation Commission.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted to reappoint Rashad Little to a five year term on the LaGrange Development Authority. Mr. Edmondson abstained from the vote.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council unanimously voted to appoint Anita Holle to a three year term to succeed Speer Burdette on the Troup County Parks & Recreation Commission.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously voted to reappoint Davie Biagi and Sam Breyfogle to a four year term on the Tree Advisory Board.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously voted to appoint Jim Arrington to a four year term to succeed Nick Woodson on the Tree Advisory Board.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor announced that the City of LaGrange won 2nd place for both the State Award for Litter Prevention by a government agency category and the State Award for the Overall Community Improvement by a government agency category in the Keep Georgia Beautiful 2018 Awards Program. These awards are for the Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It initiative the City started in April. The Awards ceremony will be December 6th.

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

Mayor

Clerk