

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

May 24, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Tom Farr, First Baptist Church on the Square, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on May 10, 2022.

Mr. Gaskin reported that he was concerned with threats being made in the community that are being made by various groups of people and believes it should be addressed.

Ms. Kelsey reported that the 2022-2023 budget had been presented to the Council as a balanced budget. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing regarding the 2022-2023 budget to be held on June 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Kelsey reviewed with the Council information regarding property located on Hudson Road that had previously been declared surplus and placed up for bid. The minimum bid had been placed at \$73,000, one bid was received for \$73,100. On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to accept the bid and proceed to close.

Ms. Kelsey reviewed with the Council information regarding property located on Callaway Church Road that had previously been declared surplus and placed up for bid. The minimum bid had been placed at \$152,000, one bid was received for \$153,000. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to accept the bid and proceed to close.

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 PUBLIC PARKS ORDINANCE TO MODIFY PROHIBITED ACTS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1:

That subparagraph (10) of subsection (a) of Section 15-15-14 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said subparagraph, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-15-14(a)(10) to read as follows:

“(10) No bounce houses are permitted within public parks. No tents or other structures are permitted within public parks unless specifically authorized in advance by the city manager.”

SECTION 2:

That subparagraph (2) of subsection (b) of Section 15-15-14 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said subparagraph, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-15-14(b)(2) to read as follows:

“(2) Obey all police officers, traffic officers and park employees, who are specifically by this article authorized to direct traffic whenever and wherever needed in the park and on the streets adjacent thereto;”

SECTION 3:

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4:

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

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ May 10, 2022

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ May 24, 2022

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ May 24, 2022

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

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk _____

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted to approve the following ordinance, with Messrs. Gaskin, Mitchell, Arrington and Edmondson voting in favor and Mr. Gore voting against the ordinance. The ordinance passed by a 4-1 vote.

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND CHAPTER 10-30 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO DEFINE AND OUTLINE REQUIRED PARAMETERS FOR PRESCRIBED GRAZING; 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 10-30 of the code of ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended by creating therein a new Article V to be entitled “**PRESCRIBED GRAZING**” and to read as follows:

“ARTICLE V – PRESCRIBED GRAZING

Sec. 10-30-60. – Definition.

For the purposes of this article, *prescribed grazing* shall mean the application of sheep or goats as a landscape management technique to control invasive or unwanted plant species at a specific location and specific intensity for a defined length of time. For purposes of this article, goats and sheep used for *prescribed grazing* purposes are not considered to be livestock or agricultural uses and may, subject to the regulations of this article, graze on any lot in the city.

Sec. 10-30-61. – General requirements.

- (a) Permitted animals. Only the following animals may be utilized for prescribed grazing within the City; Katahdin

sheep and either Boer, Kiko, Savanna or Spanish breeds of goat.

- (b) Stocking rate limit. Stocking rate refers to the total number of grazing animals permitted on a property. There shall be no more than one prescribed grazing animal per 500 square feet of lot size at any time. Animals less than six months of age that accompany an adult female animal of the same species shall not be included in stocking rate calculations. Any stocking rate calculation that results in a fractional unit amount shall be rounded up to the next whole number portion of the calculation to determine the number of allowable prescribed grazing animals allowed on site.
- (c) Duration. Prescribed grazing shall not be permitted for more than five (5) consecutive days at a time on a property. No more than four (4) permits for prescribed grazing may be issued per calendar year per parcel. There shall be a minimum of thirty (30) consecutive days between the expiration of one permit and the issuance of the next.
- (d) Proper enclosure. The prescribed grazing activity shall be fully and properly enclosed at all times. Proper enclosure refers to any combination of temporary or permanent fences or structures designed to prevent the escape of the prescribed grazing animals and to protect the prescribed grazing animals from the intrusion of other animals. All sides of the enclosure(s) shall be of sufficient height and the bottom of the enclosures shall be constructed or secured in a manner as to prevent prescribed grazing animals from escaping over or under the enclosure(s).
 - (1) Permanent fences and structures shall comply with the regulations for the zoning district in which the prescribed grazing is located and shall be permitted separately from the prescribed grazing activity.
 - (2) Temporary fencing and structures for the sole purpose of enclosing prescribed grazing animals shall comply with the regulations for the zoning districts in which the prescribed grazing is located, and can be permitted in association with the prescribed grazing activity. Temporary fences may be electric or electrified and are exempted from landscape buffering requirements as required in certain zoning districts.

Sec. 30-10-62. - Animal welfare.

- (a) The welfare of the prescribed grazing animals must be ensured by the owners of the prescribed grazing animals.
- (b) Supervision. A 24-hour contact must be provided to the planning department for someone who can take responsibility for removing the prescribed grazing animals as required in a timely manner.
- (c) Health. Prescribed grazing animals must receive proper veterinary treatment and regular deworming. In the event that a prescribed grazing animal becomes ill, hurt, or perishes, the owner of the prescribed grazing animal(s) must provide immediate on-site care or remove the animal(s) from the property promptly if immediate on-site care cannot be provided.
- (d) Neutering. Male goats used for prescribed grazing must be neutered. Male goats less than six months of age that accompany an adult female goat shall be exempt from the neutering requirement.

Sec. 30-10-63. – Signage; permitting.

- (a) Electric fences. Any electric or electrified fence in association with a prescribed grazing activity must have a warning sign posted on every boundary of the enclosure and every 300 feet along each side of the fence. The warning signs shall not exceed four square feet in sign area, must be clearly visible on the approach to the fence, and be posted on or within one foot of said fence.
- (b) Notice. A single sign, not to exceed four square feet in size and not to exceed four feet in height if freestanding, shall be erected and visible from the nearest public right-of-way, but not in the public right-of-way, for the duration of the prescribed grazing activity with the temporary permit number for the issued permit and the phone number for the 24-hour contact for the prescribed grazing animals.
- (c) Temporary use permit. A temporary use permit shall be required for each prescribed grazing duration, the fee for which shall be \$25.00.”

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 _____ May 10, 2022

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ May 24, 2022

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ May 24, 2022

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Edmondson as the Voting Delegate and Mr. Mitchell as Alternate Voting Delegate to the 2022 GMA Annual Convention in June. Mr. Arrington will be the Flag Bearer.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported we have officially selected our 2022-2023 LaGrange Youth Council. She stated that they are excited about this next group of young leaders and can’t wait to hear from them on what they want to do with our community.

Also, she reported that we held our first Sweetland concert of 2022 on Friday. It was an amazing concert with George Thorogood and the Destroyers. In the past couple weeks we have announced two more concerts – George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic July 3rd and Comedian Ron White October 9th. White has announced he is retiring from stand-up comedy later this year so this is a big deal that one of his last events is going to be in LaGrange. We are excited about these two additions.

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

Mayor

City Clerk