

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

November 14, 2023

Present: Mayor Willie Edmondson; Council Members Nathan Gaskin, Tom Gore, Mark Mitchell, Leon Childs, Jim Arrington and Quay Boddie.

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; City Clerk Melissa Robertson; Communications Director Katie Van Schoor; City Planner Mark Kostial; Media Coordinator Adam Speas

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Edmondson, the invocation was given by Pastor Michael Jackson, and Mayor Edmondson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin, seconded by Dr. Gore, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on October 10, 2023

Bill Hunnicutt, Director of Downtown Development came before the Council to read a prepared statement from the Downtown Development Board. This statement addressed recent crime and security issues on November 3rd and 4th in the Downtown area. After reading the statement Mayor Edmondson relayed the Council's concern as well, and let Mr. Hunnicutt know that City Officials have met with Chief Fiveash and are working on solutions to address these issues.

Media Coordinator and LaGrange 101 Advisor Adam Speas introduced each member of the LaGrange 101 graduating class and spoke on the events from the past 6 weeks. Mayor Edmondson and Ms. Kelsey congratulated each member and thanked them for getting involved.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation on a request to rezone 98 Gordon Commercial Drive from Campus General Industrial & Agribusiness (CP-GI) to Traditional Neighborhood Mixed Use (TN-MX). On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on December 12, 2023.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation on a request to rezone 54 acres located at 1510 Lukken Industrial Drive from Campus General Industrial & Agribusiness (CP-GI) to Special District Manufactured Housing (SD-MH). On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted in favor, with Mr. Gaskin abstaining, to call for a public hearing to be held on December 12, 2023.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation on a request to rezone 95.4 acres of property located on North Davis Road from Suburban Single-Family Residential (SU-R) and Traditional Neighborhood Mixed Use (TN-MX) to Traditional Neighborhood Residential (TN-R). On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on December 12, 2023.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council regarding a request to annex and rezone seven (7) parcels located adjacent to Vulcan Material Road and Sam Walker Drive on Hamilton Rd. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Boddie, Council voted unanimously to proceed with the annexation.

Ms. Kelsey presented copies of the October 2023 financial statements and payment of bills over \$2,000 for Council's information.

Ms. Kelsey reminded the Council about the discussion during the work session earlier today, regarding moving the December 26, 2023 Work Session and Council Meeting due to this being a City holiday. On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to move both the Work Session and Council Meeting to December 19, 2023.

Ms. Kelsey presented a proposed budget amendment allocating up to \$100,000 to replace the front steps of City Hall due to water drainage issues. Upon a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council unanimously approved the budget amendment.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the Sale of Excess Capacity and Sale of Excess Reserve Capacity to the City of Buford.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Boddie, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to make a budget amendment of up to \$50,000, allocating these funds for overtime of LaGrange Police Department's sworn officers.

Mr. Todd summarized for the Council of previous discussions concerning the DuPont/3M class action litigation. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, the Council unanimously authorized the city manager to take those actions necessary to opt out of the DuPont/3M class action suit.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, 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 ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY TO ALLOW CERTAIN EXISTING STRUCTURES TO UTILIZE VINYL SIDING AS A PART OF AN EXTERIOR REMODELING PROJECT; 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 25B-20-3 of the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of LaGrange be amended by creating within subsection (a) a new subparagraph (6), to read as follows:

“(6) As part of a permitted existing residential exterior remodeling project, single-family detached homes, two-family dwellings, and attached homes as well as existing accessory structures located solely within the traditional neighborhood residential (TN-R) zoning district may utilize vinyl siding, provided that such siding has a verified thickness .42 or greater.”

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 _____ October 10, 2023

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ November 14, 2023

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ November 14, 2023

BY: /s/ Willie T. Edmondson, Mayor _____

ATTEST: /s/ Melissa Robertson, City Clerk _____

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that the city has broken ground on the Bike Playground that will be located across from Berta Weathersbee Elementary School on Forrest Ave. This bike playground will also be connected to The Thread Trail. Also, we want to invite the community to celebrate the City of LaGrange's birthday Friday, December 15th on LaFayette Square. We will have a quick celebration to honor the city's birthday. The city was incorporated December 16th, 1828.

There being no other business, Mayor Edmondson adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk