

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

April 11, 2023

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Director Katie Van Schoor; Community Development Director Alton West

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Edmondson, the invocation was given by Rev. Andy Buchanan, Troup Baptist Association, and Mayor Edmondson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

City Attorney Jeff Todd swore in Fire Chief Willie Bradfield and Police Chief Garrett Fiveash. Chief Bradfield and Chief Fiveash both thanked the City and the Council for their support.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on March 28, 2023.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to annex and rezone property located in the 1700 block of West Point Road. No comments were received and Council heard the first reading of the following ordinances:

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO ANNEX TO THE CITY CONTIGUOUS REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY HANDLEY LAMONT WEATHERS AND LOCATED ON VERNON ROAD; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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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 MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO CLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE TO BE ANNEXED INTO THE CITY LOCATED ON VERNON ROAD AND OWNED BY HANDLEY LAMONT WEATHERS, SR.; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Tabitha Coverson, Executive Director of Communities in Schools, updated the Council on the progress from this past year. Ms. Coverson thanked the Council for their continued support. The Mayor and Council praised Ms. Coverson's work in the community and thanked her for her continued service.

Iris Eupha came before the Council to complain about ongoing problems with trash at PCA Food Store, located next to her residence. Mayor Edmondson explained to her that staff has been consulted and are working to solve the issues at hand, and thanked her for coming.

Mr. West presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to annex and zone property located at 187 South Davis Road. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on May 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Gaskin reported that, due to the continued gun violence in our community, we need stronger enforcement. He also believes that the Troup County Parks and Recreation Center should have longer and more proactive hours. Mr. Mitchell stated that Juvenile Court Judge Key should issue stronger

punishment for juveniles who come before him with gun charges. Mayor Edmondson agreed with their comments, and stated we will need to support our new Police Chief.

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

Ms. Kelsey stated that Phillip Abbott had presented information to the Council at the Work Session to discuss the possibility of creating a silent railroad crossing. Mr. Abbott is revitalizing the area near the rail district on East Depot Street, where there are several railroad crossings. Because of this, there is a lot of noise pollution due to the train's requirement to blow their whistle or horn at these crossings. He would like to modify the crossings and eliminate the noise that can be heard for miles away, making this a silent crossing. This would require a study to be done by CSX Transportation which would cost \$6,000. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to fund the cost of the study.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gaskin, 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 SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE OF THE CITY IN ORDER TO ALLOW TEMPORARY ALCOHOL SALES LOCATIONS FOR APPROVED SPECIAL EVENTS WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AREA; 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 30-5-357 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said section, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 30-5-357 to read as follows:

##### **“Sec. 30-5-357. Vendors of alcoholic beverages.**

- (a) The dispensing of alcoholic beverages, by sale or otherwise, shall be allowed as a component of a special event provided each vendor is authorized to participate by the producer and provided further each vendor dispensing alcoholic beverages shall be duly authorized in compliance with the provisions of the city code relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages. Except as authorized in subsection (b) herein, dispensing of alcoholic beverages shall only occur on the premises of a location holding a valid Class B retail pouring license.
- (b) For approved special events held within the downtown development area, dispensing of alcoholic beverages may be allowed at temporary locations in such number and at such location(s) as approved by the City Manager. Said vendor(s) must hold a valid Class B retail pouring license for a premises located in the downtown development area.”

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ March 28, 2023

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ April 11, 2023

BY: /s/ Willie T. Edmondson, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

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On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Boddie, 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 CEMETERY ORDINANCE TO MODIFY THE COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR SOUTHVIEW ANNEX CEMETERY; 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 15-20-22 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said section, in its entirety, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-20-22 to read as follows:

**“Sec. 15-20-22. - Lot conveyances.**

The mayor and the assistant city manager are authorized to execute conveyances of cemetery lots and spaces in public cemeteries in accordance with the schedule of prices in this article, subject to the following covenants and restrictions applicable to the respective cemeteries, which shall be included in any deed of conveyance of such cemetery lots and spaces, to wit:

- (1) *Shadowlawn Cemetery:*
  - a. There shall be no wall or enclosure of any kind installed on the lot conveyed hereunder.
  - b. There shall be no slab of any kind placed upon said lot.
  - c. There shall be only one (1) monument on said lot above the said surface of the ground, except on a two-grave lot. Monuments on a two-grave lot shall not exceed forty-eight (48) inches in length at the base and monuments on a single-grave lot shall not exceed thirty (30) inches in length at the base. Each grave may be marked with a footstone installed level with the surface of the ground.
  - d. There shall be no trees, shrubs or any other plants on said lot.
  - e. All monumental work placed on the lot shall be of marble, granite or bronze and shall be set on a foundation that will insure its permanency, and shall be erected under the supervision of the superintendent.
  - f. The lots shall be used only for the burial of the owner of the lot and his immediate family.
  - g. The use of wooden boxes is prohibited.
  - h. The title to the lots conveyed hereunder may not be sold, transferred or assigned until notice of such sale, transfer or

assignment is given in writing to the city and entered upon the records of the city.

(2) *Eastview Cemetery, Hillview Cemetery, Hillview East Cemetery and Southview Cemetery:*

- a. There shall be no trees, shrubs or any other plants on said lots.
- b. The lots shall be used only for the burial of the owner of the lot and his immediate family.
- c. The use of wooden boxes is prohibited.
- d. The title to the lots conveyed hereunder may not be sold, transferred or assigned until notice of such sale, transfer or assignment is given in writing to the city and entered upon the records of the city.

(3) *Southview Annex:*

- a. There shall be no wall or enclosure of any kind installed on the lot conveyed hereunder.
- b. There shall be only one (1) monument on said lot above the said surface of the ground, except on a two-grave lot. Monuments on a two-grave lot shall not exceed forty-eight (48) inches in length at the base and monuments on a single-grave lot shall not exceed thirty (30) inches in length at the base. Each grave may be marked with a footstone installed level with the surface of the ground.
- c. There shall be no trees, shrubs or any other plants on said lot.
- d. All monumental work placed on the lot shall be of marble, granite or bronze and shall be set on a foundation that will insure its permanency, and shall be erected under the supervision of the superintendent.
- e. The lots shall be used only for the burial of the owner of the lot and his immediate family.
- f. The use of wooden boxes is prohibited.
- g. The title to the lots conveyed hereunder may not be sold, transferred or assigned until notice of such sale, transfer or assignment is given in writing to the city and entered upon the records of the city.”

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ March 28, 2023

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ April 11, 2023

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ April 11, 2023

BY: /s/ Willie T. Edmondson, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

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The Good News we would like to share tonight is that LaGrange Police Department Officer Bryant Mosley traveled to New Jersey recently where he was recognized as the L.E.A.D. Officer of the year for the entire State of Georgia. The L.E.A.D., or Law Enforcement Against Drugs, program is in the local schools. Congratulations to Officer Mosley!

Also, we want to welcome the Mayor, Council and entire community to join us for our city-wide Leaving LaGrange Better Than We Found It litter cleanup - next Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. We will close down City Hall and all non-essential services for our employees to pick up litter throughout the city of LaGrange. This is an annual that event began in 2018. Everyone is invited to join us on the steps of City Hall next Friday at 8AM. We will have a short ceremony and then leave from there. We also want to invite everyone to lunch at Sweetland at around 11:30. We will open back up to the community at 1:00 p.m. sharp.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk