

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

October 11, 2022

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

Absent: Council Member Willie Edmondson

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. Steve Johnson, Baptist Tabernacle, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on September 27, 2022.

Mayor Thornton presented a 30 year service award to Brenda Leverett, Accounting Specialist. Mayor Thornton expressed his appreciation to Ms. Leverett for her years of service and dedication to the City of LaGrange. Lisa Duke, Accounting Manager, also thanked Ms. Leverett for her service.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone property located at 510 Springdale Drive from Suburban Single Family Residential (SU-R) to Traditional Neighborhood Residential (TN-R). Mr. Kostial reviewed with the audience the zoning standards that are currently in place, and what the rezoning would actually mean. Brian Stone, the applicant for the rezoning request, explained that the homes he intends to build will be a minimum of 1200 square feet, and that he has spoken to the utilities director who stated there would not be additional stress on the sewer system. Charles Herrin, resident of 301 Gordon Street, asked questions about the square footage that had been earlier explained. Bob Keller, 509 Springdale Drive, expressed concerns about the dangerous curves and additional traffic, stress on the sewer system, and the affect this could have on the value of their homes. Mrs. Keller also expressed concern for the location of five driveways. Sidney Gay, 658 Lakewood Drive, had general questions about what the current zoning for this neighborhood was and what that meant. Hope Taylor has currently bought two homes in the neighborhood and just wanted some clarity and communication amongst the community. He believes this could be a revitalization of the neighborhood. There were no other comments 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 MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON SPRINGDALE DRIVE AND OWNED BY DAVID AND JANICE DESHIELDS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Glenn Dowell, Greater Achievement, spoke to the Council and thanked them for their support of his program, which offers tutoring to students to help raise their SAT and ACT scores. Cedrick Cameron spoke to the Council on behalf of Greater Achievement, saying he was grateful for the City's investment in the program which allowed him to improve his scores. Kimberly Stewart spoke on behalf of her daughter, Alexia, who was also thankful for the assistance she received from Greater Achievement. Adrian Braxton, a tutor for Greater Achievement, stated that it was an honor for him to be able to help others in the program.

Wade Hall, on behalf of the LaGrange Optimist Club, presented the Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards. Firefighter Cameron Byers was recognized as Firefighter of the Year for the LaGrange Fire Department. Chief Brant and Lt. Austin Starr praised Mr. Byers, stating he is well respected and has a great attitude. Det. Fred Montondo was recognized as Officer of the Year with

the LaGrange Police Department. Chief Dekmar and Lt. Mark Cavender praised Det. Montondo, stating he has a great attitude and has gained the trust of all of his supervisors. Mayor Thornton thanked the Optimist Club for this recognition.

Mr. Gaskin wanted to remind the citizens that with construction on the top end of I-285, traffic is being diverted onto I-75 which may cause more traffic on Highway 27. This highway runs through LaGrange and could cause more traffic for the city.

Ms. Kelsey presented copies of the September 2022 financial statements and payment of bills over \$2,000 for Council's information.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to declare property located on S. L. White Boulevard as surplus. The minimum bid will be set at \$13,000 for .23 acres.

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Susan Bowie and to appoint Nicole Smith to four year terms on the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to recommend to the LaGrange/Troup County Hospital Authority Joel Upchurch, Lou Dekmar or John Brant to succeed Joel Upchurch for a three year term.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that she wanted to share our entry that was submitted for the GMA Visionary Award. Our focus is on our city's vision for the Parks. We want to thank Mayor Thornton, Mayor Pro-Tem Edmondson and City Manager Kelsey for being a part of this video.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk