

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

October 25, 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; City Planner Mark Kostial

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Father Tim Gadziala, St. Peters Catholic Church, 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 October 11, 2022.

Bill Stump, Chairman of the Troup county Board of Elections and Registration Board, and Andy Harper, Troup County Superintendent of Elections, came before the Council with information regarding a mistake on the ballots for the upcoming Special Election for District 2 City Council. The ballots were printed incorrectly, showing it as a city-wide election, rather than a District 2 election. Mr. Stump apologized to the Council and stated that it was an honest mistake that wasn't caught when the 55 different ballots were proofed. The Secretary of State's office has been contacted and advised that the election proceed, with a procedure in place to disregard any City Council votes from District 1. There will also be a hand-count done two weeks after the election. Mayor Thornton thanked Mr. Stump and Mr. Harper for the information.

Mr. Kostial presented information regarding a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation on a request for a Special Use Permit for 1301 and 1311 Greenville Street. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on November 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Kostial presented information regarding a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation for proposed UDO text amendments. On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on November 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Edmondson reported that he would like to rename McGregor Street School after Ms. Eleanor Cox, where Mrs. Cox served for many years. Mayor Thornton stated that Council could discuss this at a later date, along with the naming of the Linear Park after Mr. Frank Cox. No action was taken.

Mr. Gaskin reported that he has concerns with a recent incident where a Troup County School System coach was removed from his job for breaking a table and that members of his family believe is was repercussions from political statements made by family members. He went on to say that if school board employees were out of line, we need to rethink our agreements with these such entities, and if they are being vindictive, the City does not need to do business with them.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Troup County regarding waterline extension for Pyne Road Park. Messrs. Gore, Mitchell, Arrington and Edmondson voted in favor and Mr. Gaskin voted against the agreement. Therefore, the vote passed 4-1.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Troup County School System regarding natural gas extension for the proposed new Rosemont Elementary School. Messrs. Gore, Mitchell, Arrington and Edmondson voted in favor and Mr. Gaskin voted against the agreement. Therefore, the vote passed 4-1.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Greenville regarding utility mutual aid and assistance.

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 CODE SO AS TO REMOVE PARKING RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO THE FORMER CENTER PLAZA DRIVE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted to authorize the introduction of a substitute ordinance. Messrs. Gore, Gaskin, Arrington and Edmondson voted in favor and Mr. Mitchell voted against it. Therefore, the vote passed 4-1.

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

A SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE

A SUBSTITUTE 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 WITH CONDITIONS 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.

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

SECTION 1:

That the zoning map and ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended so as to reclassify from use zone SU-R (suburban single-family residential district) to TN-R (traditional neighborhood low-density residential district) the following described real estate, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land located at 510 Springdale Drive and known as Tax Map Parcel Number 061-4B-002-001.

SECTION 2:

Pursuant to the police power of the City of LaGrange, the Mayor and Council hereby impose and establish certain conditions as a requirement for the rezoning as referenced above in Section 1. Said conditions are imposed for the protection and/or benefit of neighboring land owners in order to ameliorate the effects of the rezoning of this property to TN-R (traditional neighborhood low-density residential district) as follows:

No cottage house, cottage court, two-family dwelling, attached house or garage apartment building typology may be constructed on the rezoned property. As a condition of the rezoning, development shall be limited to the detached house building typology as defined in the Unified Development Ordinance. In addition, the development may include no more than two (2) curb cuts on Springdale Drive, and the minimum lot frontage developed on Springdale Drive shall be seventy-five (75) feet in width.

SECTION 3:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4:

This ordinance, after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor, shall become effective immediately.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ October 11, 2022 _____

SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE ACCEPTED _____ October 25, 2022 _____

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ October 25, 2022 _____

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ October 25, 2022 _____

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

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk _____

After approval of this substitute ordinance, on a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously voted to have the City Manager ask the LaGrange Police Department do a traffic study at the intersection of Springdale Drive/Saynor Circle/Gordon Street to see if there is a need for a 3 way or 4 way stop.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that we are expecting to have – POSSIBLY- the biggest turnout ever for our November 5th litter cleanup. The Kiwanis Club is our partner for this cleanup and they have invited Rotary Club, Optimist Club and Lion’s Club. We also expect to have other community partners joining us including First Presbyterian Church and Berta Weathersbee Elementary. We’ll meet on the front steps of Berta at 8:00 a.m., everyone is welcome and we provide all the supplies. This is also the area of the most recent section of The Thread and the location of a future a Bike Park.

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

Mayor

City Clerk