

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

July 11, 2019

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor; Senior Planner Leigh Threadgill

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Aaron McCollough with the Troup County Baptist Association and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on June 25, 2019.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on amending the zoning ordinance to provide general regulations regarding outdoor lighting fixtures. City resident Terry Wolsifer questioned the intent of the ordinance, Ms. Threadgill addressed the Council to clarify the ordinance change. No further comments were received 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 ORDINANCE OF THE CITY SO AS TO PROVIDE GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING OUTDOOR LIGHTING FIXTURES; TO REQUIRED LOCATION OF SUCH FIXTURES SO AS TO MINIMIZE GLARE AND STRAY LIGHT TRESPASSING ACROSS LOT LINES; TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS BASED UPON PROPERTY USAGE; TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS; TO RELEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mayor Thornton introduced Render McLeod, a 14 year old rising Freshman at LaGrange High School, who will be competing in the Optimist International Oratorical World Championship in St. Louis, MO. Mayor Thornton invited Mr. McLeod to practice his four and one-half minute speech in front of the City Council. Mr. McLeod loves politics and has enjoyed the assistance from Mayor Thornton in helping him prepare for competition in St. Louis.

Leon Childs with Adaptive Growth and Cultural Advancement Organization came before the Council to thank them for their continued support of this organization.

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

Ms. Kelsey presented to the Council a budget amendment request for funding from the Salvation Army for \$25,000. Mayor Thornton noted that the request was received before the budget was finalized but Council needed more time to consider the request. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to amend the budget and to approve funding \$15,000 to the Salvation Army for the budget year 2019-2020.

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to adopt the Calendar of Events for the 2019 City of LaGrange Municipal Election, and to designate the Troup County Voter Registrar as Voter Registrar and Absentee Ballot Clerk.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted 3-2 to approve the following ordinance, with Messrs. Edmondson, Arrington and Gaskin voting in favor of the ordinance and Messrs. Gore and Mitchell voting in opposition.

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO AMEND THE RETIREMENT PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED ADOPTION AGREEMENT, THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM (GMEBS) MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO; TO MODIFY THE NORMAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS; 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:

The retirement plan for the employees and/or officials of the City of LaGrange, Georgia, is hereby amended as set forth in and subject to the terms and conditions stated in the attached Adoption Agreement and General Addendum to the Adoption Agreement.

SECTION 2:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

SECTION 3:

This Ordinance shall be effective upon its date of passage and in conformity with the Georgia Municipal Employees= Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Document, as amended.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ June 25, 2019 _____

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ July 11, 2019 _____

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ July 11, 2019 _____

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Alton West to a one year term on the Alpha Multi-Purpose Center Board.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to reappoint June Nelson and Ben Yates to four year terms on the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Lisa Duke and Sue Olson to three year terms on the LaGrange Gas Authority.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Jay Bartlett to a four year term on the Tree Advisory Board.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Joan Woodson to the Troup Family Connection Board.

Terry Wolsifer came before the Council to ask why limbs and leaves had not been collected on Ridley Avenue in three weeks. He also expressed concern for the heavy dump trucks from the LaGrange High School construction site coming through the Ridley Avenue neighborhood that has caused some issues with the speed bump. Ms. Kelsey told Mr. Wolsifer that staff will look into his concerns.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor shared with the Council that we are close to completing the roundabout at Country Club Road and Hills and Dales Farm Road. There will be a ribbon cutting and official opening the end of July. Ms. Van Schoor showed a drone video of the latest progress.

Ms. Van Schoor also shared with the Council that the City is accepting LaGrange 101 and LaGrange Youth Council applications until Friday, August 30th.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk