

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

November 27, 2018

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Teresa Taylor; 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 Reverend J. R. Ware of Welcome Baptist Church and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on November 13, 2018.

Phil Nations, owner of Nations Towing Company, appeared before the Council to request an increase in wrecker service fees for companies on the rotation with LaGrange Police Department. Mr. Nations argued that an increase was needed to address rising insurance costs, as well as other fees. He also noted that the last increase was a decade ago. The proposed request was to increase the current fee of \$100 to \$150-\$175, depending on the situation of the tow. Ms. Kelsey stated that the LaGrange Police Department had discussed the request and initially agreed that an increase to \$150 was reasonable. Because of Mr. Nations' requests for an increase for other types of towing fees, Ms. Kelsey agreed to have a joint meeting between the Mr. Nations and the Police Department and bring back a recommendation to the Mayor and Council at the December 11, 2018 work session.

Evie Kettler approached the Council to request changes to the current City ordinance regarding chaining of dogs. She also highlighted the need for more education and enforcement of the existing ordinance. Mayor Thornton directed staff to review the proposed revisions to the tethering ordinance and report back at the December 11, 2018 work session.

Mary Ann Keck, President of Friends of the Library, appeared before the Council to request an exception to the sign ordinance to allow a portable sign on Vernon Road. Mayor Thornton stated that the Council was not authorized to grant an exception but asked staff to work with Friends of the Library to find a potential solution.

Mr. Edmondson reported to the Council that the tree lighting and parade that was held at Calumet Park and Frank Cox Union Street Park on November 16, 2018 was a huge success. He thanked the staff and everyone involved for their participation and help in making this event successful.

Ms. Kelsey reported to the Council that the auditors for the City had recommended adopting budgets for the CHIP Fund of \$750 and the Marriott Tax Allocation District of \$70 for Fiscal Year 2018. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously approved the request.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a contract with Georgia Department of Transportation to donate right-of-way along Tower Street, Jarboe Street and Main Street for the Hamilton Road widening project. Mr. Edmondson abstained from voting. A copy of the options are on file in the City Manager's office.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council unanimously agreed to authorize the submittal of a CHIP Grant for up to \$600,000 for construction of three houses in the Hillside area.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council unanimously adopted 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 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PLANNING AND ZONING APPEALS; 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 25-35-146 of the zoning ordinance of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting the first sentence of such section, inserting in lieu thereof a new first sentence of Section 25-35-146 to read as follows:

“The board of planning and zoning appeals shall consist of nine (9) members, who shall be appointed by the mayor and council for a term of four (4) years, and who may be removed from office at any time by the mayor and council, with or without cause.”

SECTION 2:

That subsection (a) of 25-35-147 of the zoning ordinance be amended by deleting such subsection, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 25-35-147(a) to read as follows:

“(a) Each of the nine (9) members appointed to the board of planning and zoning appeals shall be residents and citizens of the city and shall so remain as residents during the tenure of their service on the board of planning and zoning appeals.”

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 _____ November 13, 2018

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ November 27, 2018

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ November 27, 2018

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council unanimously adopted 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 MODIFY THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR REZONING INITIATED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL; 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 subsection (b) of Section 25-35-178 of the zoning ordinance of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said subsection, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 25-35-178(b) to read as follows:

“If the proposed amendment is to rezone property from one zoning classification to another zoning classification and is initiated by a party other than the city, the city manager or his or her designee shall cause a sign to be placed upon the property for which the rezoning is sought. Such sign shall be placed upon such property at least fifteen (15) but not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the public hearing. The sign shall have surface of not less than sixteen (16) inches in height and twenty (20) inches in width and the printing thereon shall be black with a light background and the letters shall be at least one and one-half (1½) inches tall. The sign shall be placed in a conspicuous location on the property and must be visible from at least one (1) street upon which the property abuts or on the access to such property and shall state the proposed zoning amendment, the date of the public hearing and shall contain a telephone number to call for further information relating to such proposed rezoning.”

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 _____ November 13, 2018

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ November 27, 2018

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ November 27, 2018

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson second by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously adopted 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 MODIFY THE CODE SO AS TO CREATE THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF THE FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY; TO DELETE THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND REINSTATE THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; 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 Chapter 10-4 of the Code of the City of LaGrange entitled “Department of Public Safety” be deleted in its entirety.

SECTION 2:

That Chapter 10-5 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said chapter, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Chapter 10-5 to be entitled “Police Department” and to read as follows:

“Chapter 10-5 POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 10-5-1. - Department created; chief of police; appointment.

There is hereby created the police department of the city, the head of which shall be the chief. The chief shall be appointed by the city manager.

Section 10-5-2. - Powers and duties of chief generally.

The chief shall be responsible for the administration, coordination and control of all police activities for the city, and to that end shall:

- (1) Plan, organize and command all police activities involved in protecting lives and property; preserve the public peace, prevent the commission of acts of crime and investigate and detect acts of crime;
- (2) Establish procedures, rules and regulations for the conduct of the department within the framework of the general policies approved by the mayor and council;
- (3) Develop, approve and conduct training programs for police department employees and attend conferences, schools and conventions to keep abreast of the latest police methods and administration;
- (4) Supervise all departmental personnel and the operation and maintenance of all equipment and property; maintain any

city jail; be responsible for the custody and care of prisoners and cooperate with all county, state and federal law enforcing officers in the prevention and detection of acts of crime;

- (5) Enforce all laws, ordinances and the judgments of courts; execute warrants; serve summons, subpoenas and citations issued by the courts or by the mayor and council in accordance with the law;
- (6) Collect and remit to the city clerk all fines, forfeitures and costs imposed by the court under the jurisdiction of the mayor and council;
- (7) Maintain a system of complaint, arrest, identification and accident records; prepare monthly and annual reports of activities and assist in the preparation of the annual budget; and
- (8) Perform related duties as may be directed by the city manager or prescribed by ordinance or resolution of the mayor and council.”

SECTION 3:

That Article I of Chapter 10-10 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by renumbering Sections 10-10-1, 10-10-2, and 10-10-3 as 10-10-3, 10-10-4, and 10-10-5, respectively.

SECTION 4:

That Article I of Chapter 10-10 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by inserting therein new Sections 10-10-1 and 10-10-2 as follows:

“Sec. 10-10-1. - Division designated; chief; appointment.

There is hereby created the fire prevention and protection department of the city, the head of which shall be the chief. The chief shall be appointed by the city manager.

Sec. 10-10-2. - Powers and duties of chief.

The chief shall be responsible for the planning, directing and supervising of all the activities of the fire prevention and protection department, and to that end shall:

- (1) Exercise general control and supervision of the equipment, apparatus, and personnel of the department;
- (2) Investigate or cause to be investigated the cause, origin and circumstances of all fires within the city; maintain a system of records; prepare monthly and annual reports of fire department activities and assist in the preparation of the annual budget;
- (3) Develop, approve and conduct training programs for fire department employees and attend conferences, schools and conventions to keep abreast of the latest fire-fighting methods and administration;

- (4) Enforce all laws, ordinances and resolutions of the mayor and council pertaining to fire prevention, fire control and fire safety.
- (5) Establish procedures, rules and regulations for the conduct of the department within the framework of the general policies approved by the mayor and council.
- (6) Serve as local fire marshal deputized by the state fire marshal and as such perform the duties imposed by the state laws; and
- (7) Perform related duties as may be directed by the city manager or prescribed by ordinance or resolution of the mayor and council.”

SECTION 5:

That Section 10-10-73 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therein the reference to “chief of the department of public safety” and inserting in lieu thereof the reference to “chief of the fire department.”

SECTION 6:

That Section 30-20-12 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said code section, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 30-20-12 to read as follows:

“Sec. 30-20-12. - Investigations.

Upon filing of an application in accordance with the provisions of section 30-20-11, the assistant city manager or designee shall submit the application to the police department of the city for investigation of the applicant and the compliance by the applicant with the terms and provisions of this chapter, for investigation of the criminal history of the applicant and for a recommendation relating to the application. He shall also submit the application to the department of economic and community development of the city of investigate and to insure compliance with the various ordinances, codes and regulations of the city including but not limited to zoning, restaurant occupancy and fire codes and any distance requirements imposed by state law or the ordinances of the City of LaGrange. The police department and the department of community and economic development will report the results of their respective investigations to the assistant city manager within forty-five (45) days of the application and upon receipt thereof, the assistant city manager or designee will report the results of such investigation to the city manager with any recommendations thereon.”

SECTION 7:

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

SECTION 8:

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

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ November 13, 2018

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ November 27, 2018

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ November 27, 2018

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

Ms. Kelsey announced to the Council that since the 14 day waiting period had passed for naming the Fire Chief, the sole finalist for the position of Fire Chief was John Brant. Therefore, Mr. Brant will begin the position of Fire Chief immediately.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to appoint Kay Berkley and Susan Bowie to four year terms on the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals.

In other business, Mayor Thornton discussed with the Council rescheduling the December 25, 2018 Council meeting due to the Christmas holiday. On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to move the Work Session and Council meeting to December 20, 2018 at the regular times.

Alonza Roberts approached the Council to express concerns for the homeless situation in the City, especially due to the recent cold weather. Mayor Thornton suggested he contact the Troup County Homeless Coalition and work with them to possibly find shelters or warming centers.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor announced that the City of LaGrange is moving ahead with plans to use the \$200,000 RTP Grant to help fund segment 3b of The Thread, known as the LaGrange College Connection. The Department of Natural Resources administers this grant and recently issued a Notice to Proceed. The Thread, near the intersection of Broad and Springdale, is expected to be poured before the end of the year. The finishing touches of the trail striping, trail signage and landscaping will follow. Segment 3b will be under construction in December. The Country Club segment is expected to begin in December as well. Both segments are expected to be completed within 6 months.

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

Mayor

City Clerk