

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

January 26, 2021

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor; Community Development Director Alton West; Strategic Planning Manager Mark Kostial

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Reverend L.W. Booker, St. James Baptist Church, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on January 12, 2021.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on the Comprehensive Plan Update. No comments were received. The document will be forwarded to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review and approval. Upon approval by DCA, the document will be referred back to the Mayor and Council for adoption.

Mr. Edmondson reported that he has not been pleased with the Troup County Health Department, regarding distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in our community. Mr. Edmondson is the City appointee on this Board. He believes we need better communication, and is frustrated that there seems to be no workable phone number for citizens to call nor is the website friendly to use. He stated that this is unacceptable. Mayor Thornton stated that he shares the frustrations and thanked Mr. Edmondson for bringing it to the Council's attention.

Mr. Gaskin thanked Mr. Edmondson, and the Council, for their concern for protecting the community, and for taking the pandemic serious. Mr. Gaskin also reported that earlier he had asked Ms. Kelsey for a report of the dollar amount that the City had allowed citizens to make payment arrangements for during the pandemic, in order to avoid utility disconnects during this time. At that time, that amount peaked at \$600,000 and is now down to less than \$60,000.

Ms. Kelsey reported that Council had received a funding request from Alternative to Violence Program. Phase I includes one program, three components and would be funded this budget year for \$15,900. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to approve the budget request.

Ms. Kelsey also reported that Council had received a funding request from Greater Achievement Blueprint for Leadership for \$25,000, and it would be spread out over two budget cycles. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted 5-1 to approve the funding request. Mr. Mitchell voted against the request.

Ms. Kelsey reported that Chief Dekmar has requested five additional police officers. She stated that it will take some time to go through the hiring process and that some of the expenses will be in this year's budget, but that the majority of the expenses will be in the next budget year. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to approve the request for the additional officers.

Next, Ms. Kelsey reported that they had received a request for additional funding of \$25,000 for the District Attorney's Office, bringing the total to \$100,000. Mr. Gaskin stated that he had previously asked for a list of confirmed gang members from the DA's office, but has not received it as of this date. Mayor Thornton asked Ms. Kelsey to reach out to the DA's office to try and obtain this list. On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted 5-1 in favor of the additional funding request. Mr. Gaskin voted against the funding.

Finally, Ms. Kelsey reported to the Council that City staff had searched for property to replace the Frank Cox Union Street Park that was being lost due to the Hamilton Road widening project. She stated that the City has acquired property on McGregor Street that was owned by CAFI, and that would keep the park in the same neighborhood community. Mr. Edmondson and Mayor Thornton thanked Ms. Kelsey and staff for working diligently to make sure the park would be replaced.

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 MODIFY THE DURATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSIENT MERCHANTS SELLING PRODUCE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to approve the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO ANNEX TO THE CITY CONTIGUOUS REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY YOGAO, LLC AND LOCATED AT 71 BUSCH DRIVE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, YOGAO, LLC (hereafter “Owner”) is the owner of land herein referred to which is contiguous to the existing corporate limits of the City of LaGrange, Georgia, as defined by the laws of the State of Georgia, such land being described in Exhibit “A” attached hereto;

WHEREAS, Owner has filed with the City of LaGrange a written and signed application requesting that the land area described within Exhibit “A” be annexed to and made a part of the City of LaGrange, a copy of such request being attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “B”;

WHEREAS, upon such request the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange have determined such application meets the requirements of laws contained within O.C.G.A. §36-36-20 through §36-36-21, et seq.;

WHEREAS, the City of LaGrange upon accepting said application timely notified the Board of Commissioners of Troup County, Georgia, of the proposed annexation and attached hereto as Exhibit “C” is evidence that said body interposes no land use classification objection to the annexation pursuant to O.C.G.A. §36-36-11;

WHEREAS, the area proposed for annexation adjoins and is contiguous to the present corporate limits of the City of LaGrange as defined by the laws of this state;

WHEREAS, a complete survey of the area to be annexed has been prepared by a competent surveyor and has been filed with and reviewed by the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange, Georgia with a copy of said plat of survey being attached to the ordinance as Exhibit “D” and by this reference made a part hereof;

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange, Georgia, hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1:

That the application of YOGAO, LLC for annexation of the areas contiguous to the City of LaGrange, as described in Exhibit “A” and as shown on the plat attached as Exhibit “D,” be and the same is hereby approved, and the contiguous area proposed for the annexation is hereby annexed to the City of LaGrange so that such land shall constitute a part of the land within the

corporate limits of the City of LaGrange as fully and completely as if the limits had been marked and defined by a special act of the General Assembly of Georgia.

SECTION 2:

That a copy of this ordinance, together with a description of the area to be annexed thereto as Exhibit “A,” a copy of the written request for annexation attached thereto as Exhibit “B” and a copy of the plat of survey attached thereto as Exhibit “D,” all duly certified by the Clerk of the City of LaGrange, be forwarded to and filed with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners of Troup County, Georgia.

SECTION 3:

That the area annexed as described in Exhibit “A” shall for the purposes of electing members of the City Council be within and designated as District 1.

SECTION 4:

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

SECTION 5:

This ordinance, after adoption and upon approval by the Mayor and Council, shall become effective according to the terms of O.C.G.A. §36-36-2, on the 1st day of February, 2021.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ January 12, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND ADOPTED _____ January 26, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ January 26, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

EXHIBIT “A”

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lots 121 and 104 of the 6th Land District of Troup County, Georgia, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point marking the intersection of the west right-of-way of South David Road and the north right-of-way of Busch Drive, run thence North 32° 01’ 51” West a distance of 502.17 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING of the property described herein; run thence along a curve in the east right-of-way of Busch Drive

a distance of 297.31 feet, which curve has a chord bearing of North 05° 40' 40" West and a chord distance of 297.21 feet to an iron pin found on the east right-of-way of Busch Drive; run thence North 03° 15' 34" West a distance of 70 feet to an iron pin found; departing said right-of-way, run thence North 62° 50' 34" East a distance of 138.88 feet to an iron pin found; run thence North 45° 43' 14" East a distance of 128.78 feet to an iron pin found; run thence North 52° 23' 00" East a distance of 258.12 feet to an iron pin found; run thence South 42° 36' 38" East a distance of 448.37 feet to an iron pin found; run thence South 37° 09' 25" West a distance of 220.93 feet to a concrete monument found; run thence South 24° 38' 05" West a distance of 126.48 feet to a 1/2" bar; run thence South 24° 38' 05" West a distance of 126.48 feet to a 1/2" bar; run thence South 83° 43' 23" West a distance of 507.28 feet to an iron pin found, which is the POINT OF BEGINNING of the property described herein. Said property is more particularly shown on that plat of survey entitled "Plat for Proposed Annexation for the City of LaGrange of the Property of YOGAO, LLC" dated December 9, 2020, prepared by Gregory Scott Hajek, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor Number 3214, which plat is incorporated herein for the purpose of a more complete description.

The above-described tract of land is contiguous to and adjoins the corporate limits of the City of LaGrange at the places and to the extent referred to and shown on the aforementioned plat of survey, all according to the definition of "contiguous real property" as set forth in Georgia law.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Arrington, 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 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 BUSCH DRIVE AND OWNED BY YOGAO, LLC; 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 classify as G-I (general industrial district) the following described real estate which is to be annexed into the corporate limits of the City of LaGrange, to wit:

That tract or parcel of land located at 71 Busch Drive and known as
Tax Map Parcel Number 039-3B-007-002C.

SECTION 2:

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

SECTION 3:

Pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated §36-66-4(d)(4), this ordinance after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor, shall become effective upon the latter of the following dates: (1) the date the zoning is approved by the Mayor and Council; or (2) the date that the annexation of the above-referenced property becomes effective pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated §36-36-2.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ January 12, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND ADOPTED _____ January 26, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ January 26, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that the city is proud to continue to collaborate with our community partners to help support and communicate information to the public. Friday, the city & county worked Bill Hunnicutt and Barbie Watts to feed the District 4 Public Health workers at the vaccine clinic as part of the Feeding the Frontlines campaign. LGTV recently created a video describing what the community can expect going through the vaccine clinic and tomorrow the Mayor will be hosting another Facebook Live Roundtable Discussion with our healthcare leaders to inform the public on the latest COVID information. We are proud to continue to support and collaborate through this pandemic.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk