

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

March 22, 2016

Present: Mayor Thornton; Council Members Willie Edmondson, Tom Gore, LeGree McCamey, Norma Tucker and Nick Woodson

Also Present: Interim City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Community Development Director Alton West; Senior Planner Leigh Threadgill

Absent: Council Member Mark Mitchell

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton the invocation was given by Dr. Willie T. Edmondson, Council Member and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on March 8, 2016.

Mayor Thornton presented a 25 year service award to Bernard Owens, Advanced Public Service Associate in the Sanitation Division. Mayor Thornton expressed the gratitude of the Mayor and Council for Mr. Owen's long career service to the City of LaGrange.

Ms. Candi Gibson appeared before the Council and presented a brief introduction to the Safe Families for Children program. The mission of the group is to prevent child maltreatment, deflect at-risk families from entering children into the welfare system, and stabilize and strengthen families in crisis. Ms. Gibson requested that the Council help in promoting the program with the local church community. The Mayor and Council thanked them for their work in the community.

Ms. Threadgill discussed a request to rezone 1901 Hamilton Road from R-3, residential to C-3, General Commercial. The Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommended approval finding that 1) it didn't have a negative impact on the neighborhood or community 2) fit with the future land use plan and 3) did not constitute spot zoning. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing on April 12, 2016.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to enter into a contract with Tom Berry, Underwood & Company, to conduct a City Manager search.

Ms. Tucker gave a brief report on her recent trip to the National League of Cities meeting in Washington, DC.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Interim City Manager to execute the Marketing Program Funding Agreement with the Development Authority of LaGrange. A copy of the document will be on file in the City Manager's office.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Interim City Manager to execute a Marketing Program Marketing Agreement with the Troup County Chamber of Commerce. A copy of the document will be on file in the City Manager's office.

Council heard the first reading of the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LAGRANGE TO DE-ANNEX FROM THE
CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY CERTAIN REAL
PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO INTERSTATE 185

NORTH; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CODE OF THE CITY IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN ALCOHOL SALES WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AREA; TO MODIFY DEFINITIONS; TO INCREASE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALCOHOL AWARENESS TRAINING IN CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS; TO REMOVE FOOD SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN WINE SALES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Woodson, 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 MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON RIDLEY AVENUE AND OWNED BY JOHNNA D. SMITH; 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 R-2 (residential district) to C-3 (general commercial district) the following described real estate, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land located on Ridley Avenue in the City of LaGrange, Georgia, known as Troup County Tax Map Parcel Number 061-1D-014-002.

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 _____ March 8, 2016

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ March 22, 2016

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ March 22, 2016

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Meg Kelsey, Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance

On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council unanimously authorized the introduction of a substitute ordinance for an ordinance first read on March 8, 2016. The substitute ordinance modifies the rezoning request from G-I, General Industrial to C-1, Neighborhood Commercial per the recommendation of the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals. Then, on a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gore, Council unanimously adopted the following substitute ordinance:

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 THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 1523 VERNON ROAD AND OWNED BY ANGAMPALLY G. RAJEEV; 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 G-I (general industrial district) to C-1 (neighborhood commercial district) the following described real estate, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land located on Vernon Road in the City of LaGrange, Georgia, known by the street numbering system of the city as 1523 Vernon Road and also known as Troup County Tax Map Parcel Number 061-3D-001-010.

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 _____ March 8, 2016

SUBSTITUTE ACCEPTED _____ March 22, 2016

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ March 22, 2016

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ March 22, 2016

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

ATTEST: /s/ Meg Kelsey, Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance _____

On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council unanimously adopted the following ordinance:

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 AND ADDENDUM TO THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT; TO UPDATE THE PLAN TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAWS AND GUIDANCE; TO ALLOW SURVIVING SPOUSES OF PARTICIPANTS WHO DIE IN-SERVICE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE AUTO-A IN-SERVICE DEATH BENEFIT AND THE ALTERNATIVE DEATH BENEFIT; TO CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR LUMP SUM DEATH BENEFIT; 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 _____ March 8, 2016

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ March 22, 2016

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ March 22, 2016

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Meg Kelsey, Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council unanimously authorized the introduction of a substitute ordinance for an ordinance first read on March 8, 2016. The substitute ordinance adds permitted parking for commercial businesses on Ridley, Bacon and Highland. Then, on a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council unanimously adopted the following substitute ordinance:

A SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE

A SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY; TO DESIGNATE PERMIT PARKING AREAS WITHIN CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY; TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMITTING OF SAME; TO PROVIDE FOR SIGNAGE, LIMITATIONS AND PENALTIES; 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 Code of Ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended by creating therein a new Section 10-20-107, to read as follows:

“Sec. 10-20-107. Permit parking areas.

(a) *Program Established.* There is established in the city a permit parking program whereby motor vehicles bearing a special parking permit issued pursuant to this code section may be parked on streets or within certain areas known as permit parking areas. For the purposes of this code section, the following streets areas are designated as permitted parking only:

- (1) Ridley Avenue between Smith Street and Mitchell Avenue;
- (2) W. Bacon Street between New Franklin Road and Marshall Street; and
- (3) Highland Avenue between Ridley Avenue and N. Greenwood Street.

(b) *Application for Permit.* The application for a parking permit shall provide the following information:

- (1) The name of the operator of the motor vehicle to be permitted;
- (2) The operator's residential address;
- (3) The operator's state driver's license number;
- (4) The motor vehicle make, model and license number; and
- (5) Any other information reasonably requested on the application form. The applicant shall also provide proof of residency within the designated permitted parking area.

(c) *Permit Term; Fee.* Annual parking permits shall be valid for the calendar year of issuance, will expire on December 31st of each year, and shall be issued free of charge.

(d) *Issuance of Permits.* The Department of Community Development shall issue parking permits as follows: A permit shall be issued only to a motor vehicle operator who resides or operates a business on property that is located within the designated permit parking area, which permit shall be issued in accordance with the following limitations:

- (1) For single-family dwelling units (one residential structure containing only one housing unit) or commercial uses:

One parking permit may be issued for each valid street address where said dwelling unit or commercial use contains off-street parking.

- (2) For multiple family dwelling units (including but not limited to, apartments, condominiums, attached dwellings, row houses and townhouses):

One parking permit may be issued for each legally constituted and existing dwelling unit in any two-family or multiple-family dwelling facility at a valid street address within the permit parking area where said dwelling unit contains off-street parking availability.

- (3) Additional parking permits may be issued, for good and sufficient cause, to any resident or business operator within the permit parking area if, in the opinion of the LaGrange Police Department, exceptional circumstances exist warranting an additional permit issuance.

(e) *Permit Form and Display.*

- (1) The parking permit shall be a hang tag type and shall be displayed only on the motor vehicle for which it was issued in accordance with the limitations of use.

The permit shall be prominently displayed by hanging from the rear view mirror so that is clearly visible from outside the vehicle. Information shown on the permit shall include the expiration date.

- (2) Visitors to a residence within the permitted parking area may utilize the registered owner's parking permit while visiting said residence.

(f) The Department of Community Development office may issue a temporary parking permit, valid for not more than one year, for a vehicle operated by a person who provides health care services on a regular basis at an address within a permit parking area. Such temporary permit shall be a permit bearing special validation and may be issued upon satisfactory proof of need presented by the resident at such address.

(g) *Limitations of Use.* A motor vehicle which displays a valid parking permit shall be allowed to stand or park in the parking permit area for which the permit has been issued. Such permits shall not authorize a motor vehicle to stand or park in any place where or during any time when the stopping, standing or parking of a motor vehicle is otherwise prohibited or the area is designated for other uses.

(h) *Signage.* Signs will be erected in each permitted parking area indicating that the street is designated as permitted parking only and that parking is prohibited without a permit.

(i) *Penalties for Violations.*

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to stand or park any motor vehicle on any street within the permitted parking area which does not display a valid parking permit. However, a public utility vehicle or commercial vehicle which is actively engaged in utility work or delivery or picking up of items is exempt from obtaining a permit and will not be in violation of this section.
- (2) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this code section for a person to furnish false information in an application for any permit authorized by this section or to represent falsely that such person is eligible for such permit.
- (3) A person holding a valid parking permit issued pursuant to this code section shall not be allowed the use or display of such permit on a vehicle other than that for which the permit was issued or a visitor to his/her residence or business.
- (4) It shall be unlawful and a violation of this code section for a person to produce or display a facsimile or counterfeit parking permit in order to evade the limitations on parking in a permit parking area.
- (5) Violation of this section shall constitute an offense and shall be punishable as provided under Code Section 1-1-6. In addition to said penalty, a vehicle

found to be in violation of this code section is subject to immediate removal, at the owner's expense, by a law enforcement officer.”

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 _____ March 8, 2016

SUBSTITUTE ACCEPTED _____ March 22, 2016

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ March 22, 2016

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ March 22, 2016

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Meg Kelsey, Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance

At the request of staff, on a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council unanimously tabled amending the tow away zone ordinance.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, 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 CODE SO AS TO MODIFY PARKING PROHIBITIONS RELATED TO THE FORMER CITY POOL PARKING LOT; 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 Code of Ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom Section 10-20-106, inserting thereof a new Section 10-20-106 to read as follows:

“Sec. 10-20-106. – Parking within the Sweetland Amphitheater parking lot.

Parking within the Sweetland Amphitheater parking lot located at the north end of Church Street shall be permitted unless otherwise prohibited as follows:

- (1) *Permitted parking.* Parking shall be permitted only in those designated parking spaces in the amphitheater parking lot.

Designated parking spaces as used herein is defined as being those lined parking spaces located on the east side of the parking lot.

(2) *Prohibited parking.* Parking is prohibited in all areas of the Sweetland Amphitheater parking lot except in designated parking spaces defined in subparagraph (1) hereof. Parking is specifically prohibited in all areas of said parking lot except designated areas, including, but not limited to, entrances, exits, traffic lanes, curbs, grassed areas or any other areas thereof used for passage of vehicular or emergency vehicle traffic.

(3) *Penalties.* Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished as provided in Section 1-1-6 of this Code. Additionally, any violating vehicle may be removed or towed by the appropriate officials of the city and the cost of removing such vehicle and any impoundment charges shall be paid by the owner prior to or at the time of retrieval of such vehicle.”

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 _____ March 8, 2016

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ March 22, 2016

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ March 22, 2016

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Meg Kelsey, Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance

On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Mr. Gore, Council unanimously voted to appoint Davie Biagi to fill an unexpired term on the Tree Advisory Board.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council unanimously voted to appoint Meg Kelsey to fill an unexpired term on the LaGrange Gas Authority.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Kelsey reported that LaGrange had been named by BackgroundChecks.org as one of the safest cities in Georgia. This a true achievement, which is a result of City Government, police and residents working together to ensure that LaGrange is safe.

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

Mayor

Deputy City Manager, Administration/Finance