

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

July 26, 2016

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Director of Community Development Alton West; Director of Utilities Patrick Bowie; Director of Public Services David Brown

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Reverend Paul Blair, First Baptist Church on the Square and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on July 12, 2016.

Mr. Michael Dover, the national chaplain for Disabled American Veterans, appeared before the Mayor and Council and thanked them for their support of DAV over the years. Mr. Dover presented awards to each member. The DAV is an organization that helps disabled veterans navigate the complicated process of receiving disability benefits.

Mr. Scott Sticher of the investment firm PFM Asset Management appeared before the Mayor and Council and outlined a proposed Financial Investment Policy. The policy defines conservative allocation, maturity and credit quality limits that minimize risk and allows for better monitoring of the city's investments. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council voted unanimously to adopt the Investment policy as proposed. A copy of the policy is on file in the City Manager's office.

Ms. Kelsey presented a request from the Calumet Village Neighborhood Association to restrict parking on the east side of S. Dawson Street from Hines Street to Ware Street. After much discussion on a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing on August 9, 2016 to gain citizen input. Council also requested the police department to prepare a traffic study on the request.

Ms. Kelsey gave a brief update on Downtown LaGrange Development Authority (DLDA) wayfinding signage. The signage was redesigned after potential wind resistance concerns raised by the Department of Transportation for a single pole design. The redesign is structured on two poles and incorporates the new city logo, is smaller in scale and more traditional. The Wayfinding Committee and the DLDA board have approved the new design for the signage. The Downtown Development Authority wanted to share the redesign with the Mayor and Council and gain approval to move forward. The Mayor and Council approved the redesign of the wayfinding signage.

On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to acquire portions of 200, 301, 303 and 304 Country Club Road for the future right of way of a roundabout at the intersection of Broad and Country Club Road.

Mr. Bowie discussed a proposed agreement between Savannah Energy and the City of LaGrange to design, build and operate a gas processing facility to convert Landfill Gas to Renewable Natural Gas. Under the proposal, Savannah Energy would purchase the landfill gas for \$.98 per MMBTU; pay an annual lease payment in the amount of \$24,000 to the City; and Savannah Energy will purchase landfill gas up to 1200 SCFM from the City to fulfill contracts Savannah Energy has with two Fortune 500 companies to purchase 100% of renewable natural gas. On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to execute a term sheet with Savannah Energy.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute an agreement with the LaGrange Development Authority to issue, sell and deliver bonds in an amount not to exceed seventeen million dollars

(\$17,000,000) for the purpose of obtaining funds to finance the costs of acquiring, constructing and installing a conference center.

On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute contracts:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, LaGrange City Charter Section 4.40, regarding contracting procedures, requires that all contracts of the City be authenticated by the Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange recently appointed Margaret B. Kelsey, who has served as Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance for the City, to the position of City Manager;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange deem it in the best interests of the City for City Manager Meg Kelsey to continue to authenticate contracts and perform any other mandatory duties of Deputy City Manager until such time as the Deputy City Manager position has been either filled or the duties thereof assigned to another office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange, Georgia, and it is so ordained by the authority thereof, that City Manager Margaret B. Kelsey shall continue to hold the office of Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance in so far as is required for authentication of contracts and other mandatory duties, all until further action of this body. Going forward, authentication of any contract or document by Margaret B. Kelsey as City Manager shall constitute authentication by the Deputy City Manager – Administration and Finance.

SO ORDAINED this _____ day of July, 2016.

CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA (*SEAL*)

BY:

JAMES C. THORNTON
Mayor

ATTEST: _____

MARGARET B. KELSEY
City Manager;
Deputy City Manager –
Administration and Finance

On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to appoint Meg Kelsey to fill the unexpired term of Tom Hall on the LaGrange Development Authority.

In closing comments, Ms. Kelsey briefly discussed the public hearing held on July 19 to hear from the community about the proposed draft trail plan, The Thread. The consultant team, Ed McBrayer and Greta DeMayo, presented the plan and took questions and comments. Erica Studdard, the Executive Director of the Carrollton Greenbelt, was also be in attendance to talk about the trail in Carrollton. Ms. Kelsey reported a great turnout with lots of positive comments.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session to discuss matters involving potential litigation. At the end of the executive session, on a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council voted to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the regular Council meeting.

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

Mayor

City Manager