

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

November 14, 2017

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Teresa Taylor; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Director of Community Development Alton West; Senior Planner Leigh Threadgill; Public Safety Director Lou Dekmar; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Reverend Adam Roberts, Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life and Church Relations – LaGrange College and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on October 26, 2017.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a rezoning of 109 Webster Street and 103 & 105 West Hillside Drive from R-2, Residential to C-3, General Commercial. No comments were received and the Council heard a 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 MAP ANMD ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY WITH CONDITIONS THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 109 WEBSTER STREET AND 103 AND 105 WEST HILLSIDE DRIVE AND OWNED BY JAMES T. SCHMITT, JR. AND FRONT DOOR INVESTMENTS, LLC; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Sandra Brownlee appeared before the Mayor and Council and provided a brief presentation on Griffin Waypoint. Ms. Brownlee stated that the program assists veterans by providing housing, job placement and assistance with veteran benefits claims. No action was taken.

Ms. Kelsey introduced Bart Connolly of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Mr. Connolly presented the LaGrange Police Department with an Accreditation of Excellence. CALEA offers a body of standards to establish up-to-date, best practice recommendations for the delivery of law enforcement services. Only 5% of police agencies have reached accreditation. Mr. Connolly commended the police department and Chief Dekmar for this prestigious award. Chief Dekmar thanked Sergeant Sanders for her hard work and the council for their support. No action was taken.

Chief Dekmar and Sergeant Eric Lohr appeared before the Council and presented the 2017 graduates of the LaGrange Citizen Police Academy. The class learned about topics consisting of constitutional policing, community outreach, use of force and procedural justice.

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

Ms. Kelsey presented a proposal to work with Barge Waggoner to provide a park plan for Eastside Park of approximately \$33,000. On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council unanimously approved the proposal.

On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council unanimously voted to authorize the Mayor and Assistant City Manager to execute an Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Commercial Gateway Tax Allocation District. The amendment will extend the TAD for additional five years (2022).

Lieutenant Kostial came before the Mayor and Council to review the radar permit for certain streets within the city limits of Lagrange. Kostial explained the primary changes outlined on the permit were increasing the speed limits of a portion of Vernon Road, Callaway Church Road, Hammett Road and the addition of Ann Bailey Way. These increases were based on speed studies conducted by Georgia Department of Transportation. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council unanimously voted to approve a list of roads and corresponding speed limits for the use of speed detection devices as provided by Georgia Department of Transportation, effective January 1, 2018.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council unanimously voted to authorize the Mayor and Assistant City Manager to become members of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency and participate in GIRMA funds and approve the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA  
INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (GIRMA) AND  
PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF GIRMA'S FUNDS**

WHEREAS, Article 9, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of Georgia authorizes municipalities and other political subdivisions to contract with each other for activities which the contracting parties are authorized by law to undertake; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated authorizes certain public entities to execute intergovernmental contracts to become members of an interlocal risk management agency for the purpose of sharing their accident, disability, supplemental medical, general liability, motor vehicle and property damage risks in whole or in part; and

WHEREAS, municipalities within Georgia have found it increasingly difficult to obtain commercial insurance protection, and have found the costs of such protection often exceeds the ability of a public entity to pay; and

WHEREAS, public entities in Georgia need a stable method for managing their risks to avoid the unpredictable and cyclical nature of the commercial insurance market; and

WHEREAS, many Georgia public entities do not have sufficient resources to self-insure their risks on an individual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Public Entity of LaGrange ("Public Entity"), located in Troup County, Georgia, desires to become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency ("GIRMA"), an interlocal risk management agency formed pursuant to Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; and

WHEREAS, the intergovernmental contract requires all members of GIRMA to participate in at least one GIRMA Fund; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Public Entity has reviewed the intergovernmental contract, the Fund Election Form, and the bylaws of GIRMA and finds that the goals of GIRMA and the obligations imposed on Public Entity by membership in GIRMA and the Fund or Funds selected on the Fund Election Form are in accordance with the philosophy and public policy objectives of this community; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Public Entity finds that it is in the best interest of its residents to become a member of GIRMA and to join the Fund or Funds selected on the Fund Election Form;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of Public Entity:

1. The Mayor of Public Entity is authorized to execute the intergovernmental contract to become a Member of GIRMA and the GIRMA Fund Election Form to become a member of the GIRMA Funds identified on that Form. A copy of the intergovernmental contract and bylaws of GIRMA and the completed Fund Election Form are attached and made part of this resolution as Appendix 1.
2. The powers of GIRMA shall be limited to those contained in the documents attached as Appendix 1, as amended from time to time, and those contained in Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated and the rules and regulations of the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Georgia.
3. The commencement of operations and the continuing operations of GIRMA and the obligation of Public Entity to fully participate in such operations shall be effectuated in accordance with the intergovernmental contract and bylaws and the Fund Election Form.
4. The Mayor of Public Entity is designated as Public Entity's representative to GIRMA, and he or she is authorized to complete any additional documents required for membership in GIRMA or the selected Fund or Funds.
5. Public Entity may change its representative by making a written request to Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., the Program Administrator for GIRMA.
6. This resolution shall be effective on the date of adoption.

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2017.

City of LaGrange

By: \_\_\_\_\_,  
James C. Thornton, Mayor

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Teresa Taylor, Assistant City Manager

Mr. West presented a request to declare surplus an unopened street off of Hickory Terrace. The property is an unopened parcel between two residential properties and has no utilities. Both neighboring property owners are in favor of the abandonment. On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council unanimously voted to declare the property surplus and requested an appraisal of the property.

On a Motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council unanimously voted to submit the names of Jerome Alford, Meg Kelsey and Lou Dekmar for the LaGrange Troup County Hospital Authority.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor announced the downtown hotel, Courtyard by Marriott, will open during the first weeks of December. Ms. Van Schoor also stated Sweetland on Ice will open on Friday November 17. Ms. Myrtice Adcock, who was famous for ice skating in the downtown Lafayette fountain back in January 1970, will do the honor of being the first skater on the ice.

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

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Mayor

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Assistant City Manager