

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

December 12, 2023

Present: Mayor Willie Edmondson; Council Members Nathan Gaskin, Tom Gore, Mark Mitchell, Leon Childs, Jim Arrington and Quay Boddie.

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; City Clerk Melissa Robertson; Communications Director Katie Van Schoor;

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Edmondson, the invocation was given by Pastor Lester Booker, and Mayor Edmondson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin, seconded by Mr. Boddie, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on November 28, 2023.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone 95.4 acres located in the 200 block on North Davis Road from (TN-MX) and (SU-R) to (TN-R). Tyler Finley and Trey Montgomery of Hughston Homes spoke in favor of the rezoning request. No other comments were received and 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 ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY THE USE ZONES OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON NORTH DAVIS ROAD AND OWNED BY FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAGRANGE, INC.; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone 98 Gordon Commercial Drive from (CP-GI) to (TN-MX). No comments were received and 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 ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON GORDON COMMERCIAL DRIVE AND OWNED BY GALYON PROPERTIES, LLC; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone 54 acres located at 1510 Lukken Industrial Drive from (CP-GI) to (SD-MH). Mr. Gaskin recused himself from discussion due to potential conflict. Cook Properties spoke in favor of the rezoning request and shared a slideshow of what the proposed development on this property would look like. Mr. Arrington asked if they had finance companies they use since he is aware of issues with banks loaning money on mobile homes. Representatives from Cook Properties said they had avenues available to direct clients who wish to finance the home. Several citizens spoke out in opposition to the development, addressing additional traffic in the area, not wanting a mobile home park in their neighborhood, and concerns of how the homes would look in 10 years. No other comments were received and the 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 ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY WITH CONDITIONS THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON LUKKEN INDUSTRIAL DRIVE WEST AND OWNED BY JONATHAN D. PARKER AND TRAVIS E. TAYLOR; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council regarding a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to annex and rezone seven (7) parcels on Hamilton Road adjacent to Sam Walker Drive and Vulcan Material Road. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on January 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council regarding a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to amend the Comprehensive Plan Character Area Map. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on January 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Todd informed the council of the request by Lewis Stargell to purchase the lot located at 946 Motley Street from the city. Mr. Lewis owns the adjacent lot. The property can be conveyed without advertisement and bid as it is not independently developable. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council unanimously voted to quitclaim this property in exchange for \$6,000.

Upon a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gore, Council authorized the City Manager to enter an agreement with the owner of the property located at 1003 Callaway Avenue. Through the agreement, the city will agree to release its nuisance abatement lien in exchange for the owner's construction of two single family homes on the property within 6 months.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Skip Smith, Rocky Grace, and Jenni Sampson to a three year term on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ms. Van Schoor shared the Good News for tonight: The Good News for tonight – we had a wonderful inaugural Mayor’s Christmas Ball this past weekend at the beautiful Oakfuskee Conservation Center. We collected hundreds of toys for Toys for Tots and raised thousands of dollars – we are still calculating an exact total – it’s all for our young people. We will be sharing pictures of the event on social media soon. Congratulations Mayor Edmondson! Also, don’t forget this Friday, December 15th at 12:30 PM, the City of LaGrange is celebrating its birthday. We will have a festive, heartfelt celebration to honor the day LaGrange was incorporated – December 16th, 1828. It is a free event and we will even have cupcakes. The event will be held on the square downtown.

Mayor Edmondson spoke on behalf of the City Council, stating that City Manager Meg Kelsey has submitted her resignation effective January 12, 2024. Thanking her for 27 years of faithful service, Mayor Edmondson said her shoes would be hard to fill. On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to appoint Patrick Bowie, Director of Utilities, as Interim City Manager effective January 13, 2024.

There being no other business, Mayor Edmondson adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk