

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

February 13, 2024

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

Also Present: Interim City Manager Patrick Bowie; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; City Clerk Melissa Robertson; City Planner Mark Kostial; & Communications Director Katie Van Schoor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Jim Arrington, and the invocation was given by Pastor Andy Buchanan with the Troup County Baptist Association. Mayor Pro Tem 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 January 23, 2024

Mr. Travis Hart came before the Council to commend Officer Frankie Primavera on a recent traffic stop between the two. Mr. Hart said Officer Primavera initiated the traffic stop because of a rear tail-light being out, and during the stop the officer was respectful, which he appreciated. The Council expressed their thanks to Mr. Hart for bringing this interaction to their attention and echoed their appreciation to Officer Primavera.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation on a request to rezone property located at the corner of Addie Street and Ware Street from Traditional Neighborhood Residential (TN-R) to Traditional Neighborhood Mixed Use (TN-MX). On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted 4-1, with Mr. Childs abstaining, to call for a public hearing to be held on March 12, 2024.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation on a request to rezone one (1) parcel located adjacent Bryant Lake Boulevard from Corridor Medium Density Residential (CR-MR) to Corridor Medium Density Residential (CR-MR). On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on March 12, 2024.

Mr. Bowie, Interim City Manager, presented copies of the January financial statements and payments of bills over \$5,000 for Council's information.

Mr. Bowie shared with the Council the results of an annual Customer Service Survey which tracked how customers felt their interaction with the Customer Service Department was. Mr. Bowie said he was very pleased with the results of the survey and scores showed our citizens were pleased with the service they had received. Mr. Bowie also said he was happy to report the City was able to decrease utility rates during the month of January. Mr. Bowie reported the average customer was able to save about \$13 on their bill.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted to authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to execute a Second Amendment to Structure Lease Agreement between the City of LaGrange and New Cingular Wireless.

Prior to the second reading of the following ordinance Mayor Pro Tem asked if there was anyone in the chamber that would like to address the One-Way ordinance on Garfield. One citizen approached the stand and voiced her concern of having the Lincoln Streetscape project and the Garfield Street project going at the same time. This citizen also voiced concern of rerouted traffic causing backups at peak times of the day. David Bishop from Barge Design was asked by the Council to address some of these concerns. Council thanked this citizen for bringing these concerns to them.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Mitchell, 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 MODIFY THE CODE OF THE CITY TO PROVIDE THAT TRAFFIC ON A PORTION OF GARFIELD STREET SHALL BE ONE-WAY; 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 Section 10-20-5 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be modified by inserting therein, in proper alphabetical order, a new entry for *Garfield Street*, to read as follows:

“*Garfield Street* from its intersection with Lincoln Street to its intersection with Jefferson Street is one-way West.”

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 upon written designation by the City Manager that the Streetscape Project at the intersections referenced in this ordinance is complete.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED/REJECTED _____

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED/DISAPPROVED _____

BY: _____
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to appoint John Fuller and Quay Boddie, and also reappoint Janice Davidson, Al Brannon, and Bill Stump to a two (2) year term on the Downtown LaGrange Development Authority (DDA I) Board.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Leon Childs to a three (3) year term on the Troup County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Mr. Arrington spoke on updating the citizens on the City Manager search. Mr. Arrington said Patrick Bowie has been named the sole finalist for the position of City Manager. City Council will wait 14 days, as required by Georgia law, between Mr. Bowie being named the finalist and making his official appointment. The official appointment is expected at the next Council meeting scheduled for February 27, 2024.

The Good News for tonight – the 2024 Mayor’s Updates are now available to the community. This is an update of what the city government has been doing in the past year. The Mayor’s Update will be available to the public in several ways –

1. by video on social media –
2. by booklet – we will have these at City Hall – free of charge
3. – and online – it will be available on our website at www.lagrangega.org.

There being no other business, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Arrington adjourned the meeting.

Mayor

City Clerk