



LAGRANGE GEORGIA

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2021

City of LaGrange Employee Honored for 40 Years of Service

LaGrange, Ga. July 22, 2021 – The City of LaGrange is honoring LaGrange Gas Superintendent Jimmy Rhodes for his dedicated 40 years of service.



City of LaGrange Gas Superintendent Jimmy Rhodes receives his 40-year service pin, from his wife Carla

Rhodes received his 40-year service pin at the LaGrange City Council meeting Thursday (7/15) night. His wife Carla and son Zack were by his side when he received the honor.

Jimmy Rhodes was hired to work in the City's gas division on April 1st, 1976. He took a short break to continue his education at West Georgia College before returning to the City where he has now served the public in various capacities for 40 years.

“Anyone who knows Jimmy is well aware of his passion for serving the customer and getting the job done no matter what it takes.” said City of LaGrange Utilities Director Patrick Bowie. “Jimmy never worries about departmental boundaries and is always eager to assist co-workers in any area of the City. It is not unusual to see him out late at night after a storm supporting electric crews or helping answer customer calls. His answer whenever needed is always ‘I’ll take care of it.’”

Rhodes has been involved with numerous unique city initiatives. He was active in the roll out of the World Gate Internet project, for which the City was awarded “Intelligent Community of the Year” in 2000 by the World Teleport Association. Jimmy helped launch and market a new Commercial Sanitation business, he created a city-wide directional boring crew that has saved the city millions of dollars in contractor expenses, and he continues to promote the benefits of natural gas appliances through an energy conversion program.



Pictured from left to right. Back row: Councilman Nathan Gaskin, Councilman Mark Mitchell, Councilman Jim Arrington, Councilman LeGree McCamey & Councilmember Willie T. Edmondson. Front row: Utilities Director Patrick Bowie, Zack Rhodes, Carla Rhodes, Jimmy Rhodes & Mayor Jim Thornton.

Jimmy was promoted to Gas Superintendent in 2009, where he currently manages the City’s \$14 million gas operation, utility dispatch personnel, and the electric and

gas inventory functions. The gas system is operated very efficiently, contributing over \$23 million to the general fund during Jimmy's tenure while staff was reduced by four positions, 33%, and sales grew by 72%.

"The city owns one of the largest and most productive municipal gas systems in Georgia," said Bowie. "Our customers and citizens are very fortunate to have Jimmy Rhodes managing this division. He is a true asset to the city."

Media Contact: Katie Mercer Van Schoor, City of LaGrange
Marketing/Communications Manager kvanschoor@lagrangega.org or (706) 883-2055

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