

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

January 24, 2023

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Mitchell; Council Members Tom Gore, Nathan Gaskin, Willie Edmondson, Leon Childs and Jim Arrington

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor; City Planner Mark Kostial

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell, the invocation was given by Rev. Aaron McCollough, and Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on January 10, 2023.

Zac Steele, Troup County Deputy Fire Chief and EMA Director, introduced several members of FEMA that have been working locally since the January 12, 2023 tornado caused damage and destruction to many homes and businesses in LaGrange. John Boyle, Federal Coordinator for FEMA, updated the Council on the work that's being done in the community. He stated that over 220 people in Troup County have registered with FEMA. Vivian Santos, Small Business Association, reviewed how they may be able to help affected residents with low interest, long term loans. She stated that residents must register with FEMA before the SBA can assist. Brian Miller, Individual Assistance, also reviewed how they can assist with rent/mortgage payments. They stated that the Disaster Recovery Center location has not been identified yet.

Judy Kendrick came before the Council with concerns about her landlord, Mallory Realty. She explained that her house had mold and rodents, and that she couldn't get them to fix any of the problems. She stated that she is behind on her rent and is being evicted. Council asked that staff work with Ms. Kendrick to see what resources are available to help her.

Mr. Arrington reported that at the end of the January 24, 2023 Council meeting, he would be resigning as Council Member for District 1, and he will qualify to seek election as Mayor of LaGrange. He has served on the City Council for five years.

Mr. Edmondson reported that at the end of the January 24, 2023 Council meeting, he would be resigning as Council Member for District 2, and he will qualify to seek election as Mayor of LaGrange. He has served on the City Council for 24 years.

Mr. Gaskin stated that he is sad to see both Mr. Arrington and Mr. Edmondson go, and that he wishes both of them the best of luck.

Ms. Kelsey stated that she echoed Mr. Gaskin's comments and wished both Mr. Arrington and Mr. Edmondson good luck.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Third Amendment to Lease Agreement between the Callaway Foundation and the City of LaGrange. This is in reference to the Haralson Street Park.

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute and Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of LaGrange and Troup County regarding sewer infrastructure contribution. Messrs. Arrington, Gore, Gaskin and Edmondson voted in favor of the agreement, Mr. Childs abstained from voting. Therefore, the agreement passed 4-1.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, 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 AMEND THE ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE
CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL
ESTATE LOCATED ON LINCOLN STREET AND OWNED BY

CALLAWAY FOUNDATION, INC.; 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 the zoning map and ordinances of the City of LaGrange be amended so as to reclassify from use zone TN-R (traditional neighborhood low-density residential district) to use zone TN-MX (traditional neighborhood mixed use district) the following described real estate, to wit:

All that tract or parcel of land located on Lincoln Street and known as Troup County Tax Map Parcel #060-1B-009-001.

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 immediately.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ January 10, 2023

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ January 24, 2023

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ January 24, 2023

BY: /s/ /Mark Mitchell, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

The Good News for tonight is that the City was honored this weekend at the GMA Cities United Summit as a 2023 Visionary City, in the large city division by Georgia Trend and the Georgia Municipal Association. While our city leaders were walking up to the stage to receive the award, they were not able to watch what was said. Here is the script read by Georgia Trend Editor-in-Chief and Publisher Ben Young:

“Located on the western side of the state, near the Alabama border, the city of LaGrange is known for a lot of things, including a welcoming and thriving business environment, delicious food, and now, they can add world-class parks to the list. When LaGrange took back maintenance and capital funding of the city’s parks in July 2021, they did so with a purpose and crafted a plan to make parks a priority. It all starts with “the Thread,” LaGrange’s pet-friendly, multi-purpose, multi-use trail system, where people can walk, bike, or jog. The idea was to have parks spread throughout the community, and the Thread connects them and provides a beautiful, safe pathway for residents to travel from one park to the next. And there’s plenty of reason for residents to visit each park, as each offers something different. Granger Park, for example, offers a tricycle track, where LaGrange’s youngest citizens have a path made specifically for them to enjoy. Moss-Wood Park, on the other hand, has a small amphitheater where residents can enjoy shows, community events, or even host parties. And LaGrange isn’t stopping there. The city is currently developing Ridley Lake Park, which will be on the Thread system, and will feature a lake where residents can fish, kayak, and more. That same park will also offer playground equipment designed for special needs children, ensuring every citizen can enjoy the city’s Thread and park system. The transformation of LaGrange’s parks is truly a remarkable achievement and will continue to enhance residents’ quality of life for this generation and the next. Congratulations, LaGrange!”

LaGrange will be featured in the next Georgia Trend Magazine.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell.

Once the meeting adjourned and Mr. Arrington and Mr. Edmondson stepped down, Mr. Todd explained the process of appointing someone to fill Mr. Edmondson's seat. He explained that because Mr. Edmondson had less than one year left on his term, the remaining members of the Council could appoint someone to fill that seat. However, Mr. Arrington has more than one year remaining for his seat, therefore, a Special Election will be held at a later date.

Mr. Gore nominated Quay Boddie since he was the 2nd runner up in the Special Election to fill Mr. McCamey's seat. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Gaskin nominated Ashley Cousin, the motion received no second.

Mr. Childs nominated Maiya Dowell, the motion received no second.

The Council then voted unanimously to appoint Quay Boddie to fill the unexpired term of Willie Edmondson.

Mayor Pro-Tem

City Clerk