

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

April 11, 2017

Present: Mayor Jim 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; Director of Community Development Alton West; Director of Utilities Patrick Bowie; City Attorney Jeff Todd

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Reverend Jeremy Phillips of Rosemont Baptist Church and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on March 28, 2017.

Jennifer Shook, Development Director of Lafayette Society of Performing Arts (LSPA), addressed the Mayor and Council to request grant funding to assist with utility costs and grow community outreach efforts. In 2016, LSPA hosted 13 annual ticketed shows and 41 free events. LSPA offers scholarships for students and in 2016, 22 students attended LSPA classes free of charge. No action was taken.

Paul Robertson, a consultant for the LaGrange Housing Authority, addressed the Mayor and Council and requested funding for a linear park adjacent to Benjamin Harvey Hills on Whitesville Road in the amount of \$300,000. On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to grant the request for the linear park not to exceed \$300,000.

Mr. West presented a request to rezone 1005 and part of the 1105 South Davis Road from MXD, Mixed Use Development to R-3, Multi-Family Residential, The Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals unanimously voted to recommend conditional approval of the request. The developer proposes to develop 280 apartment units, which will meet the density requirements of R-3. They have resolved a previous concern about access by agreeing to create a second entrance to north end of property. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Woodson, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing on May 9, 2017.

Ms. Kelsey discussed a petition to modify the entrance of Beechwood Subdivision from North Greenwood Street to Granger Drive. At the direction of the Mayor and Council, staff contacted all subdivision residents, which included two property owners directly effected on Granger Drive. In response to that correspondence, staff received comments in opposition and support of the request. In assessing the traffic impact to Hunnicutt Drive, traffic counters were setup at the exit of the subdivision. In four days, 896 vehicles exited Beechwood Circle onto North Greenwood Street and 1,800 vehicles entered and exited the subdivision. Staff did note one concern that the new entrance would create a small increase in public safety response time but also noted that it would relocate traffic to a signalized intersection which will increase traffic safety. One area resident, Joan Howard expressed her opposition to the request due to a concern that traffic would increase close to her house but that she had no other concerns. On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to modify the entrance to Beechwood Subdivision to Granger Drive. Mayor Thornton requested that staff contact the area residents prior to the change.

Mr. Edmondson reported on the progress of the Great Wolf project. He commended city staff for their efforts in making this project a reality.

Mr. Woodson reported that over 800 college students would be visiting to LaGrange over the weekend for the USA South Spring Sports Festival.

Ms. Tucker urged the community to be more aware of their surroundings on the weekend since the weather is getting warm.

Ms. Kelsey reported that police and fire department have accreditation committees here reviewing both departments. The Police Department will host to a hearing at 6 pm, City Council Chambers on April 12 as part of the accreditation process.

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

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Ms. Tucker, the Mayor and Council unanimously authorized the City Manager to execute a landfill gas royalty and lease agreement with Savannah Energy in substantially the form submitted to the Mayor and Council with such changes, corrections, deletions, insertions, variations, additions, or omissions as may be approved by the Mayor and City Manager.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council unanimously voted to reappoint Joe Ragland, Heather Graham, Speer Burdette, Janice Burks Davidson and Al Brannon to four years terms on the Downtown Development Authority of the City of LaGrange (DDAI).

In good news closing comments, Ms. Kelsey briefed the Council on progress of The Thread. Ms. Kelsey commented that the project is ahead of schedule with over 400 yards of concrete being laid at the Granger Park location over the past week.

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

Mayor

Assistant City Manager