

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

May 10, 2016

Present: Mayor Thornton; Council Members Willie Edmondson, Tom Gore, Mark Mitchell, LeGree McCamey, Norma Tucker and Nick Woodson

Also Present: Interim City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Community Development Director Alton West; Senior Planner Leigh Threadgill; Public Safety Director Lou Dekmar

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton the invocation was given by Pastor O'Shay Smith, Ark Refuge Ministry and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on April 26, 2016.

Mayor Thornton presented a 35 year service award to Jimmy Rhodes, Gas Superintendent. Mayor Thornton expressed the gratitude of the Mayor and Council for Mr. Rhodes long career service to the City of LaGrange.

Ms. Yvonne Lopez and Pastor O'Shay Smith appeared before the Council and discussed the ongoing activities of Ark Refuge Ministries. No action was taken.

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

Ms. Kelsey reviewed a request from the Housing Authority to approve an allocation of \$600,000 to develop a linear park on Whitesville Road in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Benjamin Hills Harvey. The project would consist of demolishing 10 buildings from the Ben Hill development fronting on Whitesville Road and rebuilding 70 units of new construction on a vacant parcel adjacent to the Ben Hill site. Through demolition of the building along Whitesville Road, the housing authority would like to beautify the space by creating a linear park extending from Handley Street and ending at the site of the proposed senior development. The Housing Authority requested that the city partner in the financial assistance needed to obtain two extra points associated with DCA's competitive scoring criteria associated with the Qualified Allocation Plan. On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council voted to allocate up to \$600,000 (5% match) for a proposed DCA tax credit application to demonstrate the city's commitment to improve the Whitesville Road corridor and the quality of life for the residents in the community. (5-1 vote, Council Member Woodson voted in opposition) Council is hopeful that the Housing Authority will be able to acquire half of this funding, \$300,000, from other community resources.

Chief Dekmar appeared before the Mayor and Council and provided a brief update on gang related crimes within the community. No action was taken.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and Deputy City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Contract regarding the conveyance of industrial property. A copy of the contract is on file in the City Manager's Office.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Kelsey reported that the City locked in the natural gas price spread between this summer and next winter to create a \$70,000 benefit that will accrue from November to March. This is the first option that the city has had to hedge storage capacity over the past few years due to flat natural gas prices.

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

Mayor

Deputy City Manager, Administration/Finance