

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

August 23, 2016

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; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Director of Community Development Alton West

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Reverend Cade Ferris, First Baptist Church on the Square 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 August 9, 2016.

Sheriff James Woodruff appeared before the Council and presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to help cover the costs of a new K-9. The K-9 will replace Deek, who was euthanized on August 1 after significant health problems. K-9's are used for dual purposes including tracking suspects and missing people, as well as drug interdiction.

The second class of the LaGrange Youth Council was recognized at the Council meeting. The Youth Council was established to engage young people and allow them to give input to local officials. The first meeting of the group will be held on August 29, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to deny a notice of claim for damages filed on behalf of Yvonne Bumbrey.

On a motion by Ms. Tucker seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to declare the following as surplus:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MAKE</u>	<u>MODEL</u>	<u>SERIAL #</u>
2115	2004	Dodge	Intrepid	2B3HD46V2H702583
2170	1995	Ford	Crown Victoria	2FALP71W4SX178640
2306	2008	Chevrolet	Impala	2G1WS553989265899
2314	2008	Chevrolet	Impala	2G1WS553989266227
3033	1999	Mack	DM690S	1M2B209C0XM024913
3788	1995	Bobcat	763	512212963
3804	1996	Ford	F350	1FDJF37FXTEB24357
4106	2003	Yanmar	VI075	01054B
4220	1986	Ford	F8000	1FDPK87U6GVA39474
4409	2007	Ford	F576	1FDAF57P87EA37129

Mayor Thornton announced that LaGrange/Troup County has been selected by the Young Gamechangers, a Georgia Forward Program, as its Spring 2017 Focus Community. Young Gamechangers is a leadership action program bringing 50 of Georgia's best and brightest together to solve problems. Young professionals will work from January through June to provide big idea recommendations to some of LaGrange/Troup County's most persistent challenges.

Chief Dekmar appeared before the Mayor and Council and gave a brief up on the Homeless Coalition initiative. A community task force was established and have been evaluating options to keep the homeless warm when the weather turns colder. New Ventures has agreed to renovate a portion of 150 Lukken Industrial Drive and open it up as a warming center this winter. The facility will be able to house approximately 60 people and be open when temperature drop to 40 degrees to below. Chief Dekmar requested that Council fund \$10,000 that will assist with renovations to the facility and maintenance of the center when it is open. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to fund the \$10,000 appropriation to the Homeless Coalition for the warming center.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Ms. Tucker, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution designating the Urban Redevelopment Area and calling for a public hearing September 13, 2016 to gain citizen input:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AREA

WHEREAS, Chapter 61 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, entitled the “Urban Redevelopment Law,” as amended (the “Urban Redevelopment Law”), authorizes the City of LaGrange, Georgia (the “City”) to designate an “urban redevelopment area,” which is defined to mean a “pocket of blight” which the Mayor and Council of the City designates as appropriate for an urban redevelopment project; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Redevelopment Law defines “pocket of blight” to mean an area which by reason of the presence of a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures; predominance of defective or inadequate street layout; faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness; unsanitary or unsafe conditions; deterioration of site or other improvements; tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land; the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes; having development impaired by airport or transportation noise or other environmental hazards; or any combination of such factors, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the City, retards the provisions of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use; and

WHEREAS, after careful study and investigation, the City desires to designate the area described in Exhibit A attached to this resolution as an urban redevelopment area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council that the area described in Exhibit A attached to this resolution is hereby determined to be a “pocket of blight,” by reason of the presence of a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures, unsanitary or unsafe conditions, deterioration of site or other improvements, and the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire or other causes; which substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the City or constitutes an economic or social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use, and that such area is therefore designated as appropriate for an urban redevelopment project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any and all resolutions in conflict with this resolution be and the same are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and Council of the City.

PASSED, ADOPTED, SIGNED, APPROVED, and EFFECTIVE this 23rd day of August 2016.

CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

By: _____
Mayor

(SEAL)
Attest:

Deputy City Manager - Administration and Finance

On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted to authorize staff to acquire property located at 300 Country Club Road for the roundabout project. (5-0 vote, Mr. Mitchell abstained.)

On a motion by Mr. Woodson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute a Hangar Lease agreement with Georgia Crown Distributing Company and an intergovernmental agreement with Troup County holding the City harmless for any liability claim. A copy of the documents are on file in the City Manager's office.

Council heard the first reading of 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 SECTION 10-20-96 OF THE CODE SO AS TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON A PORTION OF SOUTH DAWSON STREET; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

In closing comments, Ms. Kelsey announced that a sledge hammer ceremony would take place on August 24, 2016 at 11:00 in front of the Mansours building. The demolition of the deteriorating building will make way for a new Courtyard by Marriott hotel and 200 space parking deck.

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

Mayor

City Manager