

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

May 10, 2022

Present: Mayor Jim Thornton; Council Members Nathan Gaskin, Tom Gore, Mark Mitchell and Jim Arrington

Absent: Council Member Willie Edmondson

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 Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Tom Farr, First Baptist Church on the Square, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on April 26, 2022.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council regarding a request to annex property located at 118 Old Airport Road. On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to proceed with the annexation.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council regarding a request to annex property located at 23 Busch Drive. On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to proceed with the annexation.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone property located on Daniel Street from CR-MX to TN-R. On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on June 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommendation to rezone property located on Cotton Road from CP-GI to CR-MX. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on June 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Gaskin reported that he was concerned that Troup County recently announced a millage roll back for property taxes due to a cash surplus because of recently received ARPA funds, yet they have asked the City for \$1M to help with expenses for renovations at The Griggs Center and the Rosemont water line extension. Mr. Gaskin believes we should renegotiate our agreements with Troup County. No action was taken.

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

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to reschedule the June 28, 2022 Work Session and Council meeting to June 21, 2022 to avoid a conflict with the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Conference in Savannah.

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 THE PUBLIC PARKS ORDINANCE TO MODIFY PROHIBITED ACTS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 CHAPTER 10-30 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO DEFINE AND OUTLINE REQUIRED PARAMETERS FOR PRESCRIBED GRAZING; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 CHARTER OF THE CITY; TO AMEND THE CHARTER SO AS TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TWO ELECTION DISTRICTS OF THE CITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to House Bill Number 1670, passed during the 1998 session of the General Assembly, the members of the City Council of the City of LaGrange are elected from one of two council districts, with three members being elected by designated post from each district;

WHEREAS, the 2020 Decennial Census discloses that population growth within the City requires a rebalancing of the populations within the districts in order to comply with the one person-one vote rule as announced by the Supreme Court of the United States in Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186 (1962);

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange find that the modified district lines as more fully described herein represent a rebalancing of the populations within the two elections districts without undermining the relative strength of the minority population for the purposes of voting or otherwise;

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the City of LaGrange is authorized to reapportion the election districts from which members are elected following publication of the United States Decennial Census in order to comply with the one person-one vote requirement for the United States Constitution, providing that such reapportionment is limited to adjusting the boundary lines of the existing districts in order to do so;

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

That the Charter of the City of LaGrange be amended, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Act of 1965, as amended, by deleting subsection (b) of Section 6.01, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 6.01(b) to read as follows:

“(b) For purposes of electing members of the city council, and beginning with the municipal elections to be held subsequent to May 10, 2022, the City of LaGrange is divided into two council districts as set forth in the map and census block description attached hereto

and made a part of this Charter, said map being identified as “client: LaGrange, type: Local, plan: LaGrange CC-Draft 2-2022.” There shall be three posts in each district to be designated as Posts 1A, 1B and 1C in Council District 1 and Posts 2A, 2B and 2C in Council District 2. Each district shall elect three members of the city council, one from each post.”

SECTION 2:

All provisions of the Charter of the City of LaGrange in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3:

This Charter amendment, after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor, shall become effective upon a copy of same being filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Georgia and the Clerk of the Superior Court of Troup County, Georgia, all in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 36-35-5.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ April 26, 2022

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ May 10, 2022

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ May 10, 2022

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor _____

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk _____

On a motion by Mr. Arrington seconded by Mr. Mitchell, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Alton West to a one year term on the Alpha Multi-Purpose Center Board.

On a motion by Mr. Gaskin seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Norma Tucker to a four year term on the Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported that LaGrange is hosting the Georgia Municipal Association’s Board of Directors and Legislative Policy Council starting tomorrow through Friday. We are excited to host this group of Georgia Mayors and municipal leaders to LaGrange and showcase our great little city. We are proud of Mayor Thornton’s tenure as the GMA President this year.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

Mayor

City Clerk