

CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA
WORK SESSION

March 26, 2024

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Quay Boddie, Council Members Nathan Gaskin, Mark Mitchell, Leon Childs, Tom Gore

Also Present: City Manager Patrick Bowie; City Clerk Melissa Robertson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Director Katie Van Schoor; Media Coordinator Adam Speas; Police Chief Garret Fiveash; and City Planner Mark Kostial

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Quay Boddie.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to approve the March 12th Work Session minutes.

Mr. Boddie reviewed the items on the March 26, 2024 agenda. No action was taken.

Mr. Bowie had Mr. Todd update the Council on the Lonnie Hollis and Mason's World Bar & Grill case that was filed against the City of LaGrange. Mr. Todd informed the Council that the class action lawsuit against the City of LaGrange was dismissed on March 1st. Mr. Todd spoke on possible next steps being an appeal of the dismissal, and Mr. Bowie commented that this could potentially be a positive outcome because if this case went to the state Supreme Court it would allow for a statewide ruling to prevent any similar cases in the future.

Mr. Bowie also informed the Council that he and Ms. Kelsey were signatories on the Municipal Competitive Trust account and with her leaving the City would need to reassign this responsibility. He asked the Council to consider adding Mr. Bulloch, Assistant City Manager as the replacement for Ms. Kelsey. This will appear on tonight's City Council agenda for consideration.

Mr. Brent Gibbs, Sweetland General Manager, presented the Council with an update and look back of Sweetland Amphitheatre since the City took over managing the venue. Mr. Gibbs said that since being hired, and bring Lizzy Simpson on staff, they have been able to terminate the Rival contract saving over \$25,000 in professional fees, \$80-90,000 in % fees for booking shows, and \$6,000+ in hourly fees for design and ad placement. Sweetland is also seeing growth in their Sweetland on Ice season and feels with the growth in sponsorships and adding some non-concert events at Sweetland we could see a bright future for Sweetland Amphitheatre. The Council thanked Brent and Lizzy for their hard work.

Mr. Bowie spoke on the need to reschedule the June 25, 2024 Council meeting due to Council and staff being at the 2024 GMA Annual Convention. Alternative dates were discussed and this item will appear on the Council agenda for tonight.

Mr. Kostial spoke on a request from a local builder who would like the city to consider adjusting its current UDO as it relates to 4 specific topics. These areas are: 1) To reduce the minimum lot frontage requirements for single-family homes with a front facing garage from 50' to 40' 2) To stricken a requirements whereas front-facing garage doors not being permitted to exceed a width equal to one-half (1/2) of the width of the primary building façade 3) To reduce minimum square footage requirements for single-family homes and 4) To require HOA's within all "high density subdivisions" After discussion from the Council Mr. Kostial asked for direction as to how the Council would like to proceed with this request, informing them he would need their recommendation to take it to the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Gore made a recommendation to Mr. Kostial to proceed with letting the Planning and Zoning Board review this request. Mr. Kostial said he would have the request on the May 8th Planning and Zoning Board agenda.

Chief Fiveash spoke on the proposed 2nd reading and vote on the agenda later today for Redspeed, updating the Council on questions he had been asked to research from the March 12th Work Session. All questions were addressed and this item will appear on the Council Agenda today.

Mr. Boddie spoke to the Council and encouraged them to visit various departments at the City and get involved.

Mr. Childs again requested the Council consider not having any motions or votes until they could have a full Council seated, which would be after the May elections. Mr. Childs spoke on the need for his “district to be represented properly.”

Mr. Gaskin spoke on the Addie and Ware Street rezoning being a “positive thing for that community” and spoke on the site currently being a “dumping ground for the community’s trash.” Mr. Gaskin’s hope is that this rezoning and potential development would improve the community.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Approved: _____

Date: _____