

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

February 25, 2020

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Jimmy Pruitt of Grace Baptist Church, and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on February 11, 2020.

Nicholas Griffin with Communities in Schools of Georgia in Troup County addressed the Mayor and Council to give an update on their progress and to thank the Council for their continued support. No action was taken.

The LaGrange Housing Authority basketball team traveled to Birmingham, AL January 17-19, 2020 and won 1st place in the 2020 MLK 28th Annual Tournament. The Cheer and Dance Team also participated and won 3rd place in their competition. Coaches Gemontea J. Edmondson and James Harrison introduced the teams to the Council and expressed how proud they are for their hard work and commitment. Mayor Thornton congratulated the teams and thanked them for coming and sharing their experiences with the Council.

Glenn Dowell with Greater Achievement Youth Empowerment Academy addressed the Council to inform them of a program they are working with, providing tutoring for SAT and ACT tests, having tutored over 300 young adults thus far. Mr. Dowell believes that education is the greatest strategy for preventing crime. He introduced Sidrick Cameron, who increased his SAT test score by 210 points after going through this program. Mayor Thornton thanked Mr. Dowell for sharing the success stories of people who have gone through the program and applauded their continued work.

Police Chief Lou Dekmar presented the 2019 Police Department Annual Report. The Council thanked Chief Dekmar for the great job he is doing. A copy of the report is on file in the City Manager's office.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. Gaskin, Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to execute an amendment to the revision of the Service Delivery Strategy, removing housing and workforce development from the unincorporated area of Troup County.

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 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CODE OF THE CITY IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE RESTAURANT REQUIREMENT FOR CLASS B SPIRITOUS LIQUORS LICENSE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to adopt 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 MODIFY THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO PROVIDE THAT TRAFFIC ON A PORTION OF BACON STREET AND ON MARSHALL STREET SHALL BE ONE WAY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1:

That Section 10-20-5 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be modified by deleting therefrom the entry entitled “*Bacon Street,*” inserting in lieu thereof a new entry entitled “*Bacon Street*” to read as follows:

“*Bacon Street,* from its intersection with Ridley Avenue to its intersection with Marshall Street is one-way west.”

SECTION 2:

That Section 10-20-5 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom the entry entitled “*Marshall Street,*” inserting in lieu thereof a new entry entitled “*Marshall Street*” to read as follows:

“*Marshall Street,* from its intersection with Bacon Street to its intersection with Highland Avenue is one-way north”.

SECTION 3:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4:

This ordinance after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor shall become effective immediately.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING _____ February 11, 2020

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED _____ February 25, 2020

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED _____ February 25, 2020

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

Carolyn Haamid reminded the Council about the ongoing fund raiser for CAFI. Tickets may be purchased online.

In good news closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor shared that one of the many issues the LaGrange Youth Council is tackling this year is anti-vaping. The group recently finished making a video encouraging other teens NOT to vape. This week, they visited the State Capitol and had a chance

to talk with our State leaders about pressing issues, and vaping is a major issue they are addressing. A disturbing statistic our teens shared with us and other teens shared with State Representatives – which is not confirmed by any data – is that 80% of their peers vape. Our group felt this issue was extremely important and we are very proud to present the Youth Council’s video addressing anti-vaping.

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

Mayor

City Clerk