

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

June 22, 2021

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; City Clerk Sue Olson; Assistant City Manager Bill Bulloch; City Attorney Jeff Todd; City Planner Mark Kostial; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor; Community Development Director Alton West

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Rev. Ben Wills of First United Methodist Church, 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 June 8, 2021.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to make Douglas Street and Peachtree Street one way. Bobby Traylor, who owns rental property on Douglas Street, spoke in favor of the request. Glenda Crowder, a property owner and resident who lives on the corner of Douglas and Peachtree Streets, spoke in favor of the request and pointed out that numerous people are running the stop sign there. Adrienne Brewer, a resident of Peachtree Street, spoke against the request. Thavin Emerson, who owns rental property on Peachtree Street, spoke in favor of the request. Natalie Hale, The Thread Trail Director, told the Council that she had been door to door to almost every resident on Douglas and Peachtree Streets and that no one was against the streets being one way. There were no other comments and 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 MODIFY THE CODE OF THE CITY TO P ROVIDE THAT  
TRAFFIC ON A PORTION OF DOUGLAS STREET AND  
PEACHTREE STREET BE ONE-WAY; TO REPEAL  
CONFLICTING ORDINANCE; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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Jamal Jones, a former LaGrange Youth Council member, who has interned with LGTV for the past few weeks, came before the Council to thank them and the City staff for the opportunity to spend time with the departments and learn more about city government. Jamal was dual enrolled in West Georgia Tech while attending LaGrange High School and Thinc Academy. Jamal is a future leader in whatever path he decides to take.

Mr. Kostial presented information to the Council on a request to rezone Vernon Street at Hill & Dales Farm Road from R-1 (Residential) to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial). On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to call for a public hearing to be held on July 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Gaskin thanked Intern Jamal Jones for his service and time spent with the City.

Mr. Edmondson thanked Ms. Kelsey and the Council for continuing to work for no property taxes for city residents.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to approve the Visit LaGrange 2021 budget.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to change the July 13, 2021 Work Session and Council meetings to July 15, 2021, and the August 10, 2021 Work Session and Council meetings to August 12, 2021. The times will remain the same.

On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to adopt the Calendar of Events for the November 2, 2021 election.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to designate the Troup County Voter Registrar as Voter Registrar and Absentee Ballot Clerk the for 2021 City of LaGrange Municipal Election.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Arrington, Council voted unanimously to approve the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE

TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF LAGRANGE FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1:

For the expenses of the City Government and its activities for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, the amounts contained in the General Fund, Utilities Fund, General Capital Improvements Fund, Electric Fund, Water and Sewer Fund, Telecommunications Fund, Gas Fund, Sanitation Fund and Community Development Fund as shown in the Budget for the City of LaGrange, dated July 1, 2021 are hereby adopted and appropriated for the departments and activities of the City shown therein.

SECTION 2:

A copy of the Budget, dated July 1, 2021, is on file in the office of the City Manager of the City of LaGrange and is by this reference incorporated in and made a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3:

If any part of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance. The Mayor and Council of LaGrange hereby declare that it would have passed the remaining portion of this Ordinance had it known such part or parts would be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4:

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5:

This Ordinance after its adoption and upon approval by the Mayor shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_ June 8, 2021

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

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On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to authorize the introduction of a substitute ordinance.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to approve the following substitute ordinance:

A SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE

TO LEVY AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE CITY OF LAGRANGE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1:

The millage rate necessary to produce revenue from taxation of tangible real and personal property in the City of LaGrange which, when combined with other revenues reasonably expected to be received by the City during the year, other than revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to this Section and which would provide revenues sufficient to defray the expenses of the City for the year is computed as follows:

- (a) For the purpose of raising revenue to pay the cost of the general government, ordinary expenses and for other purposes authorized by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia \_\_\_\_\_ 5.00 Mills

The millage rate of 5.00 as thus ascertained is then reduced by 5.00 mills, the millage rate which, if levied against the tangible property within the City of LaGrange, would produce an amount equal to the distribution of the proceeds of the tax imposed by the join County and Municipal Sales and Use Tax for the twelve-month period. Applying the reduction of the millage rate to the millage rate necessary to produce the total revenue results in the millage rate for the calendar year 2021 of -0-.

SECTION 2:

If any part of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this ordinance. The Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining portion of this ordinance had it known such part or parts would be adjudged invalid, or unconstitutional.

SECTION 3:

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

SECTION 4:

This ordinance after its adoption and upon approval by the Mayor of LaGrange shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_ June 8, 2021  
SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE ACCEPTED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021  
SECOND READING AND ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021  
SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

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On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Mitchell, 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 CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND THE CODE SO AS TO DELETE THEREFROM TITLE 25, INSERTING IN LIEU THEREOF A NEW TITLE 25 TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAGRANGE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE ; TO MODIFY THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY; TO MODIFY AND/OR RECODIFY FORMER CODE PROVISIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, SIGNS, BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, BUFFERS, LANDSCAPE AND TREES, SUBDIVISIONS, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, SOIL EROSION, SEDIMENTATION AND POLLUTION CONTROL, AND ON-SITE SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MAINTENANCE WITHIN A NEW UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEPARABILITY; 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 the Code of the City of LaGrange is hereby amended by deleting therefrom Title 25, in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Title 25 to be entitled “LaGrange Unified Development Ordinance.” The text of the LaGrange Unified Development Ordinance is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and the Zoning map and Garden District maps are attached respectively as Exhibits “B” and “C”. Each exhibit is, by this reference, incorporated herein as if specifically set forth in its entirety.

**SECTION 2:**

All parts, portions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are each hereby declared to be severable and if any such part, portion, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any remaining parts, portions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases thereof and the Mayor and Council of the City of LaGrange hereby declare that had they known that any such provision was or would be invalid, they would not have adopted that portion or part of the Ordinance but would have nevertheless adopted the remaining portions thereof.

**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 at 12:01 A.M. on June 23, 2021. Any application filed before said effective date and time shall be governed by the now existing provisions found in the Code of the City of LaGrange.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_ June 8, 2021

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

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On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Mitchell, 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 CODE OF THE CITY; TO MODIFY REFERENCES WITHIN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE TO CONFORM TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE; 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 15-10-49(a)(8)e. be deleted in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-49(a)(8)e. to read as follows:

“e. Any owner of a structure who, upon written notification by the city that such structure is to be declared a nuisance structure pursuant to article V of [chapter 25C-5](#) of this code, shall voluntarily demolish the structure without the necessity of further enforcement action by the city shall pay landfill disposal fees for the structure as follows:

Minimum charge (500 lbs or less) .....\$6.75

Per ton .....13.50”

**SECTION 2:**

That Section of 30-1-6 of the Code be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (c), inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 30-1-6(c) to read as follows:

“(c) Unless otherwise allowed pursuant to article V, article VI or article VII of [chapter 30-5](#) or other provision of the city code, any business location in the City of LaGrange shall be operated out of a building as such term is defined within chapter 25D-1 of the code.”

**SECTION 3:**

That all references to “central business district” or “C-2 central business district” within code sections 30-5-315, 10-20-108, 30-5-318, 30-5-316, 30-5-317, 35-6-2, 30-20-7, and 30-20-96 of the Code be replaced with “DT-MX downtown mixed use district”.

**SECTION 4:**

That Section 10-20-91(a) of the Code be amended by deleting said subsection in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 10-20-91(a) to read as follows:

“(a) In order to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the city, to insure the safe and orderly transition of traffic in residential areas and to protect property values in certain residential areas in the city, the parking of certain vehicles within residential zones ES-R, SU-R, and TN-R is prohibited upon the public streets, alleys and rights-of-way within such residential districts.”

**SECTION 5:**

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

**SECTION 6:**

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

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_ June 8, 2021

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

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On a motion by Mr. Edmondson 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 CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND SECTION 20-10-3 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY SCHEDULES 40, 41, 42 AND 48 OF THE GAS SERVICE RATE ORDINANCE; 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 20-10-3 of the Code be amended by deleting subsection (b)(3), inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 20-10-3(b)(3) to read as follows:

“(3) *Monthly Rate:*  
Winter base charge (November through March) . . . \$15.00  
Summer base charge (April through October). . . . \$ 5.00  
All consumption, per therm . . . . . \$0.60”

**SECTION 2:**

That Section 20-10-3 of the Code be amended by deleting therefrom subparagraph (3) of subsection (c), inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 20-10-3(c)(3) to read as follows:

“(3) *Monthly Rate:*  
Base charge . . . . . \$500.00  
Distribution charge, per therm . . . \$0.235”

**SECTION 3:**

That Section 20-10-3 of the Code be amended by deleting therefrom subparagraph (3) of subsection (d), inserting therein a new Section 20-10-3(d)(3) to read as follows:

“(3) *Monthly Rate:*  
Base charge . . . . . \$500.00  
Distribution charge, per therm . . . . . \$0.135”

**SECTION 4:**

That Section 20-10-3 of the Code be amended by deleting therefrom subparagraph (3) of subsection (e), inserting therein a new Section 20-10-3(e)(3) to read as follows:

“(3) *Monthly Rate:*  
Base charge . . . . . \$28.00  
All consumption, per therm. . . . . \$0.54”

**SECTION 5:**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 6:**

This ordinance, after adoption by the Council and upon approval by the Mayor, shall become effective July 1, 2021.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING June 8, 2021

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED June 22, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED June 22, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

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On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Edmondson, 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 CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND ARTICLES II AND III OF CHAPTER 15-10 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO MODIFY THE FEES FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE AND COMMERCIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION; 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 15-10-31 the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (1) a. and b., inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-31(1) a. and b. to read as follows:

“(1) *Curbside Garbage Collection.*

- a. Sixty-eight (68) gallon container, per month per residential unit . . . . . \$17.00
- b. Ninety-six (96) gallon container, per month per residential unit . . . . . \$20.00”

**SECTION 2:**

That Section 15-10-31 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (2) a. and b., inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-31(2) a. and b. to read as follows:

“(2) *Premium garbage collection service.*

- a. Sixty-eight (68) gallon container, per month per residential unit . . . . . \$30.00
- b. Ninety-six (96) gallon container, per month per residential unit . . . . . \$33.00”

**SECTION 3:**

That Section 15-10-31 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (3), inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-31(3) to read as follows:

“(3) *Households qualifying for physical impairment exemption:*

- a. Sixty-eight (68) gallon container, per month per residential unit . . . . . \$17.00
- b. Ninety-six (96)gallon container, per month per residential unit . . . . . \$20.00
- c. Households qualifying for physical impairment exemption are limited to one (1) container per residential unit.”

**SECTION 4:**

That Section 15-10-39 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (1) a., inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-39(1) a. to read as follows:

“(1) *Curbside commercial garbage collection:*

- a. Ninety-six (96) gallon container, per month per commercial establishment . . . . . \$23.00
- b. Additional ninety-six (96) gallon container(s) per additional container per month per commercial establishment . . . . . \$17.00”



**SECTION 5:**

That Section 15-10-39 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (2) a., inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-39(2) a. to read as follows:

- “(2) *Premium commercial garbage collection:*
  - a. Ninety-six (96) gallon container,  
per month per commercial  
establishment . . . . . \$36.00”

**SECTION 6:**

That Section 15-10-39 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (3) a., inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-39(3) a. to read as follows:

- “a. Curbside nonprofit/charitable garbage collection:
  - 1. First ninety-six (96) gallon container. . Exempt
  - 2. Additional ninety-six (96) gallon  
container(s), per additional container  
per month per location . . . . . \$20.00”

**SECTION 7:**

That Section 15-10-39 the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (3) b. 1., inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-39(3) b. 1. to read as follows:

- “b. *Premium nonprofit/charitable garbage collection:*
  - 1. Ninety-six (96) gallon container,  
per month per location. . . . . \$33.00”

**SECTION 8:**

That Section 15-10-25 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting therefrom subsection (b) in its entirety. The remaining subsection designations within Section 15-10-25 shall be re-designated in alphabetical order.

**SECTION 9:**

That subsection (5) of Section 15-10-31 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said subsection in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-31(5) to read as follows:

- “(5) Those persons who qualify for the utilities discount as provided in section 20-20-1 et seq. of this Code and for whom a charge is made pursuant to subsection (1)a above shall be eligible for a discount equal to fifteen dollars and (\$15.00) per month per residential unit for a ninety-six (96) gallon container and twelve dollars (\$12.00) per month per residential unit for a sixty-eight (68) gallon container.”

**SECTION 10:**

That Section 15-10-39 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting subsection (1)(c), in its entirety.

**SECTION 11:**

That subsection (b) of Section 15-10-40 of the Code of the City of LaGrange be amended by deleting said subsection in its entirety, inserting in lieu thereof a new Section 15-10-40(b) to read as follows:

“(b) The city will place truck-lifted containers at locations designated by the city in the downtown business district. Commercial customers disposing of solid waste in said containers shall pay a fee, established by the City which, in its discretion, approximates the number of ninety-six (96) gallon containers used by said establishment according to the collection charges outlined in Section 15-10-39(1).”

**SECTION 12:**

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

**SECTION 13:**

This ordinance after adoption by the council and upon approval by the mayor shall become effective July 1, 2021.

INTRODUCED AND FIRST READING \_\_\_\_\_ June 8, 2021

SECOND READING AND ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

SUBMITTED TO MAYOR AND APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ June 22, 2021

BY: /s/ James C. Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Sue Olson, City Clerk

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On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Meg Kelsey and Patrick Bowie to 3 year terms on the LaGrange Gas Authority.

On a motion by Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Tabatha Coverson, Carlton Wood and Chris Lutz, and to appoint Chase Hudson, to 2 year terms on the Visit LaGrange Board, with terms ending on June 30, 2023.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted unanimously to appoint Nikki Franklin to fill the unexpired term of Bobby Carmichael on the Visit LaGrange Board.

In good news, closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported the City is proud of our former LaGrange Youth Council member Jamal Jones and our two other interns this summer who also were LaGrange Youth Council members. Because of the LaGrange Youth Council, we have been able to have some engaged young leaders become involved with our City government. We wanted to let our Mayor and Council know that we are now accepting applications for Youth Council. The deadline is Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Thornton.

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Mayor

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City Clerk