

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

April 10, 2018

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

Also Present: City Manager Meg Kelsey; Assistant City Manager Teresa Taylor; City Attorney Jeff Todd; Director of Community Development Alton West; Senior Planner Leigh Threadgill; Communications Manager Katie Van Schoor.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thornton, the invocation was given by Reverend Ann Baker of Warren Temple and Mayor Thornton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On a motion by Mr. Edmondson seconded by Mr. McCamey, Council approved the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on March 27, 2018.

A public hearing was held to receive comments on a request to rezone 409 Broad Street from R-3 Residential to OIR, Office Institutional Residential. Ms. Threadgill gave brief summary of the request. The Board of Planning and Zoning recommended denial of the request. Area residents appeared before the Mayor and Council voicing opposition to additional commercial intrusion onto Broad Street. Kendall Butler, agent for the owner, spoke in favor of the request and argued that the rezoning would protect the historical aspects of the neighborhood. Ms. Butler reviewed a site plan of the 3 parcels and stated all entrances would be on Vernon Street with no customer parking off of Broad Street. Council heard a 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 ZONING MAP AND ORDINANCES OF THE CITY SO AS TO RECLASSIFY THE USE ZONE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 409 BROAD STREET, 502 AND 504 VERNON STREET OWNED BY REGINA D. AND JAMES C. BRIDGES AND REGINA BRIDGES PROPERTIES, LLC; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chief Executive Officer of the THINC Academy, Kathy Carlisle, appeared before the Mayor and Council and provided a brief update of the ongoing activities of THINC. No action was taken.

Ms. Threadgill presented a request to rezone property along Bryant Lake Blvd. from C-3 General Commercial to R-3 Residential and HDR-LU High Density Residential Limited use. The Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals recommended approval. On a motion by Mr. Mitchell seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council voted to call for a public hearing on May 8, 2018.

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

Ms. Kelsey recommended the appointment of Dion Senn as the Public Services Director. On a motion of Mr. Gore seconded by Mr. Edmondson, Council confirmed the appointment of Dion Senn as the Public Services Director.

On a motion by Mr. McCamey seconded by Mr. Gore, Council voted to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Georgia Municipal Association has established a Certified City of Ethics program; and

WHEREAS, the City of LaGrange, Georgia, has been certified by GMA as a Certified City of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, recertification as a Certified City of Ethics requires that the Mayor and Council renew their adherence to certain ethics principles;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing authority of the City of LaGrange, Georgia, that as a group and as individuals, the governing authority subscribes to the following ethics principles and pledges to conduct its affairs accordingly:

- Serve Others, Not Ourselves
- Use Resources with Efficiency and Economy
- Treat all People Fairly
- Use the Power of Our Position for the Well Being of Our Constituents
- Create an Environment of Honesty, Openness and Integrity

RESOLVED this _____ day of April, 2018

Jim Thornton, Mayor

Tom Gore, Councilmember

Jim Arrington, Councilmember

LeGree McCamey, Councilmember

Willie Edmondson, Councilmember

Mark Mitchell, Councilmember

Nathan Gaskin, Councilmember

ATTEST: Teresa Taylor, Assistant City
Manager

In good news closing comments, Ms. Van Schoor reported the City has advanced to the second round for RTP grant funding of \$200,000 for the LaGrange College connection of THE THREAD, a trail segment running from Vernon Street to Cleaveland Field along Panther Way. Out of 51 applications, 19 were invited to proceed, so this is very good news for the possibility of securing \$200,000 of grant funding to build more trail.

Mayor

Assistant City Manager