

Council approves new regulations on temporary yard signs

BY GRANT GERSTNER
EDITOR

LA GRANGE — After extensive debate, a legally questionable executive order and an off-the-cuff first reading at the February meeting, the La Grange City Council unanimously approved a new ordinance on temporary yard signs at their March 2 meeting.

City Attorney Beach Craigmyle conducted the second reading of the ordinance, explaining that that the new law allows two signs of up to 12 square feet per road frontage without any permit requirements with the consent of the landowner.

The ordinance was also intended to allow for an unlimited amount of signs — 12-square-foot in size or less — during the time period around the primary and general elections, but the exact dates of which were debated.

Eventually, the council decided that the time periods of unlimited yard signs would be from April 1 to May 31, and from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15, which should give La Grange residents time to remove the signs after both the primary and general elections.

Though the ordinance was crafted with consideration to yardside candidate-promotion, Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Wenter clarified that the council cannot regulate based on the content of the signs — allowing businesses to take advantage of the unlimited election periods of signs.

Councilor Jason Kinser also inquired about signs on cars, to which Wenter stated that they were OK “as long as it’s not being parked someplace and left there just for the



Photo by Grant Gerstner

La Grange Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Wenter is pictured with two 12-square-foot cardboard examples of signs allowed by the City of La Grange’s new sign ordinance.

purpose of advertising ... So, as long as they are driving the vehicle ...”

Though the ordinance was approved by unanimous vote, Councilor Laura Taylor noted during her report on the Ordinance Committee that they “are not as far away as our city attorney thinks we are in coming up with the sign ordinance, but we do need to do some more work on it.”

In other news, the council also unanimously approved a zoning map amendment for a contractor

office park at the 1000 block of Commerce Parkway.

Planning and Development Assistant Director Anna Barge explained that Developers Gulf Stream Development and Tri-Star Construction and Development Group are seeking the undeveloped 9-acre property’s zoning to be changed from “R2, Residential” to “C-3, Commercial”

Barge further stated that the zoning change, sidewalk waiver and development plan were recommended for approval by the Planning

Commission on Dec. 9.

The developers’ legal representative Michael G. Swansburg also presented to the council, explaining the concept of the development:

“The idea is to create a venue whereby, for example, contractors can come in and do things like showrooms ... It’s not just limited, however, to contractors — there may be some other general business use ... it’s kind of a fluid concept,” said Swansburg.

“We’re not taking about extensive warehouses here, we’re talking about individual buildings that may be utilized for those various purposes [permitted by C-3 zoning] ...

In arguing in support of the development, Swansburg stated that the current zoning classification is inappropriate, that the zoning change would make the classification appropriate and that the development follows with the county’s comprehensive plan.

In doing so, Swansburg cited the fact that several surrounding properties have commercial zoning classifications, and some are also currently being used for commercial purposes.

He also stated that the property already has infrastructure to support the project, and that the development will help to diversify the tax base by attracting commercial businesses to locate in the locally.

Swansburg also explained the sidewalk waiver, which the developers requested because there were no adjoining developments yet for the sidewalk to connect to and “there are topographical issues with the properties on either side” of the property, Swansburg said.

Though the developers applied and received a sidewalk waiver, they agreed to put \$27,184.31 — a fair-market amount, as confirmed with County Engineer Jim Silliman — into an interest-accruing account for the city to use to install sidewalks at a later date.

Though councilors asked if the developers would allow the funds to be used for other improvements on the property and if they were interested in a sunset clause, the developers simply wanted to comply with the sidewalk-waiver agreement made at the Planning Commission as written.

The council also had the opportunity to approve Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) raises for the Mayor and the council, but Latosha Booker-Bishop’s motion to approve failed by not receiving a second.

The council also entered into executive session to discuss the purchase of a property and, after returning to the regular meeting, approved Kinser’s motion allow Mayor John Black to negotiate on a property discussed in executive session at the price discussed in executive session.

The council also approved the reappointment of Susan Boren to the La Grange Tourism Commission for a term expiring on March 1, 2028.

The council also heard several reports, namely including that the city will have a cleanup day on April 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and that La Grange Tourism purchased a “trackless train” to be used at events for \$25,000.

The La Grange City Council’s next meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

TEACHER

FROM PAGE A1

“When student answered correctly in class, Mr. Wright stated ‘See you answered that well, I don’t see why you do poorly on the tests. You can use Google Translate on the test’ ...

“Student cried during our interview, reported embarrassment from public comments, and confirmed emotional distress from the teacher’s conduct ... It should also be noted ... the student is exceptionally fluent in English ...”

The document further states that Mr. Wright made inappropriate comments to female students such as:

“You should be a model. You would be great in commercials.”

“You’d both be great in commercials. I have a friend who I can talk to and get you

into some commercials, if that’s something you’d like to do.”

“You look sharp today. Well put together.”

“You look good”

“Who is your boyfriend?”

“You have the best photo in the class.”

The document further stated that Wright publicly disclosed a student’s 504 plan — a plan that accommodates for students with disabilities as mandated by federal civil rights law — by stating in front of the class: “You have a 504 plan, so you can have more time.”

The document also references Wright “regularly” using words and phrases in class that made students uncomfortable, such as “pervert,” “pervery,” “I love you” and “sexy.”

Wright also, according to the document, made comments about his previous disciplinary issues, such as referencing “being previously fired” as well as:

“I can’t say anything any-

more without being seen as creepy.”

“I used to give out my phone number to students but I can’t anymore because everyone thinks it’s creepy and I don’t want those allegations.”

The document also mentioned other inappropriate conduct, such as putting students’ phones in his pocket when they would leave for restroom breaks and going on “rampages” when students asked to use the restroom or were called to the office.

In closing, the document states: “The completed investigation substantiates serious professional misconduct that violates district policy, federal civil rights laws, and the Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky Certified Personnel.

“Mr. Wright’s inappropriate conduct, systematic pattern of inappropriate language and behavior affecting multiple students, confidentiality breaches, and acknowledg-

ment of past misconduct issues create significant concern in the classroom and undermine the educational environment.”

At the end of the investigative document, Wright wrote, “I received this notice on 9/26/25 but do not agree with these statements” before his signature.

Similarly, he wrote, “I do not agree with these findings,” before his signature on the Sept. 26 suspension letter and “I do not agree with these statements” above his signature

on a Sept. 24 suspension letter prior to the investigation.

A letter dated Aug. 22, 2022, from former Superintendent Jason Radford states that Wright was “placed on paid administrative leave until an investigation” into “inappropriate comments made by you during the instructional day” was conducted.

No further documentation regarding the investigation was included in the records given.

According to reporting by the Courier Journal, Wright

was terminated from a teaching position at Louisville Male High School after a months-long investigation into accusations of inappropriate conduct.

Wright was also named Kentucky’s Teacher of the Year in 2006, and featured in an article by the New York Times in 2012.

Look for further information obtained via Open Records Request in future issues of the Era.

PLEA

FROM PAGE A1

“Even though we believe that in the trial we could do better, [Siami] was more than willing to take the maximum sentence, and if he messes up, he deserves to serve every day of it — he knows that.”

Jefferson Circuit Court Division Two Judge Annie O’Connell told Siami that, in following the plea agreement, he would be held in custody until his sentencing.

Rice also explained the Commonwealth’s recommendation for sentencing, which was that the sentences for Siami’s first three charges run consecutively for a total sentence

of 20 years, and that the sentence for all other charges run concurrently to the 20-year sentence.

Rice further stated that the recently enacted Safer Kentucky Act “does not impact [Siami’s] probation eligibility” and that, in the event of probation, both sides agreed that Siami “shall spend 180 days in custody” and will not be eligible for shock probation until he has served 150 days.

Both parties then scheduled Siami’s sentencing for Friday, May 22, at 10 a.m., where members of the victims’ families will be allowed to provide victim impact statements to the court to help the judge determine the appropriate sentence.

Look for updates in future issues of the Era.



Humane Society of Oldham County
PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Teddi!

Teddi may be small in size (just under 6 pounds) but she has a world of love to give. At just one year old, this petite sweetheart is still learning to trust. She’s a little shy at first but slowly warming up to the regular volunteers at the shelter.

What Teddi truly needs is her very own person — someone with patience, kindness and a gentle touch. With a consistent routine and a safe space to settle in, we know this little lovebug will come out of her shell and show her true, affectionate self. If you’re looking to build a special bond and help a shy cat blossom, Teddi would love to meet you!

If you are interested in meeting Teddi, please go to our website, humanesocietyoldhamcounty.com to the “Adopt” page and fill out an application.

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Join us March 18 for Steve Abolt’s discussion on military uniforms - *A Flock of Eastern Flamingos or Florida Woodpeckers.*

Meet and Greet with Steve from 5-6 pm at the Shelby County Historical Society Museum (627 Main St.)

Then join him for his free program from 6:30-8 pm at the Mulberry Building at 701 Main St.

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

April 21 – Brian Cushing – *George Rogers Clark: Service, Hardship, and Legacy in the Early American West.* Shelby County Library

May 12 – Julien Icher – *A French Marquis in the New World: Lafayette and the American Revolution.* Wakefield-Scearce Galleries

June 9 – Ted Franklin Belue – *The Last of the Mohicans & How I Survived the French & Indian War.* Carnegie Library Center.

All programs are from 6:30-8 pm and are FREE and open to the public.



Steve Abolt

For more information, contact the Shelby County Historical Society at 502-513-5555, visit www.shelbykyhistory.org or email director@shelbykyhistory.org

Ad is funded in part by ShelbyKY Tourism

