



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

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**Call to Order:**

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of February 17, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:07 p.m.

**Invocation:**

The Invocation was given by Elder Curry followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**Present:**

Mayor Angelyne Butler  
Councilmembers: Kimberly James, Dabouze Antoine, Hector Gutierrez, Latresa Wells and Allan Mears

Also present were Interim City Manager Nathaniel Clark, Director of Finance Ken Thompson, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Fire Chief Buckholts, Deputy Chief Antonio Fletcher, Support Services Supervisor Diane Lewis, Recreation and Leisure Services Director Tarik Maxwell, Economic Development Director Bruce Abraham, Planning Building and Zoning Director James Shelby, City Clerk Shalonda Brown, City Attorney Michael Williams and Management Analyst LaShawn Gardiner

**Comment Period:**

**Connie Robbins** – stated she wants to remind everyone that the Senior Center is having their annual cornbread and soup luncheon on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and support the seniors and she has tickets if anyone needs one.

**Diane Lunsford** – stated she has a couple of comments. The A & M Wrecker Service that presented earlier, no one asked how many trucks he has, where is the impound lot at, if he is going service Forest Park wouldn't it be locally? Mrs. Lunsford stated to the governing body none of those questions were asked, so how are they highly recommended. She stated Falcon Design Consultants gave a presentation however, they are listed on the agenda as a request to enter into an agreement so was this



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
MAYOR & COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

already pre-determined before he spoke. She asked is everything cut and dry before deciding to vote publically.

**Christopher Kerr** – stated he is a new resident in Forest Park has been here about 2 years. There are a couple of things that he would like to comment on which is the social media aspect of it. He stated he checked on the Twitter page and the last time it was updated was 2012 and the city is not really active on Facebook. As a resident of Forest Park and he wants to know what is going on in the community it is kind of hard. He would like for the city to work on that more. Mr. Kerr stated he lives in Ward 1 and not sure if everyone is familiar with Conley Rd. That road is still being worked on and is a hazard. He wants to know can a sign be put up to say “two-way traffic” because he and his family almost got into an accident on Christmas Eve. He wants to know if there can be an effort made to make that road safer. Is there a way for the public to participate in the city business in the form of bonds or anything like that? So, if the public would like to lend the city money at an interest rate how can that be done?

**Samuel Ibanez** – stated there are a lot of things to talk about. The first issue he has is the mics. He asked the governing to please speak into the mics because the sound system is old. He stated in regards to ethics he is holding the governing body accountable for a lot of things that involve ethics. He stated he is for Little One’s Farm Stand. He stated Ward 2 and Ward 4 voted for a gentleman’s club to bring in alcohol and things that you say are negatives but not voting for Little One’s which is for students education. Mr. Ibanez stated in regards to the minutes for public comments, the minutes that people are not using he wants them.



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
MAYOR & COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

**LaWanda Folami** – stated she is there to speak on behalf of the concerned citizens of Forest Park that's under the administration of Representative Valencia Stovall of District 74. She comes to ask that several people, who are out of the contents of the ethics of this board, on behalf of the concerned citizen that the City Attorney step down, Mrs. Wells step down, Mayor Butler step down, Hector Gutierrez step down and also Dabouze Antoine to step down. She stated she wants it recorded in the minutes. She stated one thing the governing body doesn't realize is that you represent the constituents. Ms. Folami stated two weeks ago there was a board called the URA. The governing body conducted a meeting and dissolved the board without bringing any notification to the public. The only way they found out was by word of mouth and that is not respectable. She stated no one knows what is going on with the City's Budget and from the he say she say the governing body did not even have enough money to pay for the retreat. They would like to see numbers better known as stats for those that don't understand. They are tired of being backbitten and not understanding what is going on with the city. Ms. Folami stated they don't know how much it cost to fix up the council chambers and why was it so much to be repaired. It is going to come a time in where they are going to get together and take charge. She stated they would love to try and work together collectively and collaboratively, but it seems as though they are being shut out. Ms. Folami stated the governing body needs to learn how to put away their differences and take care of business. She stated she understands what Councilwoman James was talking about when it comes to ethics and conduct because some of you are ballistic. She stated at times she just doesn't know what to say about the conduct the



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
MAYOR & COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

elected officials does to the constituents especially the elderly.

**Bennett Bryant** – stated he is a veteran but he is here tonight to thank the governing body for their service. Local Government is very important. He knows because he is a local government attorney and he thinks it is important that the judges in this state understand what the governing body is here for. He stated is running for the Georgia Court of Appeals on May 19, 2020. He thanked the governing body for their service.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to group and approve the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2020 and Special Called Meeting on February 4, 2020. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilman Mears made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting and open public hearing to receive comments on an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Code to provide for farm stands as a conditional use. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Public Hearing:**

The attorney for Little One's Farm Stand stated she prepared a statement to be read and she passed it out to the governing body and the City Attorney. Please see the attached statement that was read at the meeting at the end of the minutes.

A citizen in favor of this indicated that she has been in urban agriculture for about 7 years and she was a therapist before and quit her job and starting farming randomly. She stated she a lot is parents picking up their children and having



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

grocery bags in their hands walking in the rain. She stated they are trying feed people.

A citizen stated as a degreed and certified holistic nutritionist and parent of a child at Little One's this is an important initiative for the children the youth in Forest Park to understand gardening and farming. She asked the governing body to make some changes that will benefit the youth in this community.

A representative from Food Well Alliance stated they got started out of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. An evolution of feeding people is Urban Agriculture. It is about giving people the opportunity to grow their own foods and to give people access to foods they don't have in stores. She stated Little Ones is one of the organizations that they fund they bring in philanthropic dollars to support organizations like this and we would love to support more in Forest Park. She stated they would like to collaborate and bring more awareness to the city.

The attorney closed and stated this is not about Little Ones even though they were the motive for getting this Ordinance written and getting this option available to Forest Park.

Councilman Mears made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Ordinance Providing for  
The Regulation of Farm  
Stands:**

Request was made to consider the approval of an Ordinance providing the Regulation of Farm Stands.



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

Mayor Butler stated there are two proposed Zoning Amendments, one that was presented after the Planning Meeting and the one that was recommended today.

Councilwoman James made a motion to accept Option 1. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells.

Councilman Mears stated a lot of this stuff that needs to be in writing and agreed upon protects organizations because there will be sprouts that will spring out around you if we don't have certain things in place to protect you and the city. The attorneys need to work out the technicalities so we can protect organizations like Little Ones. He stated he is in favor of this project as long as the details are hammered out to the point where it is comparable to the city and the business.

Councilman Antoine stated what happens when a call comes in and somebody that is not supposed to be around kids is at this location after hours trying to get fruits and something happens to one of these kids at their property. Mike Williams stated that would be a law enforcement matter that would be handled just like it was to occur at any other location. Councilman Antoine stated that is why he is opposed to this because you are putting law enforcement in a position where they don't need to be. He stated this is wrong and we are putting the city in a bad place. Now you are going to invite a lot of people in the name of free vegetables and free fruits to come in this location and cause kids who have no business to be around certain people. If you want a farm stand there is land in the City of Forest Park. Councilman Antoine stated there is going to be times where someone did not get the memo on what time the hours of operations is and will be



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

knocking on the door to get some fruits and vegetables.

Councilman Gutierrez stated he respectfully disagrees with Councilman Antoine because he went to Little Ones and saw what they had out there and it is nothing like a mass production. He doesn't feel like they will be the next Cisco, but as an educator he thinks this is of extreme importance and it touches his soft spot as a teacher. He stated bad things are going to happen anywhere and we can't assume the worst. Organic food is hard to find and he has to get out of Forest Park and go to Kroger to find vegetables and fruits even though we have the Farmer's Market.

Councilwoman James stated the city received a lot of backlash because we didn't have an ordinance place. She thanked the zoning officers that brought this to their attention. That was the first thing that happened we didn't have anything in place. It was portrayed in the media that the City of Forest Park was against the kids learning how to farm and it was never about that. It was always about having a policy in place which we did not have a policy in place. Councilwoman James stated we are not against our kids learning about farming and learning how to cook fresh fruit and vegetables we have never been opposed to that. The emails we received from across the country saying why are we against the kids was so unfair the way our city was portrayed and she wants to reassure the City of Forest Park is not against kids learning how to farm we just needed to have something in place and with this ordinance we now have something in place.

Councilwoman Wells stated Councilman Antoine keeps saying giving away but it is not free they are selling. She stated she has changed her



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

mind and she is going to vote for it. She stated they have a community garden in Ward 4, the Willie Finch Community Garden, so she hopes that once they start planting Little Ones will bring the kids to that garden to help get that garden up and running. Councilwoman Wells stated she is in favor of it.

Voting for the motion were: Councilwoman James, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting against the motion was: Councilman Antoine. The motion carried.

**Authorize the Mayor to  
Execute an IGA for 2021  
SPLOST:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute an Inter-governmental Agreement for the use and distribution of proceeds from the 2021 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for Capital Outlay Projects. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Ordinance to Regulate  
The Boarding of Doors  
And Windows:**

Request was made to consider an Ordinance with respect to the regulation of the boarding of doors and windows.

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilwoman James.

Councilwoman James stated she wanted to make sure that city properties adhere to this ordinance.

Councilwoman Wells asked are there any city properties currently boarded up. Mayor Butler asked Mr. Shelby to come forward. Mr. Shelby addressed the governing body and told them at this time he is not aware of any city properties that are boarded up.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.





**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

**Resolution to Declare  
Certain City Property  
Surplus:**

Request was made to consider a Resolution to declare certain city property listed on Exhibit A from the Police Department as Surplus.

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Approval of Contract  
With Falcon Design  
Consultants:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the contract with Falcon Design Consultants. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Comments by Governing  
Body:**

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for coming out and spending their time with us this evening. She asked everyone to check out the neighborhood meeting on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. located at 696 Main Street.

Councilman Antoine stated thanked everyone for coming out and it was a pleasure to those that are new. He gave a shout out to all of the directors. He stated always remember Councilman Dabouze Antoine loves you.

Councilman Gutierrez stated thanked everyone for coming out. He stated the young man that brought up social media may find himself having a job if you keep talking about that because that is something that we need to update and it was a great point. He stated he wanted to address the stepping down comment. Councilman Gutierrez stated he was elected here the people chose him and he won by 7 votes, so don't let anyone ever tell you that your vote doesn't count. He is not a politician he is new to this and he analyzes everything and count on the rest of the governing body as well as the attorney



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

to assist him. He is always going to do what is best for the city to move it forward. He knows that it is hard for so many that has a grip on the city and has held the city back for so long, but as long as he is here he is going to literally do everything he can to move the city forward. Councilman Gutierrez stated if anyone would like to contact him regarding any decision that he makes please feel free to contact him.

Councilwoman Wells thanked everyone for coming out and respond to the stepping down comment because that is not happening. She will not give it to the enemy that easy. The people elected them to do a job and you can't please everyone. She stated pay attention to the ones that get up here and never have anything positive to say and they are the ones you need to stay away from. We are trying to move our city forward. Councilwoman Wells stated everyone is doing an amazing job and we can't make everyone happy and we will make some decisions that will be best for the citizens of Forest Park. We all are human and come out to see the positive things we are doing and when someone tells you something negative ask them what do they have positive to say about the Mayor and Council. "Positive Vibes Only".

Councilman Mears thanked everyone for coming out. He stated he would like to see this room filled every time they meet because it is your business and if you want to know what's going on with your business you need to be there to see it first-hand. Councilman Mears stated you can call him and the rest of the governing body anytime. He stated they need direction from the people that they serve and that will help them in their job immensely.

Mayor Butler stated she will conclude by saying this: "For those of you who think or may know of



**CITY OF FOREST PARK**  
MAYOR & COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 17, 2020 7:00 P.M.

---

someone who thinks that you are powerful enough to stop the steps that my God has ordered let me remind you that you are not that powerful.”

**Adjournment:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.