



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of April 15, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 8:03 p.m.

Invocation: The Invocation was given by Pastor Paden followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call: Mayor Angelyne Butler, Councilmembers Kimberly James, Dabouze Antoine, Sandra Bagley, Latresa Wells and Allan Mears.

Also present were City Manager Angela Redding, Director of Finance Ken Thompson, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Chief Eddie Buckholts, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services Elaine Corley, Interim Police Chief Jamie Reynolds, Major Matson, IT Director Darren Duke, Interim Director of Planning, Building and Zoning Mike Tuttle, City Clerk Shalonda Brown and City Attorney Michael Williams.

Comment Period: **Carl Evans** – stated regarding the sanitation issues but if you deal with something this large you’re going to have a certain percentage of problems even when the city was handling the services because no one is perfect. He stated at least Waste Management is attempting to correct some of the problems. Mr. Evans stated that is a good deal they have given the city for the past 10 years and he guarantees no one else will do it for any cheaper. He stated as far as the salary increases the employees do need to get paid better. It is not fair the firefighters and certified EMT’s are working part-time jobs driving ambulances for \$11-\$12hr.

Diane Lunsford – stated she doesn’t understand why an agency was needed to go out and find a Police Chief. She stated a raise is needed across the board for all employees to retain them.



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Iris Jones – stated she is the manager at a business in the city and she wanted to speak on an incident that occurred in her store. In March, she received a phone call and was cursed out about an incident in which only one side of the story was heard. She stated she has received numerous of text messages. Ms. Jones stated she feels it was very unprofessional and being a manager she realizes there are somethings that are not up to par as it should be however she is working trying to improve that location.

Tammy Parks – stated she works with Iris Jones at the same business and she was also approached by the same individual and she felt threatened. She stated it was unprofessional and should have been addressed to the manager.

Samuel Ibanez – stated that is an outrageous amount for the pool project. He suggests getting more quotes. Mr. Ibanez stated he the benches are a good idea.

LaWanda Folami – stated she is very appalled to what is going on in the city. Ms. Folami suggested the City of Forest Park owes the business a public apology and written apology. Ms. Folami stated she had to write a paper on the city's public service. She stated she sat down with Jeff Eady, Ms. Corley and Interim Police Chief Reynolds and thanked them for being able to share what the city is looking to do with the seniors.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Work Session & Regular Meeting minutes of April 1, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Public Hearing:

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the regular meeting and open the public hearing to receive comments of the conditional use permit to operate a Personal Care Home at 5319 Madison Street. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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**Public Comments
In Favor of Permit:**

Lawanda Folami- stated she is an advocate for personal care homes. There are so many people that take care of their parents and convenience is one of the things needed when going to work and having someone to care for loved ones that you can trust. She stated she visited the care home and did a walk-thru and she definitely approve of this personal care home and there is no interference in the community. Ms. Folami stated she cares for her mother and they have a day program in which she has interest in taking her mother if needed.

Mr. Weston – stated he has visited the location and performed lawn service and maintenance. He has seen the people who live there and it seems like a great place for them to live.

Betty Turner – stated she has known them 4 months and the house is clean and the food is good. Ms. Turner stated her mom died last year, her and her siblings had to travel back and forth 120 miles to take care of her mom. Her sisters had good jobs and lost their jobs trying to take care of their mom.

Ms. Putman – stated she appreciates the citizens for speaking on behalf of the personal care home and she would like to continue to take care of the elderly.

**In Opposition of
the Permit:**

Connie Robbins – stated she is opposing to changing the house at 5319 Madison Street to conditional use to be a personal care home. She stated her along with 46 of her neighbors are against it and she has a petition with all 47 signatures. She stated she has concerns:

1. Ms. Putman stated the house is 5 bedrooms and 2 baths, but according to the tax collector's office the house is listed as 3 bedrooms and 1 bath
2. If it is a 5 bedroom house why is the tax on the home less than hers?
3. They have not had any permits at the tax assessors to add on to this home.
4. The home is not in Ms. Putman's name.



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Councilwoman Bagley asked Mrs. Redding has it been verified that the taxes have been paid for this property. Mrs. Redding stated that Ms. Putman did have a notarized letter from the owner of the property as well as both tax records from Clayton County and Forest Park.

Close Public Hearing: Councilwoman James made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Presentation of Proclamation: The governing body presented a Proclamation to Mr. John Seagraves in recognition and appreciation for serving our Country with Honor & Courage and also being a Pillar of the Community.

Confirmation of Police Chief: Mrs. Redding stated they engaged the services of the Mercer Group for a nationwide search for a Police Chief and at this time she would like to make a recommendation to the governing body for the appointment and confirmation of Nathaniel Clark as Police Chief of Forest Park.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the confirmation of Nathaniel Clark as Police Chief. It was seconded by Councilwoman James.

Councilman Antoine asked Mr. Clark to convince him and the council as well as the citizens that he is the best choice. Mr. Clarke thanked Councilman Antoine and he stated there is no doubt in his mind that he is the best and most qualified applicant for this position. Mr. Clark stated he has a record of proven achievements, he has been vetted by the following: Pablo Police Department as Police Chief, Fulton County District Attorney's office, U.S. Department of Treasury, Ft. Smith Arkansas where the daytime population is approximately 150,000 people. He stated every department that he has served they have enhanced community relations and decreased crime.



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Mr. Clarke stated he has a Master's Degree in Public Administration, Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, Certificate of Certification from Blackstone School of Law with over 33 years of Law Enforcement experience. He stated he has proven track record and asks the governing body to make a decision based on his education, skillset, and his experience. If given the opportunity to serve the city Mr. Clark stated he plans on giving 110% of himself and those that are around him will give 110%. He stated there will be some changes because if confirmed you will be confirming change. Mr. Clark stated he believes in community first policing which means the community is the best and most important asset.

Councilman Mears made a motion to confirm Nathaniel Clark as the Police Chief. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Mrs. Redding stated Mr. Clark was named the sole finalist and his confirmation is tonight, but there will be a community meet & greet when he begins his employment.

Mr. Clark introduced his wife Lanesha Clark and he is honored that he has been given the opportunity to serve as Police Chief. He thanked God for opening the doors of this great city and thanked everyone for opening their hearts and allowing him and his wife to enter. Mr. Clark stated he looks forward to paving a new road that begins with a collective joining that everyone can travel down to make the city safer and even greater. This expedition begins with making daily deposits in the community's bank. The daily deposits consists of working tirelessly to build strong and lasting relationships, implementing new technology and treating all citizens and guests with the upmost respect. He stated he has confidence in the community and when they work together they will achieve great things. In order to climb the



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mountain of success you have to start from the bottom. Mr. Clark stated within reach there are new horizons and there is no doubt in his mind they are going to be successful because we will be able to bond together and change the climate of this great city.

**Consider Approval of
Conditional Use
Permit:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Personal Care Home located at 5319 Madison Street. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells.

Councilwoman Wells stated she was torn and she has to practice what she preaches. She stated Thursday her dad was taken off life support and he is still hanging in there. Councilwoman Wells stated she has to put herself in certain situations. She stated she prayed about and she is going to listen to the voice of the people. She stated she respects the resident that had the petition with 47 signatures, but nobody showed up to speak against it. Councilwoman Wells stated to Ms. Putman she supports her in what she is doing and hopes she makes Forest Park proud.

Councilwoman James stated she actually visited the location, saw all of the documentation and the house does have 5 bedrooms not 3. She stated in the meeting minutes it referenced that Ms. Putman had 2 other homes. Councilwoman James stated she went by to visit the home in Jonesboro and it is a home not a business. The petition that was circulating indicated that it was a re-zoning and that is not true it is still a residential property. She stated in the ordinance it does allow for conditional use for certain uses within the city and does not change the zoning. She stated she reached out to Ms. Robbins to clarify that it is not a rezoning it will just be a conditional use to care for those who are state approved. Councilwoman James stated her vote to approve the conditional use permit is based upon the background and research that she conducted as well as speaking with others.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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**Consider Approval
To Subdivide the
Plat at 5164 JG
Glover Court:**

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Subdivide of the plat located at 5164 JG Glover Court. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for motion was unanimous.

**Resolution to
Recognize April 21-
27 as GA Cities Week:**

Request was made to consider a Resolution recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 21 – 27, 2019.

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

**Resolution to
Execute Agreement
with PPS:**

Request was made to consider a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Professional Probation Services, Inc. to provide probation services on behalf of the city.

Councilman Antoine made a motion not to approve the item. There was no second. The motion failed. Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells.

Councilman Antoine asked is this to outsource the probation services. Mayor Butler stated it is to keep it as is.

Councilwoman James stated she would like to only approve for 1 year for now until a determination can be made on some of the questions that she has.

Councilman Mears made a motion to amend the original motion and approve this agreement on a one year basis. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider Approval
To Award Outdoor
Pool Project:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the Award of the Outdoor Pool Project to United Pools. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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Consider IGA between MARTA & City of Forest Park for Benches:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with MARTA and the City of Forest Park for benches at bus stops. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Consider Ordinance To Appropriate Funds For Wage & Salary Increases:

Request was made to approve an Ordinance to appropriate funds for wage and salary increases for employees of the city.

Councilwoman James made a motion to Approve the Ordinance to increase wages and salary for employees by 10% and 2% for the directors. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilman Antoine asked when the raises will go into effect. Mrs. Redding stated the proposal is retro to January 1st and will take effect next week to allow time for the paperwork to be submitted to payroll.

Amend Agenda Request:

Councilwoman James made a motion to amend the agenda to consider a Waste Management action item.

Councilman Antoine asked what is going with this item.

City Attorney Mike Williams stated this will allow Waste Management to extend for another 90 days to be able to negotiate a multi-year contract that will still have a 180 day out clause in case the governing body still wants to move forward with an RFP it can be done.

Request to Approve Extension with Waste Management:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to amend the agenda to approve a 90 day extension with Waste Management. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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**Request Approval
To add Zoning
Administrator
Position:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to amend the agenda to consider an action item to add the Zoning Administrator position in Planning Building & Zoning Department. It was seconded by Councilwoman James.

Mayor Butler explained this item was discussed during the Work Session by the City Manager to add that position essentially in lieu of having a Deputy Director it will be a Zoning Administrator position. Councilwoman Wells asked would this do away with the Deputy Director position. Mrs. Redding stated yes.

Councilwoman James stated just for clarity is the zoning administrator position for a point of contact person to be in place when people are calling about zoning or permitting. Mrs. Redding stated this position encompass planning and zoning. She stated they are proposing a realignment of the department and the first step is a Zoning Administrator who can be that point of contact for businesses. As they move forward in the Budget process a recommendation will be made regarding an alignment of that department in order to have the necessary positions in place.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilwoman James asked permission of the Mayor, as a point of order, to allow the governing body comments before entering into Executive Session. Councilwoman Wells stated that is one of the things the citizens requested, is to let them know if there are not going to be any action items after executive session, so they won't have to hang around.

**Governing Body
Comments:**

Councilman Mears stated there were a lot of things accomplished tonight and he is excited about the new Police Chief. He is happy with the decisions that were made collectively. Councilman Mears thanked everyone for coming out.



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Councilwoman Wells stated she wanted to respond to a few people. First, she wanted to address the business owner that commented during public comments. She stated she is a mother before she is anything and if she feels like her kids are being targeted she will be responding. Councilwoman Wells suggests visiting the store because she has received numerous complaints about that store for the last 2-3 years is ridiculous. She also wanted to address the Armstrong incident because she can't vote on something by herself, so it was at least 3 or more votes to make the decision. When it comes to respect some people need to practice what they preach instead of dividing the community. Councilwoman Wells stated she is excited about the new Police Chief.

Councilwoman Bagley thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She stated progress is being made. Councilwoman Bagley reminded everyone Food Truck Tuesday will be tomorrow at Hines Ward Pass from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. She thanked the City Manager, Public Works and Public Safety department for making the kickoff event a success. There were over 350 people at Hines Ward Pass. She asked that everyone keep Councilwoman Wells dad in their prayers as well as her dad.

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for coming out and congratulated all city employees for their raise and hope they are excited as well. She stated they are here to try and make the city better. Councilwoman James advised the residents to call the governing body if they need assistance and they will get someone on the case. They are working on getting vacant positions filled and the wage & compensation study is due to be completed in July. She thanked Waste Management for their leadership and efforts towards the complaints that were received. She thanked the governing body and she stated tonight has shown growth and have learned to work together and make decisions collectively. She extended congratulations to the new Police Chief.



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Councilman Antoine thanked everyone for coming out and congratulated the employees on their raises. He thanked the Police Department for coming to Ashton Walk to conduct the defensive training class. He stated they also taught the seniors about fraud and how to be alert of phone calls. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilman Mears stated RedSpeed is the way to go as far as schools, however during the break several people that lives in other states where this has been implemented and it is very easy to get sideways and become a camera trap. Interim Chief Reynolds stated the goal behind this is to protect the students not to generate revenue for the city. The overall objective is to make sure people are aware that cameras are there and they need to slow down.

Councilwoman Wells thanked Mr. Owens & Waste Management from the bottom of her heart. She stated she is listening to her citizens and as a representative of Waste Management he is listening to her and it is appreciated.

Mayor Butler thanked everyone for coming out. She stated on June 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church she will have the City's first ever State of the City Address. She stated as the date approaches she will continue to remind everyone and would like for everyone to spread the word.

Executive Session:

Councilman Mears made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate Matters and Legal Matters. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 9:20 pm.



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Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:35 pm and reconvene into the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting was unanimous.

Adjournment:

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