



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of April 1, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation: The Invocation was given by Father Jacque 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, IT Director Darren Duke, Interim Director of Planning, Building and Zoning Fredalyn Frazier, City Clerk Shalonda Brown and City Attorney Michael Williams.

Comment Period: **Carl Evans** – stated he commends the City for flying flag half-staff in honor of Vernard Kendrick. He stated he will give a 50% to Waste Management for trying because they picked up his recycling instead of his sanitation. He stated that is some progress showing that they are trying.

Diane Lunsford – stated her heart is very heavy by the loss of Vernard Kendrick. He was a very outstanding employee and many citizens loved him because he cared. She asked since the Finance Department has a new employee when will the Forensic Audit be completed.

Jay Evans – stated she would like to commend Interim Police Chief Reynolds. She indicated she spoke with him at the 1st Council Meeting in March and by Tuesday he expedited the situation with a warrant. She stated she would like to give compliments where compliments are due.



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Samuel Ibanez – suggested to the governing body that the speakers be moved in order to face the audience. He also inquired about bike lanes on the main highway because people are getting tickets for not having on a helmet and no lights. He stated he is glad to see the Food Trucks again.

Dr. Beeler – stated the Forest Park Ministers Association will have their annual clean up on April 27th on the Southside (Part of Ward 2, Ward 3 and Ward 5). He's asking all the citizens come out and help with the clean-up.

LaWanda Folami – stated there needs to be more communication between the governing body and the citizens. She stated there is a serious problem over in Holland Park. Construction starts at 5:30 am and dusts rise at 5:45 am and is affecting the buildings. She stated construction doesn't end until 8:45 pm and no one notifies the residents that construction will be taking place. Ms. Folami stated the proper protocol is the Mayor, City Manager and Councilwoman Bagley to get this information across to whomever.

Sharon Daniel – thanked the governing body for allowing her to speak. Seven Pillars Career Academy is an approved Charter School in Clayton. The school is a middle school that will have kids learning construction and computer science. The 6th grade the students will learn how to read blueprints. They will also learn how to breakdown a computer and put it back together again. She stated once they finish high school they will have a diploma and certification at the same time. Ms. Daniels stated there will be company scouts that come out and two weeks after graduation the students could automatically walk on a job. She stated the school board really wants this in Clayton County and Forest Park, so let's do what we can to make it happen.



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Ms. Johnson – stated she wanted to keep alive her request for better conditions with the transfer station. She stated the noise is still outside the noise allowance time. She stated according to the marquee out front she would vote on a pay raise for the entire pay range for the police department.

Mr. Haynes – stated 3 months ago he mentioned an issue on West Street and Springdale Rd. He stated he would like some feedback because the homes on the left side of the road don't have any value due to the condition of that area. Mr. Haynes stated it is an eye sore and needs to be taken care of.

Jill Morris – stated she is speaking in response to the information provided and presentation from the OpenGov platform. She stated she highly respects the concerns of Councilwoman Wells regarding funding. No municipality has unlimited funds and they have to prioritize where that money goes. Ms. Morris stated when she hears her fellow neighbors talk about not knowing where expenditures go, this platform seems like the appropriate solution. She stated the platform seems as if it can be purchased in modules and that can help with the budget by only getting the modules that are priority. Ms. Morris stated to Ms. Johnson that she also hears the noise from the transfer station.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes of the March 13, 2019, and Work Session & Regular Meeting minutes of March 18, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Yard of the Quarter:

Councilwoman Wells presented a Certificate of Recognition for Yard of the Quarter Ward 4 to Mr. Johnny Foster. She thanked him for doing his part and keeping Ward 4 beautiful.

Governing Body Comments:

Councilwoman Mears thanked everyone for coming out. He stated they already discovered there's an issue with



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Coyotes and signs have been put out everywhere. He stated they're mostly out at night and if you see them contact animal control and give them a general idea of where they were seen.

Councilwoman Wells thanked everyone for coming out. She stated she wanted address some of the comments. She stated in the past she tried to initiate a resolution about the Springdale RD location and for the business to possibly try putting up a privacy fence, but she stated the previous governing body and Mayor didn't agree and voted it down. Councilwoman Wells stated maybe now with a new governing body in place maybe she can readdress the issue. She stated another top priority of hers is to address the Waste Management issue and assist the residents in Ward 4 and Ward 5.

Councilwoman Bagley thanked everyone for coming out. She stated she visited family in another city over the weekend and she visited the grocery store and noticed that people are not as friendly. She stated Forest Park is a fun, friendly and inviting community. Councilwoman Bagley warned the residents not to be fooled by the fraudulent calls and to be very careful. She stated they are trying to move the city forward and it takes the input from the residents and if the governing body is not doing something please hold them accountable.

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for coming out. She stated she wanted to address concerns about the Planning and Zoning department. She stated she has personally received complaints about some of the issues happening on streets that are not up to par. Councilwoman James stated she feels there should be immediate solution to make sure that the people that are out there patrolling the areas to make sure the city is where it needs to be. Councilwoman James stated she wanted to make a comment about the wage and compensation study. She stated Mrs. Redding gave an update that the study will be completed by July and she is not happy with that. Councilwoman James



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stated she is going to be proposing to the council that they do an immediate increase to help retain employees. She stated Vernard Kendrick was celebrated very respectfully on Saturday and it just shows the type of community that we have in Forest Park and how we help one another. The Public Works department hosted the repass and she gave them a big thank you. Councilwoman James stated on Saturday as she was passing the stadium she noticed the Church Right Pass Ministries and a couple other churches in that area and they were having their 20th Annual Feeding. Councilwoman James stated she also wanted to discuss about the candidate for Chief. She stated when candidates are seeking employment they are under non-disclosure because they can't put their information out. Councilwoman James stated she is going to ask Mrs. Redding to implement when a person makes a comment the governing comes back the following meeting and address whatever that comment was whether they have an answer or not. She thanked Councilman Antoine for his self-defense event and the information shared was very valuable. Lastly, Councilwoman James stated she sent out the information to her residents about Food Truck Tuesdays. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilman Antoine thanked everyone for coming out. He asked the Interim Police Chief to briefly explain to the audience how they can call 911 without actually dialing the number. Interim Chief Reynolds stated if you have an iPhone, you can setup emergency contacts and if you hit the power button 5 times it will contact the police department and show your GPS location. Councilman Antoine stated he agrees with Councilwoman Wells with regards to addressing the issues on Springdale RD. He stated he agrees with increasing the salaries across the board for employees and keeping the jobs in-house. Councilman Antoine stated outsourcing is not a good idea when you have employees that are working poor and getting underpaid. He reminded everyone of his event on Friday at Governors Glen and he looks forward working with the Fire Department to provide training on how to protect your homes from a fire. He thanked Father Jacque for coming out.



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Councilman Mears stated he agrees with Councilwoman James about getting the core people up to speed and implement a pay raise to employees. He stated it makes you feel good when people appreciate what you do. He stated he wants everyone to know that Ward 5 is behind the effort to get the increase started.

Mrs. Redding stated she wanted to give an update on a few items. Regarding the Forensic Audit when it started it was around the time as the Annual Audit for the City. She stated it was placed on hold due to staff shortage and there was a December 31st deadline for the Annual Audit to avoid penalties. She stated the first meeting in January Ken Thompson provided an update to the status of the Forensic Audit. After that presentation they found out that the primary contact person was no longer with the company and there was a replacement. Mrs. Redding stated they have a list of items remaining and they are working on a timeline to present at the next meeting for the completion of the Forensic Audit. She stated the governing body is committed to a wage and compensation study and to also implement the findings of that study as well. The study should be completed by July 2019.

Councilwoman James stated she wanted to make a comment regarding the virtual checkbook. She stated she doesn't think there is a problem with the way the governing body and the City Manager is handling the compensation and the finances. The City Manager has done a great job identifying some discrepancies that happened before. Councilwoman James stated she feels very confident on how the money is being spent.

Mayor Butler thanked Father Jacque for doing the Invocation tonight. She recognized Jeremy Stratton with the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce for being present. She thanked Jeff Eady for meeting with the Mayor from Buchanan, Liberia and sharing information with him.



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Adjournment:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.