



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of March 18, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation: The Invocation was given by Elder Wanda Curry 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: **Karen Johnson** – stated she has lived in the City for 28 years. She stated she didn't buy her house with Waste Management transfer station in her backyard. She stated it was built after she purchased her home. Ms. Johnson stated she understands they have a job to do however; she is entitled to quiet enjoyment. She voiced her concerns about the noise factor and suggested sound barriers are a possible option.

Mr. Samuel Ibanez – stated he is trying to get businesses to come in the city. He asked the governing body to make themselves more available by phone.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the Special Called Meeting minutes of the February 25, 2019, and Work Session & Regular Meeting minutes of March 4, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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**Public
Hearing:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the Regular meeting and open a public hearing to receive Public comments on the Ordinance Amendment of Section 8-8-39 (a). It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Shahn - stated he is for the amendment because it makes it hard for businesses when there are churches in shopping plazas. He stated in the shopping plaza where he is located there are 4 small churches and when he has a vacancy it is hard for him to get tenants because they can't get permits. Mr. Shahn stated he is losing businesses.

Councilman Antoine asked Mike Williams to clarify for the residents what the Ordinance is about. Mr. Williams stated the ordinance is meant to address the issues that were identified by Mr. Shahn. He stated Congress enacted religious land use protection act and that significantly restricts where local governments can determine where churches and other religious institutions go. Essentially every place of assembly must be treated the same. In order to do that it has to be defined what is an assembly use. Mr. Williams stated the definitions listed in the Ordinance are solely pertaining to the zoning code and they don't impact life safety code requirements that are established.

Samuel Ibanez – stated he has friends with similar situations, and he is also for the Ordinance.

Mr. Shahn- stated he has confusion about the 500 ft. property line to property line distance requirement pertaining to alcohol because he plans on having a banquet hall. Mr. Williams stated the 500 ft distance requirement is being eliminated by the proposed Ordinance however, the issue that may remain is the distance requirement that's in the City's Alcohol Ordinance which is referenced by State Law/Code and there is not a lot of flexibility.



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Carl Evans – stated he is in favor of the Ordinance because a lot of people have been complaining throughout the years.

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

**Proclamation
Presentation:**

Mayor Angelyne Butler and the Governing Body presented a Proclamation to Mrs. Addie Hayes who is the mother of Octavious Deshon Lakes, Jr. Army Specialist Octavious Deshon Lakes Jr. was killed January 14, 2019 in a tactical vehicle accident at a training center in California. He graduated from Forest Park High School in 2015.

**Places of Assembly
Ordinance:**

Request was made to consider an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances clarifying the Regulation of Places of Assembly.

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**LCI Letter of
Commitment:**

Request was made to provide LCI Letter of Commitment.

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

**FPMA Concession
Agreement:**

A request was made to approve the agreement with Forest Park Ministerial Association and the City of Forest Park for providing concessions.

Councilman Antoine made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion were: Councilman Antoine and Councilwoman Wells. Voting against the motion were: Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. The motion failed.



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Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the agreement. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion were: Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. Voting Against the motion were: Councilman Antoine and Councilwoman Wells. The motion carried.

**Resolution to Declare
City Property
Surplus:**

A request was made to declare city property surplus and provide for proper disposal.

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

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate and Legal Matters. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 7:33 pm.

Councilman Mears made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Governing Body
Comments:**

Councilwoman Mears thanked everyone for coming out. He stated there are still issues with the dogs. He stated that Councilwoman Wells has run into an issue with coyotes in her area. He stated they will be working on getting this taken care of.

Councilwoman Wells thanked everyone for coming and she stated that she would like to respond to a resident's comment about the governing body not answering their phones. She stated as elected officials they work for the citizens of Forest Park, but there are certain things that are out of their control and certain things they don't have to do and that is get a phone call at 8:00 pm or 9:00 pm



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saying that there is a problem because someone won't release your car at a towing company. Councilwoman Wells stated even then she tried to assist the resident in that matter. She stated there are certain things that they can't do and they can't solve all of the problems. She stated if you're going to call, don't call regarding personal things call for things that are affecting the city. Councilwoman Wells stated the she is not a personal assistant and they have a City and Wards to attend to.

Councilwoman Bagley thanked everyone for coming out. She stated Forest Park is our city and we need to keep the city moving forward. She stated if you hear of new businesses, go out and welcome them to the neighborhood and to the city. She stated if you hear of a business that maybe moving out of the city, reach out to them also and find out what can be done to keep them in the city. Councilwoman Bagley encourages everyone if they see an employee (Police, Fire & Public Works) let them know they are appreciated because thank you goes a long way.

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for coming out. She stated they are here to serve the community and are trying to do their very best. She encourages everyone to support the churches in the community and businesses in the community. She stated don't throw trash on the ground and please clean up behind yourself. Councilwoman James stated she visited Councilwoman Wells' website and would like to give her kudos for what she is doing in the community. She stated she does not have an internet footprint but she's trying. Councilwoman James stated she has gotten comments about a cemetery in her area that is looking bad and she is going to try and help that situation.

Councilman Antoine thanked everyone for coming out. He recognized the Chief of Police from Jonesboro for his attendance. He also addressed the resident's comment. He stated he fights for what is right. He stated he has known the resident a long time and has helped him



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out in many situations. He suggested that the resident come to him personally instead of coming here every meeting complaining. He advised him not to bring division but come to help move the city forward. Councilman Antoine urges everyone to come out to his Self-Defense class on March 30, 2019 and food will be provided.

Mayor Butler stated she had a statement prepared, but after the presentation of the Proclamation it doesn't even matter. She stated Mrs. Hayes' son died for our country. When you think of some things that we argue and bicker about we still have our children here. She asked is it really that important. Mayor Butler stated when we get upset and frustrated as we all do; if we take a moment to really consider what is important some of those items are really not that big of a deal.

Adjournment:

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