



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of February 4, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:32 p.m.

Invocation: The Invocation was given by Rev. Leon Beeler 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 Major Armstrong, IT Director, Darren Duke, Interim Director of Planning, Building and Zoning Fredalyn Frazier and City Attorney Michael Williams.

Comment Period: **Carl Evans** – stated he noticed on College Street there is a small stand-alone building that is different from what was presented at a council meeting. He stated the plan was to have multiple shops in there. He also stated the City still has properties that have burned over a year ago and nothing has been done.

Ms. Mattie Hartsfield – stated she was disappointed in the last council meeting. She stated it is time for us to grow and we need to know where Forest Park is going to go. She expressed her disappointment with actions that occurred at the last council meeting.

Mr. Willie Finch - thanked Officer Flanigan for the program the Police Department put on.

Mr. Samuel Ibanez – thanked the governing body for their continuing efforts in trying to bring the city together.

Dianne Lunsford – asked the status of the financial audit, and was the fee for the financial audit a one-



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time fee or does the City pay as it continues on? She also asked how the City Attorney is paid. She asked Councilwoman James if she could try Clayton County Beautiful to help with her litter concerns. She also asked if Lois Wright is going to be in charge of elections.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Bagley made the following change to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22nd:

- Page 5, paragraph 2, *eluded* should be *alluded*
- Page 7, Mayor and Council regular staff meeting minutes, paragraph 3, *conscious* should be *conscience*
- Page 10, She stated she felt that it would be a conflict of interest – that should be clarified, *she* should be clarified, it was the Elections Director, not the Mayor.

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of January 22, 2019, with the above recommended changes, seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Appt. to Development Authority:

Request was made to appoint a member to the Development Authority, previously tabled from January 22, 2019.

Councilwoman James made a motion to appoint Mr. James Hurtado to the Development Authority. Councilwoman Wells seconded the motion. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Ordinance-Special Revenue Funds:

Request was made to consider an Ordinance establishing the Budgets for Special Revenue Funds for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019.



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

License Agreement-Metropolitan Eagles Football Club:

Request was made to consider the approval by the City Council of the City of Forest Park authorizing the Mayor to execute a Revocable License Agreement with Metropolitan Eagles Football Club of Clayton County for the use of City of Forest Park facilities and vending concessions.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the License Agreement, seconded by Councilwoman James.

Councilwoman Wells asked if the Public Works Department will be preparing the field and are they compensated for this. Ms. Corley stated Public Works will prepare the field and compensation is included in the agreement.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Resolution-Right-of-way Development Authority:

Request was made to consider a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Forest Park to accept the right-of-way deed from the Development Authority.

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

Governing Body Comments:

Councilman Mears - stated the City Manager has made some changes with Animal Control. He stated we have been receiving complaints about pit bulls in the City and it seems to be getting out of control and recently received an email from a gentleman's mother. He stated he would like to know the concerns of the people having issues in their neighborhoods and let him know so he can get with the City Manager. He said we want to get a handle on this before someone gets hurt.



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Major Armstrong stated in reference to the email from the gentleman, the owners of those dogs have been cited by animal control and are due in court this Thursday.

Councilwoman Wells – stated she has tried to remain positive in these meetings. She stated people are saying we are letting our personal issues come between us and that is so far from the truth. She said at the last meeting one of our citizens got up and tried to tell my story for me. When people feel the need to bring in personal issues then we respond to them. She stated the same groups of people who say they want our city to come together are the same people that call her to discuss these same people that they are talking about. When someone feels the need to get up and tell someone else’s story and then get up at the same time and say they are trying to bring our City together, you are one of those people trying to tear it apart and she cannot respect those people. Citizens should stop being negative all the time.

Councilwoman Bagley – thanked everyone for coming out. She participated in a tele-conference call on January 30th, regarding the US, Mexico and Canadian trade agreement which will improve upon the NAFTA Agreement currently in place. She stated we should focus on things that are not politics to improve our competitive edge. She stated there was a comment made at the last council meeting that two council members did not show up for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade. She explained the reason she was not there is because her mother, who is 85 years old, had a fall last August and broke her hip. She is still on a walker and has had two subsequent falls since then. She was not able to be left alone. But she was in favor of recognizing Dr. King. She also stated Volkswagen will be locating to Chattanooga, Tenn. where they are building an \$800 million dollar facility to manufacture electric vehicles. She said we need to help bring industries that may be outside the box.



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Councilwoman James – thanked everyone for being there. She stated she also saw the building at the corner of College and Jonesboro Road and wanted to find out about that as well. We had to pause the Forensic Audit because of the Annual Audit. It is a one-time fee and not on going. As far as the attorney salary, he is salaried and we can call him at any time. She stated the appointment of Lois Wright as Election Superintendent was vetoed and she will not be the Election Superintendent. She stated she will be having a coffee and conversation on Wednesday at the high school for business leaders, church leaders, and is trying to bridge the gap between the community and the schools. If any Forest Park business wants to partner with Forest Park High School it will be from 8:30 – 9:30 on Monday and Wednesday at the high school.

Councilman Antoine – introduced Mr. King Kevin Dorival a well-known speaker, author and he has two major events to share with everyone.

Mr. Dorival stated he is having an event on February 16th at Atlanta University, our 5th Annual Community Crime Solutions Panel, from 11 to 2 p.m. We are also having a Valentine’s Day event in Jonesboro. His website is kevindorival.com for more information.

Councilman Antoine stated the 2019 Census is underway and it is imperative we all get involved. He stated it will all be done online now.

Ms. Redding stated all City Managers are working in conjunction with Mr. Detrick Stanford, Clayton County COO, to gather all the information so we can send it out to our citizens regarding this Census.

Councilman Antoine stated if any citizens need to talk to him, he is a phone call away. He stated people come in here and want to bring division and council will never come together if there is division. He stated we don’t have time to talk about problems that divide



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us. He said there are real issues that people have that do not come here, that they are facing.

Councilwoman Wells stated she will be going to local schools to talk to sexually abused young women and boys and speaking out about it.

Ms. Redding stated she has made a few departmental transfers: Effective February 6th, Animal Control will be transferred to the Police Department from Planning, Building and Zoning and Business License will be transferred back to the Finance Department from Planning, Building and Zoning. As far as being short-staffed, in prior years we have had to trim our budget due to our financial situation, however, we are in a better financial situation and we are advertising for positions but also, it is hard to recruit individuals based on current salaries, so a recommendation was presented to Mayor and Council tonight for the company to perform the Wage and Compensation Study. By the time we are preparing for the next budget, we should have information to make our salaries more competitive.

Ms. Redding stated the Mercer Group is the firm selected for the National Search for a Police Chief and today was the deadline for applications. We have currently received over 50 applications for the position. The firm will do background checks and the search is moving forward. She stated she hopes there were internal candidates that applied also.

Mayor Butler thanked everyone for coming out. She stated at the previous meeting she mentioned this dichotomous energy. This is within the community, and just as her colleagues were saying, there comes a time where we have to stop the bickering, stop the pointing fingers and stop trying to find fault in everything that someone else is doing. We will not agree on everything, and if we did, that means no one



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is thinking. We may have a different approach to bringing our ideas, but everyone's ideas should be respected. She said we cannot change, if no one wants to change. So someone has to be the bigger person and stop it all. She stated she respects everyone's voice and opinion, but when it comes to negativity, it is only hurting us. She is asking everyone, moving forward, that we try to find something of value. Let's try something different, and that different, is being positive and working together.

Adjournment:

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