



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2020 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of August 3, 2020 were called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Councilman Dabouze Antoine, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Present:

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

Also present were the Deputy City Manager, Nathaniel Clark, Public Works Director, Bobby Jinks, Economic Development Director, Bruce Abraham, Interim Fire Chief, Robert Brackett, and City Attorney, Michael Williams

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman James made a motion to table the minutes for July 20, 2020. She stated a lot of details that is normally placed into the minutes. In order to give that information to Ms. Harris, she recommends tabling the minutes. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez. Councilwoman Akins asked if a brief discussion of the minutes is provided or verbatim discussion. Mike Williams, City Attorney stated this he remembers this being the case as well. Point of Order, Councilwoman James stated she does remember getting detailed minutes in the past, but she stated there should be no going back and forth, she stated she is asking for consistency. Councilman Antoine abstained. Councilman Gutierrez and Councilman Mears voted yes. Councilwoman Wells voted no. Councilman Gutierrez stated he is getting complaints from constituents they cannot hear us. Mayor Butler encouraged everyone to talk into the microphone.

City Manager's Report:

Deputy City Manager, Nathaniel Clark presented the City's Manager's report. Mr. Clark stated, as it relates to COVID 19, all buildings have been



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cleaned and sanitized regarding COVID 19. Mr. Clark stated the City Manager, Albert Barker thanks the governing body for their assistance in this matter. Mr. Clark provided a task force update to the governing body. He stated the City Manager is requesting a procurement audit regarding discrepancies that were identified in the Finance department. The City Manager is asking for your approval to perform the audit. Chief Clark congratulated Mayor Butler for her award, Mayor of the Year. Mayor Butler thanks everyone again for their role in her receiving special awards Mr. Clark recognized Sgt. Christopher Hollywood, Detective Aberhart, Lt. Highgate and Sgt. Watkins for Lifesaving Awards for providing aid to victims that had experienced severe distress during a crisis. Mr. Clyde Lee was recognized as an Angel in the Park as it relates to his work he had performed in Starr Park. Mayor Butler stated that was amazing and definitely worth the recognition. She also stated, on behalf of the governing body and residents, she thanked the officers for all they do for the City of Forest Park.

COVID-19 Update:

Major Turner stated our numbers for the Clayton County was 4057 cases in the county, with an increase of 39 in the past 24 hours. For the city, 477 cases as of Friday, July 31st. Major Turner stated there are roughly 39 active cases, within incorporated Forest Park. Major Turner also stated all numbers are cumulative since May 1st. He stated a MD who is an Epidemiologist with Georgia Department of Public Health, reported that while cumulative numbers statewide continues to rise, the case numbers are stabilizing, they are approximately 12%. The most concentrated of those cases, statewide are centered around congregate indoor settings such as nursing homes and long-term care facility. He encourages the public to continue to follow good hygiene practices, please use social distancing of at least six feet, wash



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your hands frequently, or use hand sanitizer when you're unable to wash your hands and wear a mask.

**Consider Appointing A
Member to Development
Authority Board**

Councilwoman Akins made a motion to table this discussion. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Akins and Councilman Mears. Voting was unanimous.

**Update on Forest Park
Model Mile**

Mr. Kohr, Director of Landscape Architecture for Pond and Company. Mr. Kohr stated they are the firm that was selected by Aerotropolis of Atlanta, Aerotropolis CID and the seven communities to conduct the Model Mile Feasibility Study. He stated they have been working on the study since the early part of this year. The goal is to comeback and meet with the City Council representatives and complete a briefing periodically as they work throughout the project. He stated he has been working with James Shelby and Lashawn Gardiner, it has been a real joy. Mr. Kohr stated in 2018, Aero CIDs cooperated with Aerotropolis Alliance to complete the Aero ATL Greenway plan. This was a very high level plan, looked at generating a huge greenway and trail network throughout South Metro Atlanta. The outcome of that Aero CID has applied for and received a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant from the Atlanta Regional Constitution, who partners with seven different communities, including Forest Park to pursue this grant, they were successful. Through a competitive selection process, Pond was selected to complete the study. The current grant looks at taking this large scale, feasibility study and narrowing it down to look at seven model mile communities. Coming up with a concept plan to develop and envision a concept, among them Forest Park Model Mile. That includes looking at preferred routes, design concepts, cost estimates and a recommended



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funding strategy. The goal is to give, empower the city, the staff, and elected officials, a methodology and a path forward to actually implement the Model Mile. This is a starting point for this project, and ultimately they will be working with the city to start to outline a project to implement the trail.

**Social Science Research
Group COVID 19
Prescreener**

Mr. Michael Tappler stated the COVID 19 prescreener allows the visitor to be prescreened when they come into the building. If they answer questions in a certain manner, someone at the building can allow them entry or deny entrance. If they are denied entry, they can follow up on why they are denied entry; those resources can be given to the visitor for them to follow up with Department of Health. The screener can work on a kiosk, or a fever scan, which allows an employee to take a fever, a survey is taken, which would allow or deny entry into the building. This system is currently being used in Clayton County Public Schools. It is used as a contact trace. If there was anyone sick with COVID 19, they are able to make contact with that individual and quarantine that person accordingly. It saves time and possibly lives. Mayor Butler stated this is a QR code. It is scanned from your smart phone, you complete the information and it gives a list of all of the buildings that a person may enter. A series of questions will be answered. It collects the data and if someone were to notify the office that they have tested positive, the scan will retrieve the data, we can proceed with the contact tracing. The system can be set up with the badge system as well. The system is designed to automate the process around one employee screening. Once you decide how to distribute this on a daily basis, for employees, it allows for an automated process for distribution, for analysis and the actual results. The assessment is based on CDC guidelines. Councilwoman Wells asked if the Council is able to get the pricing of this. She



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stated that since this is used at the schools, she highly recommends this. They have to answer a series of questions. She thinks it is a great thing we should consider. She has received concerns from employees regarding employees who have tested positive. Councilman Gutierrez thanks the presenters for the presentation. He stated that he would like to see the presentation as well.

**Swearing in Remaining:
Planning Commission
Member**

Mr. Roderick Jackson was the only Planning Commission Member that was sworn in.

**COVID-19 Relief for:
Businesses**

Attorney Mike Williams state a memorandum was given to the Council members, that furthers expands upon the background and summary. The city has been trying to take some steps to assist businesses and work with them during this time. He stated he does not know how much longer this will go, but they are trying to figure out ways to make this business friendly as much as possible. There is one item which is the license fee that is paid by Rumors, on a quarterly basis, as you would recall, they pay \$40,000.00 annually, and this is paid in quarterly installments. He stated they paid the 1st quarter and they delivered a check for the full amount of the 3rd quarter which is July through September, but they submitted a check in the amount of \$1800.00 for the 2nd quarter, which is April through June, it is an automatic reduction that they've made. Mr. Williams stated to his knowledge, there hasn't been any actual consent on the part of the City to accept the lower amount. During that period of time, by order of the Governor, they were closed. The staff is of the mind this is a reasonable accommodation, under the circumstances, since they were not open. It is recommended this one time, the Council accepts this just once and to the extent that it is necessary, going forward, this would be done on a case by case basis, as the



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circumstances merit. Councilwoman James asked if this is something that requires a vote. Attorney Williams stated that is not a required vote. He also states it is within the discretionary power of the City Manager. Councilman Mears asked if this is the only time we would do so, they would go back to their regular schedule payments. Mr. Williams stated yes. Councilman Gutierrez stated he wants to highlight what the City is doing for our businesses. He stated that not all cities are doing this, because sometimes the message is we want to bring in new business, which we do, but we are taking care of our businesses and doing what we can for them as well. He stated he thanks the staff and other boards that are making this happen. Councilman Mears ask if we have another resource in the event the virus continues. Attorney Williams states for that particular business, the anticipated course of action would be to provide a letter, basically acknowledging and accepting the partial payment this one time and going forward, it is not anticipated that this would happen again.

State Championship

Councilwoman James stated that Coach Kohl, Head Basketball Coach for the girls' basketball team. She stated he approached her about this. She stated she went online, she did have a small sign for the Council, which she has sent to Director Jinks. It basically says Home of the Forest Park High School State Champions. The example which she has does have the year and it has spaces for additional years. When she spoke with Director Jinks, he stated the sign would have to be invoiced out, because they do not do multiple colors at their sign shop, they only do one color. She had hopes of being able to get the Panther in color. She stated it would be best to try to outsource it, she doesn't think it would be a large cost. Councilwoman James also states this is a great idea, when people are coming into Forest Park, they see that State Champions live



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here. Councilman Gutierrez stated that he loves this, he does not want a small sign, he wants a large sign that recognizes our girls, and this is a huge accomplishment. Councilman Mears asks Councilwoman James if she has a general idea of the cost. Councilwoman James stated she does not. Director Jinks stated it depends on the size of the sign, the details, it could cost anywhere from \$100-\$200, it depends on how elaborate you want to go with the details on the sign.

**Approve the Conditional:
Use Permit for a Farm
Stand**

A motion was made by Councilwoman James to recess the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing to discuss the conditional use permit for a farm stand. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Akins and Councilman Mears. Mayor Butler stated per the Charter, 10 minutes is allotted for each side to speak, in support of or in opposition of the proposed conditional use permit. If anyone that is present in person, or on Zoom that would like to speak in favor of the conditional use permit. Councilman Gutierrez stated that one of his first decisions coming to the Council was this issue, he wanted to say that Code Enforcement and the City did their job, they were following the due process. Everyone wants healthy food for the community. Little Ones has been hosting the food pickup process. He is in support of this. He wanted to make sure that the narrative is not that the City is against this, because they are not. Michelle Naymer, Attorney for Little Ones stated they are seeking an allowable conditional use permit under Forest Park Code Section 8841 for their RN 85 property to run a farm stand as a supplement to food gardening that is already taking place. Their farm stand will run for 4.5 hours for two days out of each month. There is no negative implication from it being there. It fits the current zoning, as the staff reports reflects.



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There will be no impacts on traffic or the environment. Sidyal Summersall, a Pediatrician, who has been following this issue. She stated there are so many benefits from having fresh food and fruits available. There are so many high rates of illnesses of and conditions that are preventable. This would combat one of the leading causes of morbidity. It would be a huge benefit to the community, considering the health aspects of it. Erin Crim, an active member of the GA Farm to School community as well as the National Farm to school community. She commends Little Ones for what they are doing in the community and the City Council for their hard work that they are doing for Little Ones. It is a great opportunity to serve families in under deserved communities. Jessica Goodmanson stated Little Ones are a true beacon for the community. The benefits provided from the farm stand are immeasurable. She wanted to show her support for the initiative. Michelle stated there will be no interaction with the children at the early childhood education center; she stated that no child has ever been involved in the past. Mayor Butler asked if there was anyone online or in person that wanted to speak in opposition of the initiative. No opposition was received. A motion was made by Councilman Mears to close the public hearing and reconvene into the regular session. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous. Councilman Mears stated this is a great idea, he is in support of the initiative, but he stressed that we need to be sure there is no city liability. A motion was made by Councilwoman James to approve the Conditional Use Permit for a Farm Stand. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Akins and Councilman Mears.



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**Consider a Resolution:
Of the City of Forest
Park GA to authorize
Execution of CRF**

Attorney Mike Williams stated this is a straight forward resolution. He stated he is not sure if this is coming from GMA, this is to set the stage for accepting any grants going forward. Councilman Gutierrez asked if these grants are being given by the City, or is we accepting these from the State. Councilwoman Akins stated the Development Authority is providing the grant. A motion was made by Councilwoman James to approve and authorize the City of Forest Park to authorize the execution of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Akins, and Councilman Mears.

Executive Session:

Councilman Mears asked for clarification on the signage for the basketball team before going into Executive session. He asked if the signs are under the guidelines of Ward money. Attorney Mike Williams stated yes you are able to do that, if the Council wishes to do that. Councilman Mears stated you need at least four signs to cover every entry, and he would be willing to use some of his Ward money to honor the girls. Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter into Executive session for personnel, litigation, real estate and legal matters. It was seconded by Councilman Mears at 7:15 p.m. Councilman Mears made a motion to adjourn Executive session and reconvene into regular session. It was seconded by Councilwoman James at 7:45 p.m.

**Consider Approving:
Communications
Manager Position**

A motion was made by Councilman Gutierrez to approve this item. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion was Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez. Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Akins and Councilman Mears voted no. The motion failed.



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**Confirmation of Fire:
Chief**

A recommendation was made on behalf of the City Manager by Chief Nathaniel Clark to respectfully nominate Mr. Don Horton for the Fire Chief of the City of Forest Park. A motion was made by Councilwoman Akins to accept the nomination. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez. Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez and Councilwoman Wells voted yes. Councilwoman James voted no and Councilman Mears abstained. The motion passed.

**Comments by:
Governing Body**

Councilwoman James stated even though she did not vote for to support Mr. Horton as Chief, she will be supportive of his position within the city. She stated he was the top rank candidate for the Fire Chief in the beginning, and for whatever reason, he decided to not to accept the first time. She stated she had a bit of reservation about that, but she does not have any reservations about his qualifications and what he will do for the city. She asked all of the fellow firefighters to continue to support and do what they can to stay positive. Councilman Gutierrez thanks everyone for listening in, he appreciates you. He congratulates the officers which received the Lifesaving awards. He stated he is extending condolences to the City Manager on the loss of his family member. He sends those condolences to Director Shelby as well. Councilman Gutierrez states to make sure you are taking care of yourselves; we are still in the midst of a pandemic. He stated for the children that are going to be starting school, for the parents to please bring them to the supply drive. He is excited about everything that is coming. He welcomes the new Fire Chief. Councilwoman Akins thanks the officers for the amazing job; she also thanks Chief Clark for recognizing the officers. Councilwoman Akins reiterates the comments of Councilman Gutierrez to send condolences to City Manager and Director Shelby for the loss of their loved ones. She



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stated COVID is still out there, it is still real. Please continue social distancing, wash your hands, and wear your masks. Councilman Mears thanked Chief Clark for honoring the officers. He stated he has reservations regarding the appointment, he feels we should be more sensitive and in tune with understanding of the people that work for us. He stated he feels the process was not completely handled to the best it could be. Mayor Butler stated she wished to thank everyone for participating tonight. She did have a proud Mom moment, but in light of the losses, it can definitely wait. She urges all to hug your love ones.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Mears to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez