

CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020 | 6:00 PM



CITY OF  
**FORESTPARK**



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**MAYOR**

ANGELYNE BUTLER, MPA

**CITY COUNCIL**

KIMBERLY JAMES	WARD 1
DABOUZE ANTOINE	WARD 2
HECTOR GUTIERREZ	WARD 3
LATRESA AKINS-WELLS	WARD 4
ALLAN MEARS	WARD 5

**INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

SHALONDA BROWN

**CITY ATTORNEY**

MIKE WILLIAMS

**CITY CLERK**

SHAREE STEED

**FOREST PARK CITY HALL**

745 Forest Parkway  
Forest Park, GA 30297  
(404) 366.4720

[WWW.FORESTPARKGA.ORG](http://WWW.FORESTPARKGA.ORG)

**DISCLAIMER:** Due to COVID-19 Mayor and Council Meeting is only accessible to the public or media through web or teleconference until further notice. Please refer to the zoom information located on page 2 of the Agenda.

Please join us via Zoom. The zoom information is located below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86366347964?pwd=SVl5cWxJSjEybUM1ejdOWjJ2ajgwUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 863 6634 7964

**Passcode:** 101832

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**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL**

**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**Monday, December 7, 2020 | 6:00 PM**

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez  
The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Interim City Manager  
City Clerk  
City Attorney

Shalonda Brown  
Sharee Steed  
Mike Williams

1. **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA called the meeting to order 6:00pm
2. **ROLL CALL:** All member of Council was present which constituted a quorum.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1 Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

**1. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** A. Girard Geeter, Procurement Manager; Darquita Williams, Deputy Finance Director; James Shelby, Director of Planning & Zoning and Don Horton, Fire Chief

Interim City Manager Ms. Shalonda Brown began her report by introducing the Deputy Fire Chief, Latosha Clemons and read her Bio. She also introduced the Deputy City Clerk, S. Diane White, who started with the City on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Everyone welcomed them to the Forest Park family and wished them well.

- **Letter of Appreciation of our Forest Park CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) Members**  
Mayor Butler stated that this is for the volunteers on the CERT team, Mr. Carl Evans, Paul Bunch, Brenda Adams, Lonie Adams and James Hurtado; this was at the request Chief Horton, Mayor Butler read the Letter of Appreciation and thanked them all for their work.
- **Briarwood Forest Apartment Demolition Update** Demolition for Briarwood Forest Apartments, located at 890 Conley Road, has been put on hold until we receive approval from GA Community Affairs Historic Preservation Division. This will determine whether the apartment is eligible for national register of historic

places. This determination is required because we are using federal funds, CDBG to demolish the structures. Yesterday, we received notice that the demolition will have no adverse effect to the historic properties within the immediate area and we can now demolish the 28 dilapidated structures. Based on the letter of notification, we issue a Notice to Proceed to the demolition contractor. Mr. Shelby will be asking for a revised timeline from the contractor.

- **Recognition letter from Dr. Beeler**, Restoration Theological Seminary, for appreciation to Chief Clark. Interim City Manager read the letter for the record.
- **Community Thanksgiving Event** – Councilmember Gutierrez, as this was his last event of this season. Councilmember Gutierrez thanked everyone and Mayor for sponsoring the Thanksgiving event, sorry that it is over, looking forward to next year. Hoping to live-stream next year, must work out logistics with various departments. Mayor Butler stated it was an amazing event and thankful that she was a part of it.
- **Turkey Give-Away** – Councilwoman Akins-Wells stated thanked everyone for attending, with special thanks to the Fire and Public Works Department who donated the most turkeys, they did an amazing job. There were 275 turkeys donated to residents of Forest Park. The Thanksgiving Dinner, the following week was a success in feeding the community, thanks to all. This year has been tough on some families, so I hope this made this a little bit better for them.
- **Christmas Parade** – Held on Sat., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success, thanks to everyone who participated and made it an enjoyable event. Mayor Butler stated that it was the biggest turnout this year and it is a testament to all the hard work that the Recreation Department and staff is doing; and we are truly on the map because of everyone’s collaborative effort.
- **Announcements & Events** – City Hall will be closed Thurs., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and Fri., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Holidays; Currently Clayton County Transit System Plan is taking public comments, visit [www.claytontransitplan.com](http://www.claytontransitplan.com) or call 404-848-5299; Ward 4 Townhall Meeting - Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – 696 Main Street; Food Truck Friday – Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 5pm – Main Street & Fountain; Ward 1 Neighborhood Meeting – Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 5pm – Zoom ID: 830 8346 5760 Password: jamesward1; Model Mile Community Meeting – Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 11am and 6pm – [www.aeroatl.org](http://www.aeroatl.org); Wellness with Wells – Tuesdays at 6pm – Forest Park Recreation Center.

## 2. COVID-19 UPDATE:

**Division Chief Turner** – The COVID numbers continue to rise, both nationwide, statewide, and locally. The current average rate of daily positives among those tested statewide is 10.8% on for the past two weeks; about 3% higher than two weeks ago.

As of today, 12/7/2020:

- Clayton County’s average rate of daily positives is 12.8%, about 2.4% higher than a couple of weeks ago

As reported by Clayton Co Health District this afternoon, 12/7/2020:

- Forest Park: 1,115 cumulative cases; avg of 10.9% of county cases on the 30297 zip; with approx. 15 active cases currently within incorporated Forest Park.

By now everyone has heard that vaccines are coming. There are three primary manufacturers that are seeking approvals for distribution among frontline healthcare workers, and residents of long-term care facilities initially. This release will be in very limited quantity, with the bulk of additional vaccine becoming available next year, into the spring and early summer. The distribution paths are being planned and managed in coordination with the manufacturers, State Department and of Health and the local Health Districts. We are in the early planning stages with the Clayton County Health District of a distribution process to provide for residents in the city and this area of the county. These plans are preliminary and will develop as time passes and more information becomes available. It is also not too late to get the flu vaccine. There is discussion of needing time between receiving the flu vaccine and a COVID vaccine. Some authorities feel that a minimum of 3-4 weeks after receiving the influenza vaccine is necessary. This will help in reducing the number of respiratory infections as the weather has turned colder. The vaccination is covered by most major insurance providers and is available through most pharmacies or professional medical providers. We still encourage everyone to follow good personal hygiene practices; wash hands, use hand sanitizer, maintain physical distancing, and use masks, especially in situations where you are unable to distance.

### 3. PRESENTATION(S):

- **Green Model Mile Presentation by Pond** – gave an overview of the purpose, goals, criteria, and the costs of the Trails; for the Trail at Starr Park to Atlanta Farmers Market (Phase One) - \$5,775,000 and Main Street Extension (Later Phase) - \$2,100,000

#### Questions from Mayor and Council

**Councilmember James:** Is the model mile crossing over Old Dixie or going through Old Dixie to the Farmers Market?

**Andrew Kohr, Pond** – Everything from Old Dixie to Farmers Market changes dramatically, it is a very heavily used corridor with a lot of truck traffic. We have specifically chosen the north side of the road, Forest Parkway going westward, there is a lot excess travel lane and roadway that we can capture, but as you go through the design process, there will be plan improvement as part of this process, to really make this safe crossing for everyone at this intersection, because it is very busy. In discussions with Staff, they recognize that section of Forest Parkway between the Farmers Market and Old Dixie really is the gateway and requires further operational improvements and investigation, so it is part of a larger vision to rethink that corridor.

**Councilmember Gutierrez:** What will the bike lanes look like and how many will there be and potential art we could have?

**Andrew Kohr** – All of the designs for bike lanes we have come up with to date will be called Off-Road adjacent to road, but Off-Road facilities. The trails that we have designed will multi-purpose trails, where they will be shared with bikes and pedestrians. They will be behind the curb or off-road, they are not within travel lanes or within the line of traffic or vehicles, is designed to be safe for all users; large groups of bikers will be accommodated and not be in roadway with a share use path. We have identified spaces along the corridor where we have determined potential opportunities for public art, some included the trail head and along the railroad tracks to create a visible barrier and a distinct separation from the railroad and will be included in final report to be submitted in January.

- **GA Smart Clayton County Community Engagement Project by Jason Brookins** – gave an overview of a Grant that Clayton County applied for and was awarded, GA Tech sponsored and paid for by ARC, it is a Smart Community Challenge the development of a smart pedestrian asset management system, identification of appropriate smart technologies to support walkability, community metrics and a project prioritization methodology that meets community needs.

*No questions or comments was provided by the Governing Body.*

- **Cintas Certification of Appreciation** – Councilmember Gutierrez presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cintas for their work with the beautification of Rock Springs Cemetery

*No questions or comments was provided by the Governing Body.*

### 4. REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- **OLD BUSINESS:** None
- **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Discussion to adopt 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting-** Interim City Manager, Ms. Shalonda Brown

#### **Background and Summary:**

The Executive Office is requesting the Governing Body to adopt the updated calendar for the Mayor and Council Meeting 2021.

#### Questions from Mayor and Council

**Councilmember James:** Why do we have to adopt each year?

**Attorney Williams** – It is just a way to publish the meeting each year.

2. **Discussion to adopt 2021 Holiday Calendar for closure** –Interim City Manager, Ms. Shalonda

Brown

**Background and Summary:**

The Executive Office is requesting the governing Body to adopt the updated calendar for the City's Holiday closures.

**Councilmember James** – What are the stipulations with the holiday when it falls on the weekend, like Juneteenth?

**Mayor Butler** – Do we leave as it, or do we make it fall on Friday?

**Attorney Williams** – When you adopt it, you can specify the date that will be recognized

3. **Discussion to adopt an ordinance to update the City's Flood Plain Management Ordinance-** Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works, and Attorney Mike Williams.

**Background and Summary:**

The City periodically reviews and updates this ordinance to keep it in line with the model ordinance promulgated by the Georgia Environmental Protection Department. It was last revised in 2016. The proposed revisions are in line with the updated model ordinance and are in further consistent with the recommendations of the Clayton County Water Authority.

*No questions or comments were provided by the Governing Body.*

4. **Discussion of Program Services Agreement with Atlanta Youth Rugby, Inc** – Tarik Maxwell, Director of Recreation & Leisure Services and Interim City Manager, Ms. Shalonda Brown

**Background and Summary:**

City of Forest Park recreation and Leisure Service is partnering with Atlanta Youth Rugby to introduce the youth of Forest Park with an opportunity to experience the game of rugby. Recreation and Leisure Services are providing Atlanta Youth Rugby with access to the Stadium on Mondays in exchange all youth with a Forest Park address will receive a scholarship to cover the cost of participation.

*No questions or comments were provided by the Governing Body.*

5. **Discussion of three proposals for Video/Audio System in the Council Chamber** - Christopher Tate, Systems Engineer II for InterDev.

**Background and Summary:**

These are the three bids we received for the upgrade to the audio/video system for the council chambers. The representative for Interdev will elaborate on his findings and his evaluation.

**Councilmember James** – Did this go through the procurement process or was this done prior to the adoption of procurement procedures?

**Attorney Williams** – This was underway prior to the actual adoption of ordinance, however, I asked staff to do this as an emergency procurement, but staff did request three quotes for this service.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Do we still need to purchase this, since things are going a lot better?

**Attorney Williams** – As it relates to the actual solution that we see, and which you prefer better, my legal advice would be to go ahead and purchase for improvements, with the discussion of a new city hall at some point in the future, at least a year and half away. In the interim having a dramatically upgraded audio/visual system, is highly advisable.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – There has not been any complaints and it seems to be working fine, I think it is a waste of money.

**Councilmember James** – I echo the concerns of Councilmember Akins-Wells, when I look at the cost, when we just completed an upgrade and now to spend up to \$20k for more upgrades is a lot.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Is this going to be torn down?

**Attorney Williams** – In terms of the technical specs, I need to defer to Interdev, but again the cost to improve the system, I encourage you to look at it as an investment in having a top-notch audio/video system that will last and ensure that we will never have the problems we have had.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Is the system one that can be transferred to a new location?

**Attorney Williams** – It should but again, I will defer to Interdev

Mayor Butler – Chris, please explain the differences in the quotes and what is different is the quotes than what we currently have?

**Chris Tate with Interdev** – We were having problems with the audio/video within the Council Chambers and we were asked to work with Mr. Geeter to get three (3) proposals to improve the hearing and the process. The companies are OnePath, NCI and Diversified Electronics. We asked them to upgrade the overall audio/video in Council Chambers to eliminate passing a microphone around and people not being heard, to include cameras within the council chambers to give audience a better view of council chambers and to upgrade for longevity; with a visual control where you can have control of the meeting or basic laptop. With the new city hall down the line, this chamber would be used by other departments for other meetings.

Chris explained the timeframe of installation and the recommended vendor is NCI.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – How much will it cost?

**Interdev** – NCI – for a full upgrade - \$39,379; OnePath – \$39,921 and Diversified - \$43,687

**Councilmember Mears** – Why is Diversified so much higher?

**Interdev** – Because of the equipment, one-stop controls, has an easier system for anyone to control it. These numbers are on the higher end with the controller piece added.

**Councilmember Mears** – You have a high, medium, and low, is it that much difference in the quotes?

**Interdev** – Yes, NCI is \$29,801

**Councilmember Mears** – Is it in the quality of the equipment or labor?

**Interdev** – No, equipment is probably the same

**Councilmember Mears** – It would not do to go to the higher one when you can get the same product for lower cost.

**Interdev** – Exactly, that was my thinking

**Councilmember James** – What is the logic of having multiple cameras?

**Interdev** – If you look at other city's council meetings, they have a bigger view of the council chambers, one directly on speaker and other one on entire council.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Definitely for safety, we need technology, and it is changing every day and I am for it. Is it coming from SPLOST money or somewhere else?

**Attorney Williams** – Have not been a part of that conversation, but there is remaining SPLOST funds available that can be used for this.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – But again, do we want to spend that much money on a building that we will not be in 2 years from now?

**Interdev** – Whatever is put in here will stay in here and when the new city hall is built another system will be place in there. This building will be used for other meetings and for the neighbor meetings to use and is why I recommend the lowest cost.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – So does the amount include the system for the new city hall as well?

**Interdev** – I have no knowledge of that and cannot speak on it.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – That is why I need explanation, who will be using this building. If the majority decide to approve, but I believe it is a waste of money.

**Mayor Butler** – Attorney Williams can you speak to any potential, “Potential” legal ramifications given the way our system has been over the last few months?

Attorney Williams – All have seen the correspondence received from the organization First Amendment Clinic

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Have we received any more complaints since the changes have been made?

**Attorney Williams** – I believe in recent meetings, we gotten responses that the people are happy, and the sound quality is better, but the correspondence, initially, was generated because of complaints from a limited number of folks, that the audio quality was bad and other technical issues we were experiencing, and the allegations were that we are not in full compliance with the Open Meetings act, because we were not given meaningful public access. I disagree with that I believe we have met the requirements of the Open Meetings Act but do believe to move forward and provide the greatest possible access, I think it is advisable to do that, whether this room is used for other meetings and it is a lot of money, but it will be well spent.

**Councilmember James** – Because we are not getting the complaints about the audio that we had before and we are looking to the future with other people utilizing it, then we have made sure that there is someone here to do the audio/visual that is qualified to run it. I think this needs to be tabled.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I agree with Councilmember James, we need to table this, I am for it and it is an investment not just for us, but we have boards that can use it and we do not want to wait until something else happens. Thank you, Ms. Brown, for fixing it, but it was a Band-Aid put on something that needs to be fixed and should have been done long time ago. I just do not want something to happen and then we are talked about lack of transparency and we are not.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I understand what you are saying, and I agree, we do not want to wait for anything to happen, but the only thing I am thinking about, we are not going to be here and its working well right now, but if something does happen, we have got the bidding process over and can go forward. I just think it is a lot of money, when we do not want to pay a company to come in and clean our buildings when someone get COVID. I just cannot agree with that, we can spend that money somewhere it is needed right now and look at that later.

There was further discussion about COVID cleaning in the city buildings and employees being exposed.

Mayor Butler – We discuss this further at the next meeting because I believe the Mayor Turner and the former City Manager did create a process regarding COVID and thought information was disseminated to Department Heads, so we will get clarification.

**6. Discussion of authorization for the acquisition of an Ambulance - Darquita Williams, Deputy Finance Director**

**Background and Summary:**

We are request the approval for the acquisition of an ambulance. This will be replacing an ambulance that was involved in an accident. On this date accident occurred, vehicle was total loss by insurance company. We will use the ins. proceeds for this purchase.

**Councilmember Mears** – I was in discussion with Firefighters before this accident occurred about replacing another ambulance and then this accident happened, which they are replacing, but before

the accident happened there were five (5) ambulances that need replacing. They were in the process of buying another one or a fire truck, whichever Chief Horton felt was more important at this time. He conveyed to me that the ambulance and I think we need to move forward with this request.

**Councilmember James** – I would like to mention the employee involved in the accident, James Oglesby, that we keep him in prayer for a full recovery.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Would like for council to consider that the ambulance that is going to be surplus or given away, that we consider donating it to the city mission committee to Haiti?

**Councilmember Mears** – I think the ambulance is totaled and cannot be used or given away.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – That is fine, but in the future, any ambulance or fire trucks that are surplus and not in service, I would ask council to consider that.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motioned by Councilmember Mears and seconded by Councilmember James that the Work Session be adjourned at 7:17pm. Motion approved.**



Please join us via Zoom. The zoom information is located below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86366347964?pwd=SV15cWxJSjEybUM1ejdOWjJ2ajgwUT09>

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**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
Monday, December 7, 2020 | 7:00 PM**

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez  
The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Interim City Manager  
City Clerk  
City Attorney

Shalonda Brown  
Sharee Steed  
Mike Williams

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA called the meeting to order 7:18pm
- 2. INVOCATION:** Bishop Paul Forston of Paradise Church of God in Christ
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited in unison
- 4. ROLL CALL:** All members of Council was presented, which constituted a quorum.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1 Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

**5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Attorney Williams – Need to add the items regarding the Land Bank.

Motioned by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Mears to adopt the Council Agenda adding the Approval of the Revised Structure of the Clayton County Land Bank Authority and the Appointment of a Forest Park representative. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**6. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

- Work Session & Regular Minutes from November 16, 2020  
Motion was made by Councilmember Antoine and seconded by Councilmember James to adopt the Council Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2020 with the stated changes. Motion was approved.
- Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2020  
Motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Antoine to adopt the Budget Hearing Minutes from May 26, 2020. Motion was approved.

**7. AGENDA ITEMS:**

- **OLD BUSINESS:** None
- **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Approval to adopt 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting-** Interim City Manager, Ms. Shalonda Brown

Motioned by Councilmember Antoine and seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells to adopt the 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting Dates. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**2. Approval to adopt 2021 Holiday Calendar for closure-** Interim City Manager, Ms. Shalonda Brown

Motioned by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember James to adopt the 2021 Holiday Calendar to add that the City will be closed on June 18<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**3. Approval to adopt an ordinance to update the City's Flood Plain Management Ordinance-** Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works and Attorney Mike Williams.

Motioned by Councilmember Mears and seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells to adopt Updated the City’s Floodplain Management Ordinance. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**4. Approval of Program Services Agreement with Atlanta Youth Rugby, Inc-** Tarik Maxwell, Director of Recreation & Leisure Services and Interim City Manager, Ms. Shalonda Brown

Motioned by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember James to approve the Program Services Agreement with Atlanta Youth Rugby. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**5. Approval of Discussion of three proposals for Video/Audio System in the Council Chamber** - Christopher Tate, Systems Engineer II for InterDev.

Motioned by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells to table the approval of video/audio system. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine			X
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**6. Approval of authorization for the acquisition of an Ambulance** - Darquita Williams, Deputy Finance Director

Motioned by Councilmember Mears and seconded by Councilmember James to the acquisition of an ambulance. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**7. Approval of Revised Structure of the Clayton County Land Bank Authority** – City Attorney

Motioned by Councilmember Antoine and seconded by Councilmember Mears approve the structure of the Land Bank. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**8. Approval to Designate James Shelby, Director of Planning & Zoning, as Forest Park’s Representative on the Clayton County Land Bank Authority – City Attorney**

Motioned by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Mears to appoint James Shelby, Director of Planning & Zoning to the Land Bank. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (3 MINUTE LIMIT) - No public comment was provided**

**There were no Public Comments**

**9 CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – Thanked everyone for being a part of the meeting tonight. Thanks to David Rashmir for his In-Kind donations of turkeys to be given away in Ward 1. Special thanks to Clayton County Community Service who assisted one of Forest Park’s resident who was without power for a long time and there was an anonymous donor who also assisted this resident, so a big shout out to those in the community who help service the citizens of Forest Park and those who have a heart to give. Shout out to Mr. Maxwell and Parks Department doing a great job, City employees for what you do each day; congratulation to new Deputy Fire Chief and encourage all to stay safe during this pandemic. Ward 1 Neighborhood Meeting – Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 5pm will be a Zoom meeting and all information is posted on website.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Shared a quote – “People don’t remember you for what you have, but what you do for others”. Shout out to Mr. Rashmir thank you for the turkeys, that was put on tables that otherwise would not have them. Thank you to the best Ward 2 in the City, for the roads being paved and the lights been cooled, Councilmember Gutierrez, Akins-Wells, and the Mayor for the various events they have sponsored. Reminded everyone of how to reach him, he does respond back.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you Mr. Rashmir for the turkeys, you donated 92 for my various Ward events. Food Truck this Friday, 5pm at Main and Fountain, will be practicing social distancing. We have a variety of trucks that will be out to try out. Welcome to the new employees, thank you for choosing Forest Park. We will be looking into the COVID issues that Councilmember Akins-Wells mentioned and thanks for bringing that up. Be the Voice for your city, let us know about issues. Shout out to Calvary Refuge, we sent over a family and they were taken care of. Be the best you can be and thanks to all. Thanks to the Mayor and Council for the Christmas Parade and everyone who attended.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Thanks also to Mr. David Rashmir for the turkeys and have been giving turkeys to her for 8 years. Thanks also to the employees, some who do not live in the city, but take time out to come and

assist us with the events. If know of any place that the homeless hang out, this weekend her family will be giving out toiletry bags to the homeless. Ward 4 Town Hall meeting Wed., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and Wellness with Wells - Tuesdays 5pm.

**Councilmember Mears** – Thanks Mr. Rashmir for the turkeys. Thanks to Council for a wonderful Christmas Parade, believe that it was the best on yet. All the event with the turkey give-away, Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Parade was great and shows that we are all working together.

**Mayor Butler** – Echo all the sentiments of her colleagues. Forest Park received another prestigious recognition, apologize left the exact verbiage at home. In addition to being named “The Best Place to Invest” in August of last year; having our Parks & Recreation being name one of the best entertainment facilities, we are also being recognized as one of the best places to RENT. I know that renting carries a stigma with but think that anytime the City is being recognized for everything we are doing, is worth commending and thank everyone who plays a part in that. Anytime I can brag on Forest Park, I take the opportunity and run with it.

**Mayor Butler** asked about the December 21, 2020 Council Meetings being cancelled, the City Manager and City Attorney has stated there are no pressing matters to be brought forth, but if it does, we would move on with that meeting. Do we want to make this the last meeting for the month/calendar year?

Motioned by Councilmember Mears and seconded by Councilmember Antoine to cancel the December 21, 2020 Council Meetings. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Asked the City Attorney about the Moratorium that was to be on the agenda, the church and my Town Hall meeting is about it, something needs to be done about it.

**Attorney Williams** – Madame Mayor, there is a discussion about Group Homes and certain Half-Way Houses within the City of Forest Park, our Ordinance does not allow them, so any applications to that will be denied anyway, because they are not permitted. However, out of abundance of caution, it would be advisable to consider a moratorium on the acceptance of any applications for Group Homes, Half-Way Houses, Transition Homes, to allow the Zoning Department to come up with ordinance to provide for how they would be handled in the future. A 180-day moratorium is what Mr. Shelby and I discussed and advising the Council to consider.

**Councilmember Mears** – Know of a church that is for sale and in the process of doing the same thing as another church, I would like to recommend that we do the 180-day moratorium, until we can work out plans on how to handle it.

**Mayor Butler** – Would that encompass a distance requirement?

**Attorney Williams** – All that would be worked out in the ordinance. As you know that is a rewrite on the Zoning Ordinance and this is one item, that was already on Mr. Shelby’s list to add.

**Councilmember Mears** – How would be go about getting a general consensus of the community in the Wards where these homes are. Those living in the communities should have a voice.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – In is in my Ward, sort of between 4 and 5, but in my ward and the consensus that I am getting is “NO”. It is in the middle of a residential area, not even a mile away from the elementary school, no one is leaving Ward 4 and we do not want that type of homes coming in the Ward 4. We want to be known for certain things, of course, people need help and rehabilitation, I am all for that, but not in a residential area. Because of all the messages and Nextdoor post that I have received, no one agrees with this.

**Councilmember Mears** – Will this moratorium hinder a church from renting or selling?

**Attorney Williams** – If it is a rental or sale to continue as a religious place of assembly, that would not be covered. What would be covered is institutional housing, half-way homes, group homes things of that sort, would be under the moratorium.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – It is any funds that City has available to purchase the property to something with it?

**Attorney Williams** – Yes, but if you were to go in that direction, I suggest a discussion in Executive Session.

**Councilmember James** – This is the first time I have heard about this because someone approached me and asked about the church being sold and the intentions for it. This is the first hearing of the moratorium, or knowing it is in our ordinance, so my question is was there something that came to the city for us to get involved at this moment, because if it is in our ordinance that this cannot happen, why are we involved and needing a moratorium, what is the logic? Maybe we can hear from Mr. Shelby.

**James Shelby, Director of Planning & Zoning** – There are two issues, 1) Councilmember Akins-Wells asked us to do the moratorium and 2) we do not allow Group Homes or Half-Way Houses, there is no provision to regulate them in the ordinance; this was something that I had already asked the consultant to look at. We have received an application from the church wanting to do a Half-Way house and they want a zoning verification notice, which we cannot give one because it is not allowed, there is nothing in the ordinance that would even suggest they could have one there.

**Councilmember James** – What are the stipulations for having a Group Home or whatever? What the process, I know we do not have it, but are the stipulations of where they are zoned?

**James Shelby** - Some cities have them in commercial or residential areas, but there are stipulations that come under conditions for them, which are approved by the City Council. However, for us, we just started looking at it recently since we started the rewrite Zoning Ordinance, so I cannot give a definite answer what our criteria would be and there are State Laws on Group Homes as well that they would have to abide by.

**Councilmember James** – This is very new, something that just came up, I am not opposed to transitional homes, and premature, not knowing what it will mean to our City and our communities, being in support of something like this.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – There is a difference is being in support and placing it where it needs to go. You are not a representative of Ward 4, so I am speaking for the people of Ward 4 and they do not want them in their community. The community came to me with an issue, so I thought I would do what I needed to do as a representative of Ward 4.

**Councilmember James** – I still think it is new and premature, the only conversation I had with someone who said it would supply food and information, I do not know if people will be housed there, do not know anything.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – That is why I am having a Town Hall meeting for Ward 4 residents, the people in that area do not want it, so if they do not want it, who are you or anyone else who do not live close to it to say, I do have all the information when they have all the information they need. And when they reached out, again it became by problem. Ward 4 is known as the “DUMP” because there is a Dump in the middle of the Ward and you mean to tell me that it is okay to dump another business that should be in a commercial area, when we are the poorest Ward in the city, that is okay?

**Mayor Butler** – Attorney Williams, without essentially voting on anything right now, can this go to the next regularly council meeting?

**Attorney Williams** – The law allows you to impose moratoriums in situations like this.

**Mayor Butler** – So we are voting on the moratorium now?

**Attorney Williams** – Yes

**There was further discussion on why the moratorium is needed.**

**Approval to Impose Moratorium on Applications for Group Homes and Half-Way Houses or Similar Business**

Motioned by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez impose a 180-

day Moratorium on applications from Group Homes and Half-Way Houses or similar business. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James		X	
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		

**Mayor Butler** – Stated that there will be a Special Called Meeting on December 19, 2020.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motioned by Councilmember Mears and seconded by Councilmember James to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting at 8:11pm. Motion was approved.

Councilmembers	Aye	No	Abstain
Kimberly James	X		
Dabouze Antoine	X		
Hector Gutierrez	X		
Latresa Akins-Wells	X		
Allan Mears	X		