



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2020 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of July 20, 2020 were called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 6:03 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Pastor Dr. Greene, of Amazing Grace World Outreach Church International in Forest Park, 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 City Manager, Albert Barker, 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 approve the July 6, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes with the recommended changes and Special Call Meeting for July 10, 2020. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

COVID-19 Update:

Major Turner stated there is an additional increase in numbers. The COVID 9 infection nationally, but we remain stable with a lower rate of increases in Clayton County. Clayton County cases are at 3455 and Forest Park is at 325. Approximately 40 active cases in Forest Park and unincorporated Forest Park. All numbers are cumulative. Testing continues. Positive testing percentage is 10.4%. Major Turner asked the public to continue to follow good hygiene practices, please continue social distancing methods, wash your hands frequently, when you are unable to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer and wear a mask.



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**Consider a Resolution:
To apply for Grant
Funding**

Background and Summary: The EDA CARES ACT Recovery Assistance has established funding in the amount of \$1,467,000,000.00 to assist communities across the United States, and \$248,000,000 for the Atlanta Region that has been impacted by the Coronavirus. The Department of Commerce, Office of Economic Development Administration has issued a Notice of Funding Availability (“NOFA”) for public works and economic adjustment assistance programs, and there is a need for utility improvements to buildings at the Gillem Logistics site. Lashawn Gardiner, Management Analyst stated the majority of the legislation which is before the Council, is relations to grants are through CARES/COVID funding. With this grant, they are asking to apply for \$604,500.00 from the Office of Economic Development to assist in providing utilities and infrastructure at the Fort Gillem site. She stated with the COVID funds, right now, there are no match requirements from the municipalities. A motion was made by Councilwoman James to approve the COVID grant application. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider a Resolution:
Funding through CDBG**

Background and Summary: The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused a shift in our normal way of life. The CARES Act was established by the federal government to assist communities across the United States as this virus continues to take a toll on businesses, households, and individuals alike. The Clayton County HUD Office received funding through the CARES ACT from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and its sub-recipients were asked to submit a brief questionnaire related to COVID and its impact. Ms. Gardiner stated this is another COVID related funding source that is coming down through the federal government, this time through our county Community Development office. The city was awarded



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\$50,000.00 and with this money, we applied to assist small businesses in the City of Forest Park which was impacted, that has at least 10 employees or less, each grant would be in the amount of \$2000.00 for each business, to assist them with any of their operational efforts. Councilman Antoine asked how the applicant would apply. Ms. Gardiner stated there would be an application process with some general eligibility criteria, once that application goes out, there will be an application vetting period for review of the applications and only 25 applications for \$2000.00 each. Councilwoman James asked if this also includes the business which has home occupation business license through the city. One of the criteria will also be the business license piece that will be involved. This falls under the criteria of having a current business license with a certain number of years, showing the business license has been active, and then of course, meet other eligibility requirement, once the criteria is met, they are allowed to apply. Mayor Butler asked Bruce Abraham, is this going to be a substitute of what the Development Authority is doing. Mr. Abraham explained there will be \$100,000 worth of grants, applications went out Friday. He stated there are 500 business licenses in the county, they chopped away at that based on number of employees and what they do, and they excluded tattoo parlors, strip clubs. They have that number down to 200.00. They sent out to those 200, this is worth \$50,000 that is coming from the federal government and another \$50,000 from the Development Authority, there will be there \$2000.00 to 50 businesses. Councilman Antoine asked how businesses that are bilingual will, speaks another language, apply for this. Ms. Gardiner states they can offer the application in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. A motion was made by Councilwoman James to accept the Community Development Block Grant through COVID



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(CDBG-CV), for small business that has less than 10 employees. Councilman Gutierrez asked what happens if there aren't enough businesses that have 10 or less employees, are you able to change the number. Ms. Gardiner stated in order to revise the criteria; she would have to reach back out to the county and request an amendment to the application, based on the number of employees. Councilman Gutierrez asked if this is county wide or City of Forest Park. Ms. Gardiner stated the county received monies through the HUD program; the city is a sub recipient of the county. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider a Resolution to:
Accept Grant Funding
From ARC**

Background and Summary: The Atlanta Regional Commission has awarded LCI grants to cities and counties in the Atlanta Region since 2000. The purpose of the grants is to empower communities in the Atlanta Metropolitan region to become more livable, walkable, and sustainable. The LCI program was created to allocate federal transportation dollars for planning in local communities, to communities to become eligible to apply for federal funding to assist in bringing their plans into reality once the plans have been created. The LCI Grant funds will allow the City to update its prior 10-Year plan to continue prior revitalization efforts of the Main Street area, while addressing and enhancing redevelopment and connectivity in the city. A motion was made by Councilman Mears to accept the LCI grant from Atlanta Regional Commission. The City received \$150,000 for this grant. The LCI grant funds will allow the City to update its prior 10-year plan to continue previous utilization efforts of the Main Street area, while addressing and enhancing redevelopment and connectivity in the City. Ms.



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Gardiner stated the LCI grant in question, the city received \$150,000 for this grant. The last LCI update was in 2011, as mentioned in the background and summary, this would allow us to update the previous 10 year plan to continue or efforts in the Main Street area for revitalization and redevelopment. It will also give us an ability to stretch a little bit outside of the Main Street area and also incorporate some other elements now that LCI requires, but it will still be centered on transportation, connectivity and getting different activities along the Main Street corridor. Councilman Gutierrez asked if this grant will add any monies to beautify spaces, such as painting a mural on a railroad wall. Ms. Gardiner stated with this grant, there was a defined area when we applied for it. She asked to keep in mind that we are currently in the process of working with Aerotropolis, and the Model Mile project. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider a Resolution to:
Accept Funding from Office
Of Justice Programs**

Background and Summary: The Bureau of Justice Assistance issued notice of FY 20 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These funds based on a determined formula by the Department of Justice was issued to governmental entities due to unanticipated expenditures which incurred in March. Ms. Gardiner stated this is another funding source through the Department of Justice, as it relates to COVID. The Department of Justice allocated municipalities in the State of Georgia, Forest Park was allocated a little over \$44,000.00. just to assist with the impact of COVID. Councilman Gutierrez asked if we applied for this, or was it awarded. Ms. Gardiner stated they sent out a list of allocations through different states,



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municipalities, and governments. Forest Park applied for it. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wells to accept these funds. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider a Resolution:
To Accept Funding from
Department of Treasury**

Background and Summary: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, cities and counties were notified of available funding via the Georgia Municipal Association, from the Department of the Treasury. GMA provided a brief survey for Georgia governmental entities to complete. The survey was completed and submitted to GMA, as a result the Governor's Office issued a letter of funding allocation for each jurisdiction on June 29, 2020. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, cities and counties were notified of available funding via GMA, Georgia Municipal Association from Department of Treasury. This award is in the amount of \$314,000.00. Ms. Gardiner stated this is another COVID related funding source again. The GMA through partnership with Department of Treasury, sent out information to the State of GA governmental agencies, we filled out the questionnaire and we waited to hear back from GMA, the city was awarded a little over \$1000, 000. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wells. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider and approve the:
Amendment of the
Municipal Court Judge
Contract**

Background and Summary: The Municipal Court Judge's Contract provides that the Judge is compensated based on court sessions. Due to Covid-19, there were no court sessions for the past



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several months. However, the Judge has continued to process and manage cases during that time period. The contract provides for compensation for services rendered during the COVID-19 period and sets a flat monthly rate going forward. The Judge has requested that his future per session fee be increased to \$600. A motion was made by Congresswoman Wells to accept the amendment for compensation of court sessions and back payment during COVID-19. Councilwoman James stated that she reached out to Judge Freeman; she spoke with him regarding this. She stated that even though they did not get paid for the sessions, because there were no sessions in April and May, due to COVID 19, Judge Freeman used his accrued vacation pay for April and continued to work. She stated there were numerous tasks completed virtually; a lot of cases were handled. Councilwoman James stated that she wanted to address this because she received some inquiries from constituents, regarding the City's efforts to pay an increase when court is not in session. She stated it is because of this reason, she voted for the measure. Councilman Gutierrez asked during the months of COVID 19, if the inmates were incarcerated, were there anyone working to get them released. Councilwoman stated that when she spoke with the Solicitor, they did work to get those inmates released. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was



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Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider and Approve:
An Amendment of the
Solicitor's Contract**

Background and Summary: The City Solicitor's contract provides that the Solicitor is compensated based on court sessions. Due to Covid-19, there were no court sessions for the past several months. However, the Solicitor has continued to process and manage cases during that time period. The contract provides for compensation for services rendered during the COVID-19 period and sets a flat monthly rate going forward. The Solicitor has requested that her future per session fee be increased to \$500. A motion was made by Congresswoman Wells to accept the amendment for compensation of court sessions and back payment during COVID-19. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Councilwoman James stated similarly; she did speak with Solicitor for the sake of the residents which were concerned about the increase in the contract, during COVID 19. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider an Emergency:
Ordinance to Require
Wearing of Masks**

Background and Summary: As new infections of COVID-19 have begun to rise again across the nation, health experts and scientists have found that the wearing of masks reduces likelihood of spread of COVID-19. The ordinance would mandate the wearing of masks or face coverings within business and similar public establishments. It is consistent with the



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requests made by Governor Kemp that all Georgians use masks while in public. This ordinance will mandate the wearing of masks or face covering within businesses and similar public establishment. According to the City Attorney, Mike Williams stated this ordinance is identical to a number of ordinances or executive orders that has been issued in a number of jurisdictions across the state. This particular one is based on the one City of Decatur adopted last week. This was adopted admittedly prior to the Governor's new Executive order which calls for prohibition on ordinances or executive orders of this type. Additionally, the City Attorney stated as everyone knows, the Governor's office has sued the City of Atlanta, in regards to both their rollbacks on the opening of businesses as well as their mask mandate. It is an open question whether or not this is enforceable. The City Attorney states the Council adopting this is really a judgement call. He has not spoken with a Judge about how he would perceive this, if cases came before him. Councilwoman Wells asked how the police officers are able to enforce this, if it is adopted. The City Attorney stated the focus of the ordinance is to put pressure on businesses to post a sign on the outside stating masks are required. Councilman Antoine states that PD is not familiar with enforcing the ordinance. He stated that he is not in favor of the motion. Councilwoman James asked a question, she stated she received a call from a constituent, regarding the stimulus check will not be received if cities have not mandated the wearing of masks. City Attorney states that he has not heard anything official. He stated the Federal government has denied COVID aid to states which are involved in protests, this is rumor and speculation. Councilwoman Wells stated that she received a call from an employee who works for one of the businesses in the city; they are concerned the employer is not providing proper



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PPE and sanitization, are we able to enforce this. The City Attorney stated if a business is not following a mandate, as well as others; the business can receive a complaint. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wells to accept the ordinance. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Councilwoman James and Councilman Gutierrez abstained, Councilman Antoine voted no, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears voted yes. Voting for the ordinance failed.

**Appointments of Ethics:
Board Members**

Councilwoman James recommended Anthony Simon for Ward 1 and Councilman Mears recommended Dr. Jill Morris for Ward 5. A motion was made by Councilwoman James to accept these two appointments. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Open Discussion:

Councilwoman James stated she had an opportunity to speak with the City Manager earlier today. A lot of the things that she had a concern about have been resolved. According to Councilwoman James, she asked that he maintains communication with the council members. Additionally, she asked about an original and updated memo that was released to department heads. She inquired about the letter that was actually released to them. Mr. Barker stated City Council will have to request an Open Records request, in reference to obtaining any materials from the City. He stated all requests were going to the actual departments; it appeared to be the department was working for the City Council; they can't complete their jobs because of spending excessive time completing those requests. The change now is that an Open Records request is not necessary to gather the information, the Council will follow the Chain of Command. Councilwoman James stated on



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June 26, 2020, she requested information for the governing body for all expenses that had been paid out through the new City Manager, including contracts, incentive pay and pay increases. On July 2, 2020, she received some information from Director Thompson, but she sent a follow up email, which stated this was not the detailed information that she needs. She stated that she does not make any request to City Department heads without the City Manager being copied; she does understand the chain of command. A follow up email was submitted on July 8, 2020, because she still has not received the information she requested. Mr. Barker stated there are allegations, when documents coming from the City are going out through Councilwoman James, these documents are being used for personal gain and this information is going to other parties, to sue the City, with those allegations. Mr. Barker stated he is protecting the City. He stated that this topic was discussed; there is no issue with Councilwoman James having the information. From the City's standpoint, any information that goes to any one person should go to everyone. Mr. Barker stated Councilwoman James can have the information, if it is not suitable, please let's schedule a meeting to reassure that she gets the correct information. Mr. Barker also stated that he does not want to incur all the cost from his employees performing all of these tasks that he thinks are overbearing tasks. He also stated he does not have the administrative support needed, so he doesn't want to take overbearing task submitting something to Councilwoman James that she is appreciative of or not what she actually wants. Mr. Barker asked Councilwoman James if they could sit down and have a discussion regarding the contents of her request. Councilwoman James stated that for the record, her duty as an elected official is to oversee what happens in the City, as a government agency, everything is public, there



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is nothing private. Councilwoman James stated she is committed to transparency in government in this council seat. Any information she requests, if she gives it to anyone or not, is public information. She stated that she is not giving anything to anyone. She stated if her constituents have a question, she wants to be able to give them an answer and going to and through the City Manager to get the information is what she will do. She stated she will be in contact with Mr. Barker, if she needs anything. Councilwoman Wells asks if this subject can be addressed in Executive Session. According to Mike Williams, City Attorney, these are more processed type issues that are being requested, in terms of how the Council will receive information. Councilman Antoine agrees this is not a topic the public needs to hear, this should be discussed in Executive session. Councilman Mears reiterates they work for the people of the City, the public should be aware of what is going on. Councilman Gutierrez asks, what is the validity of these allegations? Mr. Barker stated he has a concerned about sensitive items, which may be disbursed and placed on an unknown website, which makes the City look bad. Councilman Gutierrez asked if there was something Councilwoman James received that has been distributed to the public, or posted on social media. Mr. Barker stated there is nothing. He is concerned about any information from the City being posted on social media and being altered. Councilwoman James stated she does not use social media; she does not put information on social media, nor does she talk about the city. She does not feel this conversation is a back and forth, this is a professional conversation of information. She does not feel this would be looked at improperly when it comes to investing in the city. She does address the absence of a Work Session because of the pandemic. Councilwoman James stated it is her right as an elected official to discuss such



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things and that's what she will do. Councilwoman Wells asked are they able to schedule another work session; Mr. Barker stated he looks forward to a work session before the next meeting. Councilwoman James asks if they are able to complete closing comments before going into Executive session. This decision was fine with the rest of the Council members.

Comments by Governing

Councilwoman James stated she did have a successful neighborhood virtual meeting on Thursday, July 16th 2020. You can listen to the playback on YouTube and search for Neighborhood meeting. It can also be found on the City of Forest Park's FB page. Clayton County Public Schools will begin session on August 10th 2020, as a virtual only. Resources will be made available to students. Meals will also be delivered to students as well. Major Turner gave an update on COVID 19 as well as Fire and EMS services, which included a consistent and stable low rate of positives. Fire continue to respond to 911 and wearing PPE and requiring patients that have to be transported to wear as well. This has eliminated any exposure to result in positives. It was discussed that Blood pressure checks continue to be available. Lt. Flanigan gave a PD update, crime is consistently down. Director Jinks shared information regarding waste management; they are encountering shortage of personnel because of the pandemic. As a result, they are off schedule. Public Works continues to service the city and he encourages the city to call if they need assistance. Director Thompson shared information regarding the budget that was adopted on June 15th 2020. Just over \$30,000,000 is available on the website. Although City buildings are closed to the public, they are accessible by phone. Management Analyst Gardiner shared Census response for online completion, has been extended until



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August 31st, if you have not completed the census, please do so, you have until October 31st. She also shared beginning August 11- 31st 2020, if you live in a household which has not responded to the census, you will be visited by a census enumerator. You will be able to identify them. Enumerators will have an identification badge. The census response for Forest Park is 50.7. Forest Park High School PTSA President, Arvis Walker shared they have received a \$5000.00 grant for food, on July 15th, they were able to distribute 7,000 pounds of food to over 250 residents in Forest Park community.

Councilwoman James sends support to Councilwoman Wells for Fun Friday; she stated it appears everyone was having fun; she enjoyed the live event from her car. She congratulated Mayor Angelyne Butler for being named Mayor of the Year by Georgia Minority Business.

Neighborhood meetings will take every 3rd Thursday, unless there is a holiday.

Councilman Antoine gives thanks to the Fire department, Major Turner and Ms. Thomas helped the City of Forest Park residents become safer. The Fire department passed out fire detectors, to everyone in each Ward.

Councilman Antoine stated that statistics does not prove wearing masks stops the virus. We should be promoting testing, this helps the citizens. He also stated he has five additional detectors to give to citizens. Councilman Gutierrez applauds Councilwoman Wells for Fun Friday, it was a fun event. It was nice to see the citizens enjoy themselves. He promotes wearing a masks and getting tested for the virus. He will also schedule events outside as well, as Zoom meetings for the community. Councilwoman Wells sends thanks to everyone in the community, PD, Public Works, Parks and Recreation departments did an amazing job. The council aid, K'Sandra Thomas and Tenisha Dixon, did an amazing job as well.

Councilwoman stated that masks are very



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important; it is a safe. Thank you to the City Manager, we appreciate you for being here. Congratulations to Mayor Butler for winning Mayor of the Year. Councilman Mears congratulates the Mayor on her achievement. He also supports wearing the mask for protection. Mayor Butler stated that she accepts the praise that comes along with this achievement.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Councilman Alan Mears to go into Executive session at 8 p.m. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wells to reconvene to regular session at 8:45 pm. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Appointment of Interim:
Fire Chief/Interim
Police Chief**

City Attorney Mike Williams recommends amendment of the agenda to amend Chief Clark's contract designating him as Deputy City Manager and Public Safety Director. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wells to amend the agenda approve the contract designating Chief Nathaniel Clark as Deputy City Manager and Public Safety Director. Clarity was given on the contract, it was \$125,000. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion to amend was everyone, Councilwoman James voted no. Voting to approve the contract was Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez, Councilwoman Wells, Councilwoman James voted no and Councilman Mears voted to abstain. Councilman Mears stated that he needed clarification; he would prefer to see these positions as permanent, rather than interim. Mr. Barker recommends Gregory Porter for Police Chief and Brenda Willis as Fire Chief for permanent selections. A motion was made by Councilwoman James to accept Chief Willis as the Fire Chief. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Councilwoman Wells stated this not a



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lone selection, City Manager recommends the positions be voted on together. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman James and Councilman Mears Councilwoman Wells and Councilmen Antoine and Gutierrez opposed the motion. The motion failed. Councilman Antoine made a motion with the City Manager's recommendation to hire the Fire and Police Chief position. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez and Councilwoman Wells. Councilwoman James and Councilman Mears voted against the motion. The motion passed. Point of order by Councilwoman James, she wanted to comment about Safe Sanitizing Solutions Inc based on Executive Session Discussion. Mayor Butler recommend discussing Comments by Governing Body. Mr. Barker clarifies the motion does state Gregory Porter has been named as Chief of Police and Brenda Willis has been named as Fire Chief. Councilman Antoine makes a recommendation to amend the agenda to make a motion to send an ethics complaint, in lieu of the complaint against Councilwoman James, written in letter by the City Manager, to the Ethics Board for investigation and recommendation. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was Councilman Antoine and Councilwoman Wells. Voting against the measure was Councilwoman James, Councilmen Gutierrez and Mears. Councilwoman Wells made a motion to amend the agenda to add censorship of the Mayor. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Councilwoman Wells stated the censorship is for negligent, and creating a dangerous workplace environment for our employees and the lack of confidence to lead during an emergency. Mayor Butler vetoed a protective measure for cleaning and sanitizing city vehicles and buildings stopped the emergency plan. Mayor directed a seize to all emergency cleaning. It was stated



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that 3 weeks later, no plan is in place. Councilwoman James stated if this is the case, the City Manager and Chief of Police should be included in this as well. Councilwoman James stated according to the veto, this was a recommendation by the City Manager and the Chief of Police to close city buildings. It was all inclusive of leadership positions to close city buildings at that time. Councilwoman Wells stated that the Mayor overrode the City Manager's plan. Mayor Angelyne Butler stated that the RFP process was to begin; it was stopped by the City Manager's recommendation. Mayor Butler asked Mr. Barker why the RFP process was stopped. Mr. Barker stated he did not stop the RFP process, it was skewed. Mayor Butler asked Mike Williams, City Attorney to speak to this. Mayor Butler stated when she questioned and asked where we were with the process; Mr. Barker had already stopped it. Mr. Barker stated that the Mayor overstepped her bounds and directed an employee, Howard Scott to give her an RFP process, Mr. Scott did so. Mr. Barker stated the RFP process was not approved by himself or any of his directors. The Mayor also instructed Mr. Scott to change the process, it was then I instructed Mr. Scott to stop the process. Mayor Butler stated this was false. Mr. Williams stated he spoke with Ken or Howard and asked where the RFP process was. He was told they had planned on distributing it to the department heads, but they were instructed to hold off, and this was before the Council meeting. Mayor stated the RFP process was stopped by the City Manager prior to Mr. Williams going to inquire about the process. Councilman Gutierrez stated that he and the Mayor spoke about this; he is very disappointed in this. He stated at the end of the day, the people were put in harm's way. Mayor stated the plan was to do an RFP, which was stopped by the City Manager. Councilman Antoine asked Mr. Barker what his suggestion would be at this



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moment. Mr. Barker asked the Mayor to remove her veto, because the RFP process puts our employees in danger. Councilwoman Akins stated if Mayor Butler removed her veto, she would rescind the motion for censorship. Councilwoman James asked for point of order. She stated under the emergency, will the Mayor be able to select a sanitizing company to clean the buildings. Mr. Williams stated that under the Emergency Management ordinance, the Mayor has broad powers as it relates to this. Councilwoman James suggested instead of using the company which she has questions about, to choose a different company. Mayor stated the attempt was made to allow the City Manager to operate in his capacity to fulfill the RFP process, but she will provide a list of recommendations from GMA. Mr. Barker stated it does not matter to him, who completes the cleaning. Councilman Gutierrez stated he went to the presentation and we may not have been wrong about getting all of this sanitization stuff, we might have lost money, but it's COVID money, it's grant money. Mayor Butler stated that we have a responsibility to be stewards of these funds. Councilman Gutierrez stated not during a pandemic. Mayor Butler stated that just because these are grants doesn't mean we just go out and give it to whomever. Councilwoman James stated that part of the RFP process is to ensure the company is bonded, and insured. Councilwoman asked if Mr. Barker could provide that information for the companies that have already been used to sanitize our facility. She stated that part of our responsibility as Council members is to make sure we're not getting companies that are not qualified to safeguard our city. She stated we don't want just to get someone who can do a great presentation; we need to make sure we have documentation. She asked the City Manager if he can provide that documentation to us tomorrow. She would like the bond, insured



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and other necessary paperwork that show the companies used were qualified to service our buildings. Councilman Gutierrez states that no disagrees with that, but the Mayor was negligent. He stated that the city could have had the company for 30 days and cancelled it when it was no longer needed, someone would have been in place, and there is no excuse for this. He stated that there should have been someone in place to take care of the cleaning. The presentation opened his eyes and motivated him to get a company right away. Councilman Gutierrez stated to the City Manager that Council need to know if processes are stopped because he thought the RFP was ongoing. Voting for the motion was Councilwoman Wells. Voting against the motion was Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, Councilman Gutierrez and Councilman Mears. The motion failed.

**Comments by:
Governing Body**

Councilwoman James stated there was a discussion about the letter which was issued by Mr. Barker, regarding the lie. When he listened to the audio, it stated that he is deemed as part owner of the cleaning company. Councilwoman James stated that she did not say this. She stated Kevin Thomas was part owner of Safe Sanitizing Solution Inc. and Mr. Barker told Councilwoman James that. To correct the record of what the City Manager heard even though as Councilwoman James states, it was not recorded in the minutes. Councilwoman James states that this letter presented by the City Manager which is calling her a liar, negligent, unprofessional, etc. She would like it retracted by the City Manager. Mr. Barker stated that he retracts the letters; he is not part owner of 3S or the cleaning company. Councilwoman Wells stated she apologizes on behalf of the City, for placing the employees and citizens in an unsafe environment. Councilman Antoine welcomes Chief Gregory Porter. Councilman Gutierrez



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thanks everyone for coming out to Councilwoman Wells' event and wished everyone the best. Councilman Mears congratulated Chief Gregory Porter and Chief Brenda Willis on their appointment. Mayor Butler stated a wise lady said that when they go low, we go high, but trust and believe I wish that was quantified because it is not always easy sitting here listening to some of the mess, but just know Forest Park, every step I take I try really hard to represent you all with respect and dignity that you deserve. Hold us all accountable for our actions when we are in this Council chambers and when we are outside of this Council chambers. That is one way to bring about progress.

Adjournment:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Councilwoman James.