

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

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of July 06, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Pastor Clinkscales, 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 Howard Scott, Interim Public Works Director, Bobby Jinks, Planning and Zoning Director, James Shelby, Human Resource Director Shalonda Brown, Economic Development Director, Bruce Abraham, Interim Fire Chief, Robert Brackett, Parks and City Attorney, Michael Williams

Approval of Minutes:

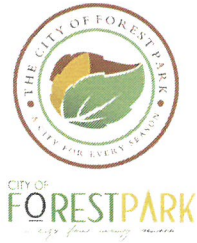
Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes with the recommended changes and Special Call Meeting for June 29, 2020. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

City Manager Report:

City Manager was absent.

COVID-19 Update:

Major Turner provides a COVID update. Per Major Turner, as it has been in the news statewide there is a significant spike in numbers, but in this area, we maintain some stability. Clayton County has only increased about 64 positive cases, in the last 24 hours, as of about noon today. City wide, within the Forest Park zip code, we have added only about 64 in the past week. Per Major Turner, they have been notified of about 18-20 addresses that his department has alerts on, by Department of Public Health, which are being monitored, from



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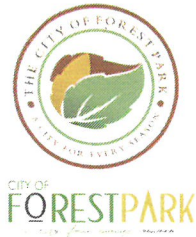
an emergency response standpoint. The increasing number of tests that are being administered has resulted in increased number of positives. The numbers are also a cumulative number since May 1st. The numbers also include serologic testing, where they are testing for antibodies, which does not indicate the presence of the virus, but does indicate where there was exposure in the past. The combination of those numbers is what the current positive numbers that are reported, statewide that is little over 95000 positive cases. Even with that, the combined percentage of testing to positive cases is still less than 10%, down around 8.6%. The singular testing for the virus itself is about 9.7%, still well below the 10% mark. In the past 24 hours, there have been no deaths in Clayton County. Per Mayor Butler, she and the Council will continue more discussion on this item in Executive Session.

**Surplus Property
Resolution:**

Councilwoman Gutierrez made a motion to approve the resolution by the City Council of the City of Forest Park declaring the items listed in Exhibit A as surplus, for Human Resources department. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Discussion of Hours:
Of Operation for Parks
And Recreation Dept.**

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to make adjustments to the hours of operation and rental hours. Per the Director, Tarik Maxwell, he is asking to increase the hours of operation for the department. The current hours are up to 7 p.m. Monday – Friday. The changes would be from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday – Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. The Senior Center would be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. Because of the present hours, the public is unable to utilize the building because of their work schedules. Mayor Butler asks City Attorney, Mike Williams, if this is something that we should come back to. A motion was made by Councilman Akins-Wells to



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**Increase for Monthly
Membership**

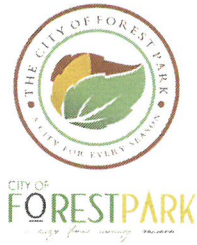
approve the hours of adjustment for Parks and Recreation. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting was unanimous.

Per Director Maxwell is asking to increase the membership fee for Non-Forest Park residents. Currently, we are charging \$40.00 for the year, for adults and \$20.00 for the year, for the youth. Director Maxwell is asking for a monthly membership fee for adults 18 years and older, \$20.00 a month, for youth 17 and younger, \$15.00 a month, for seniors, 55 and older, \$10.00 a year. This would put us in line with all of the other surrounding counties.

Councilwoman James asked if we have a lot of non-residents that this change would affect and if this change would cause others not to participate. Director Maxwell states that because it is in line with the surrounding areas.

Councilwoman James also asks if the members would receive a membership card per month, what the procedure is for this. Per Mr. Maxwell, the member will receive a membership card, which has the features of a key card, this allows for renewal as well. Councilman Gutierrez asks how many people the facility currently that has been enrolled. Per Mr. Maxwell, he is unable to ascertain how many people outside of Forest Park that actually uses the facility, because of the current setup of the system. Once the move is completed to go to the new system, he would be able to gather that evidence. Councilman Gutierrez states that once the move is completed to the new system, he thinks that the current accounts can be grandfathered in, and subsequently, raise the membership fee.

Councilman Gutierrez also asks what the ETA for the new system is. Per Mr. Maxwell, he is looking to October 2020. Councilwoman James made a motion to accept the increase for Parks and Recreation Department. It was seconded by Councilwoman Akins-Wells. Voting was unanimous.



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**Surplus Property:
Resolution**

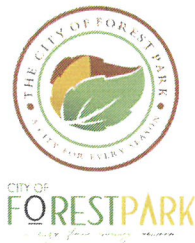
A motion was made by Councilman Allan Mears to declare the items listed in Exhibit A to be surplus property and to provide for its proper disposal whether by auction or other methods pursuant to the city's ordinances and for other purposes. It was seconded by Councilwoman Akins-Wells. Voting was unanimous.

**Consider Adopting
Juneteenth as a Holiday**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Akins-Wells to approve and adopt the recognition of Juneteenth as a paid holiday. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez. Councilman Mears opposed the measure. Voting was unanimous.

Ethics Board Discussion

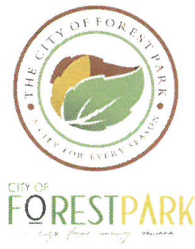
Karen-Brandee Williams comes to address the council with concerns. Brandee-Williams, a former Ethics board member, has questions and concerns regarding the meeting that took place and allowed for changes to be made for the Ethics board. She states that as of December 2019, there was an Ethics board in place. According to Brandee-Williams wanted to establish this point. She is aware that the City of Forest Park voted to become a City of Ethics through GMA, to adopt their principles regarding Ethics. She states that when she is researching the changes taking place under the charter, she identifies two different things, from what she can examine is the City of Ethics through GMA and then the City of Forest Park, board of Ethics. She has a few questions after going through the City's changes. Are the current revisions that the majority approved on the April 20th meeting, are these revisions add on/add in? Do they totally replace what is in the current charter? According to the City Attorney, Mike Williams, the Ethics Ordinance that was adopted, which is the model GMA ordinance essentially replaces the existing ordinance. Brandee-Williams asked to have this answer clarified, asked again if this ordinance will replace that which is current in



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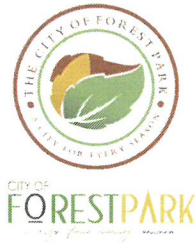
the charter under the Ethics board, by way of the City actually creating a new Chapter, which is Chapter 6 that you are calling the Code of Ethics, replaces the current Code of Ethics under Article E, is that correct. According to City Attorney, Mike Williams, it is not in the Charter, it is in the Code of Ordinances. Brandee-Williams states that it is in the Charter, under the Chapter 1 Mayor/Council under the Article B, which is Code of Ethics. According to Attorney Williams, there is a new Chapter referred to as Chapter 6, which does not exist, to hold all of the changes that were approved. Attorney Williams says that it is a replacement of the existing ordinance that was adopted in 2012; this replaces that with the GMA model ordinance. Brandee-Williams states that one of the concerns that she has is that an Ethics board was in place, and she feels that they should have been privy to the discussion that was had by the City, when the decision was made to become a part of GMA. She feels that the current board that was in place should have been part of that discussion, whether it was approved or disapproved. If you have a board, and you do not trust your board, why do you have a board? One of the standards of the Ethics board is that they have a duty to adopt rules and governing procedures on how the board is ran. She feels it is a violation of the charter and basically disrespect. She feels that the City of Forest Park should allow the board to make decisions as they are elected to do.

Councilwoman Wells states that she agrees that the decision was handled inappropriately, that the discussion should have been had with the Ethics board. She made the assertion that we had a board in place. She states that she did not know that the decision which was made would supersede the old ordinance; she is not in favor of a three-member board. She feels that it should have continued in the manner that it was, that the Ethics board was put in place for a



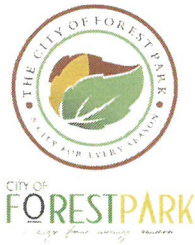
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reason, we should have trusted our board. In looking to go to another direction, the discussion should have been had with the board; she feels that it was respectful to have that discussion. Some of the changes that was made, she was not aware of until she and Brandee-Williams spoke. Councilwoman Wells asserts an apology on behalf of herself and some of the Council. Brandee-Williams states this is not to appoint fingers at certain people. Mayor Butler asks that the amendment that is being proposed is that to return it to a five-person board? Councilman Gutierrez speaks to Brandee-Williams to thank her for her comments and that he agrees that we should be working as a team. Similar to Councilwoman Akins-Wells, GMA is a trusted organization in the State, to have City of Forest Park be aligned with other cities and have that recognition of a city of Ethics, he thought personally that it was not going to affect or infringe on anything that we had already established. It wasn't done in a malicious manner to alleviate Brandee-Williams from being a part of the board, but we should have communicated with the board, his apologies for that. He hopes that they are able to move forward with this and he does not want any potential board members to feel that they are being ignored; they want to be as transparent as they can. They need an ethics board of citizens. Brandee-Williams feels that each Council Member should be able to choose a citizen for their Ward. The expiration of the term for the board member should align with the board appointment, as it was before with the staggered the board representative should stay in place with the elected official. She asks that the Council reverts to that. A motion was made to consider approving an amendment to the Ethics Board Ordinance by Councilwoman Akins-Wells. The change would revert back to a five-member board. Councilman Gutierrez asks if we are still aligned with the GMA model. According to the



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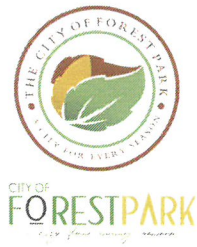
City Attorney, the GMA model ordinance has a 3-member board, which has already been discussed. This amendment will return it to the City of Forest Park had prior, a five-member board, one-member- resident who has to be a resident from each Ward. That is a policy decision. During the meeting at the retreat, earlier this year, you all discussed all the boards; a number of decisions were made at that point. When the issue of the Ethics board was discussed, the adoption of the GMA model ordinance was generally agreed that's the direction you wanted to go in. It was not fully discussed at the time that you would use a three member board, but it was discussed that the board members of the previous Ethics board had expired; you would have to make some decisions on that at the appropriate time. Currently you're in a position where you're able to go back. Attorney Williams does not believe that the composition of the board would be something that GMA would take issue with as proposed, having a five-member board, etc. The rationale, at least one of the rationales behind the three-member board and also behind other types of composition is to try to remove politics as much as possible. The other thing that was suggested was staggered term. Currently in the ordinance are two-year terms. You all will have to amend the current ordinance to add staggered terms. You had odd numbered Wards would have a three-year appointment, initially. Even numbered Wards would have a two-year appointment, and over time when these board members are replaced, they would get two-year appointment. The current board members expired together because they were not staggered. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting was unanimous.



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**Appointment of Ethics:
Board Members**

According to City Attorney, typically this discussion is made in Executive Session. He states that the Council does not have to do that, but how you choose the members is up to you, he recommends having this discussion in Executive Session. Per Councilwoman Akins-Wells, is this so if you know whom you want to appoint? Per the City Attorney, if you already know and you are prepared to vote, it is allowed. Councilman Antoine asks what the reason is for Executive Session as it relates to this. Technically under the ordinance, it is still a Council appointment; these discussions are appropriately discussed in Executive Session. Mayor Butler asks if everyone has their appointment. Councilwoman James states she will make her appointment later. Councilman Mears states he does not have his appointment at this time. Council moves forward with the remaining three appointments. Per the City Attorney, Mr. Williams, you will name your appointment, a motion will be in order to approve those appointments. Councilman Antoine makes a motion to appoint Joann Barbie. Councilman Gutierrez makes a motion to appoint Ralph Nobles. Councilwoman Akins-Wells makes a motion to appoint Gregory Haynes. Councilman Mears states that he has a problem, he is not sure of what has brought it up, but he can't get people interested because of the actions of the past. He will try and find someone for that board as soon as he can. Mayor Butler asks about staggering the terms. Councilwoman James makes a motion to approve staggering the terms for the first year. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Wards 2 and 4 would be appointed for two years. Per City Attorney, this is correct. Ward 3 for three years. Once an appointment is made for Wards 1 and 5, they would also be for three years. Councilwoman Akins-Wells made the motion to adopt the amendment to the Ethics code to provide for staggered terms, which the motion



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would also include the appointment of Joann Barbie for Ward 2 for a two-year term. Ralph Nobles for Ward 3 for a three-year term and Gregory Haynes Ward 4 for a two-year term. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting was unanimous.

**Swearing in of Zoning:
Commission Members**

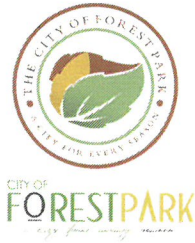
Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the appointment of the Zoning Commission Members. It was seconded by Councilman Allan Mears. Voting was unanimous. Per James Shelby, the ordinance does not say that these individuals have to be appointed from each ward. All appointments end in four years, Mr. Mears will appointment his member at a later date. Per Mayor Butler, all members were asked to raise their right hand and repeat after the Mayor, to receive their oaths. The members were asked to sign their oaths. The members voted in are as follows: Darnell Moorner, Deverick Williams, Michael Clinksacales, Azfar Haque. Mary Colvin, Don Wright, Ray Goodman, Andy Porter were not in attendance at the meeting to be sworn in.

**Task Order to Assist City
With Zoning Ordinance:**

Mayor Butler asked that Mr. Shelby elaborate on this particular subject. Mr. Shelby refers to the budget hearing that encompassed conversation regarding a zoning ordinance. Based on the collaborative fund agreement already in place, we are tasked to complete the job. Cheryl Alexander was brought in to discuss a presentation regarding the task. Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the Task Order based on the Collaborative Firm to exist within the City of Forest Park. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting was unanimous.

Agenda Amendment:

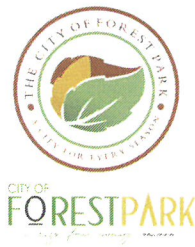
Councilwoman James made a motion to amend the agenda to propose an ordinance change. Section 8-2-105A, just to change the five-day corrective action response which is given to residents, to change it to ten business days.



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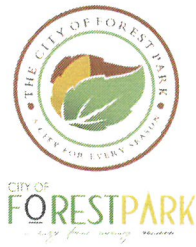
Councilwoman James states that all of the Council members had agreed to the change. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting was unanimous.

Attorney Mike Williams states there is a draft form to revise and update the procurement ordinance. Previously, a new procurement position was approved for the City, in tandem with this; it would update the procurement ordinance. You should have received also received a draft of a handbook/manual, SOP for the procurement officer to follow. This would also require revisions. Councilwoman James states that she does have several questions. Will this procurement ordinance replace Title 3, Finance? According to the attorney, it would only replace the purchasing section, not the entire code. Per Councilwoman James, one of the concerns she has, for the scope of the procurement section, the City Manager is acting as a purchasing agent. We're now moving to have that solely under the procurement officer. Councilwoman James states that this is a little bit concerning to her, because she believes that the City Manager should be in control of that area. Per Attorney Williams, that is a fix that can be made. Typically, you will see the designation of the actual officer, or it would say the City Manager or the City Manager's designee. Councilwoman James addresses another concern. Previously, the governing body would have an exception to rejecting a contract, but that is no longer the case. She states that she was looking at Section 3-1-2 in old ordinance; she was unable to find that anywhere in the draft paperwork that was proposed. She would like to have that city included that the governing body could reject by majority vote. She also states that it seems the purchasing agent has the authority to delegate subordinate staff members, and other employees, and it is only subject to the Treasurer and not the City



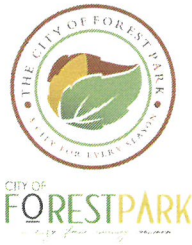
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Manager or the governing body, she is concerned with this as well. This is in Section 3-1-6, this is new. Councilman Antoine asked Councilwoman James what is the concern? Per Councilwoman James, her concern is that the governing body and the City Manager are out of the equation if you look at Section 3-1-6. Councilman Antoine asked Councilwoman James is she would like to see this changed. She states that she would like to see that the City Manager and the governing body are in the equation, when it comes to purchasing power. Councilman Gutierrez asked if this would be regarding over a certain amount, or everything. Per Councilwoman James, states yes. Councilwoman James also states that she is outlining her concerns that she saw as she was reading the draft. It seems like the handbook that you have in Section 3.1-7A is an option, instead of a requirement. According to Councilwoman James, the word “shall” or “may” is used. The draft says “may” pertaining to having a required manual; she prefers that to be “shall”. Councilwoman James states that in Section 3-1-8, it seems that the City Manager is not involved in the pre-audit certification process at all. She believes that he/she needs to be. She is not aware of how the draft was placed; she is not sure if it was done because maybe a City did not have a strong City Manager, but it seems as if the City Manager is kind of excluded in some of these decisions. As a governing body member that selects a City Manager, she would want the City Manager to have ultimate authority. Per Councilwoman James, there is no section that she finds in the new draft that addresses unauthorized purchases. There is a Section 3.1.3 in the old ordinance that addresses unauthorized purchases, she wants to include this. Councilwoman James states that she has a big star near this line item, she says it is huge. It says that it appears that the Council does not have input unless the amount is greater than \$50,000 that means that the



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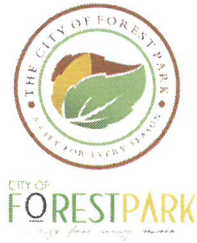
procurement officer can sign off on anything that is \$50,000 or less, and we do not have a say so in it, that is Section 3.1.12, she does not agree with that at all. Councilwoman Akins-Wells asks a question of Attorney Williams. Everyone has not had the opportunity to go through all of these changes, before we make any changes to this, are we able to wait until everyone has done their due diligence. Per Attorney Williams, this is not intended to be recommended for adoption anytime soon. He wanted to get it in front of you now, with the idea that we would work through the next couple of months, give or take and bring back a final version. All comments are well taken. According to Councilwoman Akins-Wells, she thinks this is a good idea. According to Councilwoman James, she has three more concerns, again this is just discussion. Per Councilwoman James, it seems like the formal contract procedure without bids, shall have a written contract of over \$10,000 is removed, so that is not included in this new draft that is proposed. It seems like the local business bidder awarded is not defined in the new one as well. Section 3-1-18 in the old ordinance, we do give a preference to local businesses that are here in Forest Park to getting awarded contracts, and that's not defined in the draft as well. Per Attorney Williams, it is defined at the very end. There is a provision that provides in reference to Veterans, Minority Owned business, Women Owned businesses and local businesses; it was moved to that Section. The final comment that Councilwoman James has, inviting bids is not defined, it seems that the notice of inviting bids is not defined, like putting it the official newspaper, running it for four days, or whatever. Those are not defined in the draft as well. Those are just some of the things that she outlined as she was going through, and she wants to make sure those are addressed as well.



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Open Discussion:

Councilwoman James discussed a few items with the governing body. She states that there was conversation regarding keeping a log for visits to City Hall last year, but she believes that is something that we need to revisit because of the current environment surrounding the pandemic. It will also allow for contact tracing if need be. She thinks the Council should consider a sign in sheet for visitors or businesses in the event that there is a situation regarding COVID 19, the log will instruct us as to whom may have come in contact with that person. Councilman Antoine states that for legal reasons, we may have some conflicts that the visitor may not feel comfortable signing in. Councilman Gutierrez asks if we already have this in place. Per Councilwoman James, the Recreation Department has a log in. Councilman Antoine, ask what Ken Thompson thinks, isn't Ken over the Finance Department. Councilwoman James states that she was wondering what did the Council think. According to Councilman Antoine, he prefers that the employee have the option to speak to this. Councilwoman Akins-Wells agrees to visit this initiative. Councilman Gutierrez asks what buildings would be the one that the public uses. Councilwoman James states that where the public visits. Secondly, Councilwoman James states that she is not sure if she should discuss this topic, since the City Manager is not here. She mentions that there that was an approval during the budget hearing, for the Public Safety Director/Deputy City Manager. She has completed her homework, in speaking to other Council Members; she was instructed to see what other cities are doing and sees how it's working with other cities. Initially, she felt that the Public Director position was not needed. This position was said to be a position needed to secure funds. Everyone that she has spoken with said that this is not a position needed to secure funds. If you have a Fire Chief/Police Chief, those are the positions that

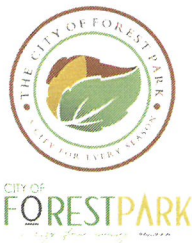


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would secure funds from the Department of Justice as well as FEMA. In her opinion, this is a top-heavy position because again, we're speaking of a six figure salary that we are adding to our budget, it's a position that we do not need. I am asking this Council to reconsider the need for that position. Here are some statistics of information Councilwoman James has gathered from various cities as it relates to this position.

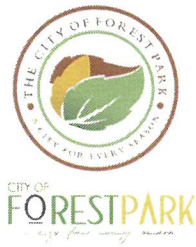
- (1) City of Buford – population 12,225 The Public Safety Director is the only full-time sworn state certified law enforcement officer. Their Public Safety Department consists of Public Safety Enforcement Unit, Code Enforcement Unit, City Marshal and Emergency Management. All of which we have
- (2) Cobb County – employs a Public Safety Director but has a fire department that employs 798 paid personnel serving over 750,000 citizens in an area covering 306 square miles. They have 29 fire stations.
- (3) Alpharetta – population 57,551. 27.27 square miles area. The public safety department has more than 250 positions which include over 100 police officers.
- (4) City of Bainbridge – Population of 12,697. The Public Safety Director is also the Police Chief and the Fire Chief.
- (5) City of Atlanta – has 1951 sworn police officers and ## of firefighters. Their Police & Fire has a Public Safety Headquarters not a Director.

Councilwoman James reiterates that this position is top heavy, and when you are top heavy, you hurt your bottom line. She asserts that they are trying to bring the employees up to where they should be, salary wise, getting the equipment that we need. Again, we've secured some funds which have come in; it's not true that we need this position to secure funds. She wants to governing body to really think about that. Councilwoman Akins-Wells states that when they went on the retreat, this was something that all Council Members were everyone favored. Since the discussion has come about as to who the Council is looking at for the position, everyone has something to say. Councilwoman Akins-Wells states that Chief Clark is the employee that the Council was



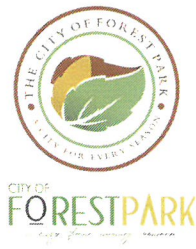
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looking at, forever whatever reasoning; some of the governing body has something against him. Councilwoman Akins-Wells states that is not a reason that we should hold him back because others have bad personal feelings towards him. She is not in favor of changing it, the decision was made, and it is final. The position is also not a Public Safety Director; this person will serve as the Assistant to the City Manager. There is a current Chief in place, it's not like we are creating a six-figure position because you're adding to what he already has. As it relates to top heavy, we've been that way for years, the Fire department as well as the Police department; no one has said anything in the past. As a matter of fact, when Chief Clark came to us, he attempted to change that. Right now, it is still the same in the Fire department. So, if we are going to worry about top heavy, let's be consistent and worry about every department and not just some. But again, the position did not sell me as "Oh it's going to bring the City money", because it will. We are not other cities; we are the City of Forest Park. She feels like that's the direction we took. Also discussing the Public Safety Complex, so you want to take all of that away because of one person's name coming up. Again, she states that she is not in favor of changing this decision. She asks Attorney Williams, to correct her, if she is wrong, is that a position that the City Manager appoints. Per Attorney Williams, according to the organizational chart, it is a position appointed by the City Manager. Councilman Mears states that he "hound" dollars. That position alone, with the other two was ½ million dollars, nearly. We need to think hard and long for using that money for using that money for equipment, salaries and updates. Councilman Mears states that he agrees with Councilwoman James that we are little bit top heavy on salaries as far as personnel. He thinks we need to take it into consideration the money what we could do that would benefit the employee in the city. Per Councilman Mears, moving forward, we've got Fire department #3, we need an air truck. He can't believe that this city has lasted this long, if we have a fire that last over 30 minutes or an hour, we have to start brigading people back and forth to Station #1 to fill up the air bottles. We need Police equipment. It's taking a big



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chance, in his point of view; it would behoove us to have updated equipment. We could do a lot more with those three positions. Attorney Williams states that he needs to amend his answer a little bit. Under the organization chart, it is the appointment of the City Manager; however, in the contract that Chief Clark has needs to be amended, that amendment would be approved by the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Akins-Wells states that she piggy backs off of Councilman Mears regarding moving forward. If we are moving forward, why are going backward regarding a decision that we have previously voted on now since the politics has had time to get involved, now we're going backward. Councilwoman Akins-Wells asks Major Turner to tell her how many Captains are in the Fire department. Major Turner states that combined between administrative staff and shift staff, there are five. Three are on the shift level and two are on the administrative level. Councilwoman Akins-Wells asks about Lieutenants. Per Major Turner, there are nine. There is also a Battalion Chief on each shift. Per Councilwoman Akins-Wells, that is top heavy, but we are worrying about certain people or departments being top heavy. She and Councilman Gutierrez thank Major Turner for his report. Councilman Gutierrez states that it is a bit concerning to him regarding transporting water back and forth during a fire. He would like to explore this subject further, to see what we are doing. If we need the equipment, please bring this up. He has had a conversation with Mr. Jinks, per Councilman Gutierrez; we need to know about this. As far as the position, it not only does the job of the Public Safety Officer, but it is the assistance of the City Manager, and bringing funds in takes a lot of work and research. Researching for grants is not something where you fill out an application, it takes a while. I envisioned this position and the person in this position, I guess Chief Clark is going to go into this position, he does not see him just not doing anything. If anything, he is a person that thinks outside the box that has changed many things when he came to our City and he has improved it. When our City Manager was asked which position, he needed out of three, he made mention of this one. Per Councilman Gutierrez, he supports the City Manager and what he needs. I understand your concern Councilwoman

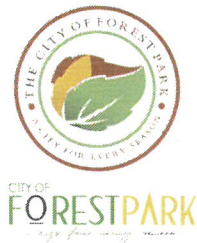


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James, but he does see that having this position will not get us less points. This position can work with other cities to get us more monies. Per Councilman Gutierrez, he definitely does not want to go back and change this decision. Per Councilwoman James, she wants to make sure she says a couple of things. This is not political at all. She apologizes that Chief Clark's name is mention; this is not about Chief Clark at all. This was clearly her comments even then, as she asked for the minutes regarding the budget meeting. Councilwoman James states that some may have been privy to whom would be going into that position, but she did not learn until later on, who was potentially going to be appointed to that position. This floors her as to why we would move this person from the Police department in the first place. She states this is not about a person, this is about the City of Forest Park, and this is about what the needs of our City are. This is a long-term position; this is not something that we should take likely. Having a position, that in her opinion, we do not need. Everything that this position has, we have it in our Police Chief and we have it in our Fire Chief. Per Councilwoman Akins-Wells, we do not have a Fire Chief. Per Councilwoman James, we are looking to get a Fire Chief; we have it in our budget. She wants to make sure that she is clear with her residents and those whom have elected her to be in this position that I make it known what my thoughts are, with having another six-figure salary.

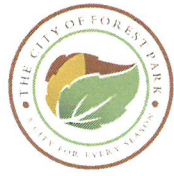
**Approval for 6th
Month Emergency
Sanitation
Contract**

Councilwoman Akins-Wells made a motion. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Per Councilwoman Akins-Wells, she is not aware if the public is aware of this, but she feels that everyone should know what is going on in our City, not only within our community, but within our departments as well. We've had some employees to test positive, two within the last few weeks that were exposed to different people in the community. We had a cleaning service to come to complete some detail cleaning and we've also had a sanitization company and spray when the emergency arose. This same company also found the company that came out and did everything, sanitized all of the businesses. She asked why again, is politics getting involved. The safety first and



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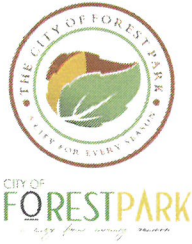
foremost should be for the citizens and employees. If our employees are placed into a certain position and we could have prevented this, but politics is in the way. Folks are constantly being diagnosed with the virus; we should do something about it. We could complete the process of doing an RFP, we have a company who can complete the cleaning, but because of whom is affiliated with the company, and everyone wants to turn it down. It's no different from other contracts getting deals because of who they know. Whatever direction this goes, I want the public to know that Councilwoman Akins-Wells is definitely in favor of having every city building sanitized because that case probably could have been prevented, if the City had done something before now. Per Councilman Mears, he asked Public Works if they had employees that would be able to sanitize their own building. Per Mr. Jinks, they only have a cleaning service that comes in twice a week that comes in and mop and empty trashcans. Per Councilman Mears, he understands the Fire department cleans their equipment on a daily basis, Police department according to what he has been told, is able to clean their equipment as well when they pull into the criminals, or whatever they do. They are provisions there for them to clean their own stuff. Mr. Jinks answers no they do not have this provision; he also states that they do not have the manpower. Per Councilwoman Akins-Wells, they are not professional cleaners, we need professionals to come and make sure these things are taken care of. Per Councilwoman James, she definitely am concerned about the safety of the employees, she also states that she knows that the Directors are concerned for the employees as well, she follows the CDC guidelines, and that there are certain things that we have in place. She received an emergency call on May 27th, stating that we needed to get all of the buildings sanitized; she believes at that time, there was a case over in the Public Works department. She believes that this decision was unanimously approved by the Council on that weekend, that we were going to spend \$54,000 to have a company called Atlanta Air Experts to sanitize all City buildings and spray them. We had a plan for reopening, another emergency transpired. This emergency involved another cleaning and spraying. In her opinion, this is a lack of



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...with passion and integrity...

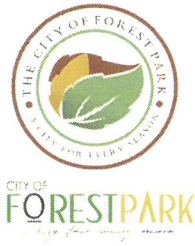
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experience, as far as the City Manager is concerned. Per Councilman Gutierrez, we were getting ready to open for the second emergency. Per Councilwoman James, her concern was why do we need this, we have not been open to the public, the people that has been in the building are the employees, they are exercising the CDC requirements as far as distancing. She had no idea who the person was, no politics involved until the City Manager came to her house, and he spoke of the two companies. One would complete the cleaning and the other would complete the sanitizing and spraying. She asked why we needed this right now. She states that the City Manager says this COVID is happening and we've really got to do this right now. She states that the building has not been open; she does not understand what the emergency is all about. She stated that the City Manager would have a meeting with the Directors on the following Wednesday. On that Friday, the City Manager brought a packet of janitorial services. The following day, the City Manager brought a packet of the sanitization company along with a visitor. This was the co-owner, Mr. Kevin Thomas. On Monday, she decided that she wanted to make sure that our Directors were informed that if there were people that come into our City that wants to sell us something that we do not need, that they speak up, we have to hold our City Manager accountable. She sent a message to Mr. Barker and his assistant, asking if she could come to the Director's meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Barker called her and told her that he did not want to make his meetings political, I want to keep politics out of the meetings, she states that she respected that, she would wait for the Council meeting. The purpose of her attending the meeting was to make sure that our Directors would please not allow special interest people to come into our city to sell something that we really do not need. She says; she did not know that the contract was already signed, even before the presentation was made to the Directors. She states that the City Clerk sent an email on the previous Friday, May 26th giving us the contracts that were signed. The contracts that Mr. Barker signed are under his limit, the limit is \$10,000. One that he signed is for \$7889.00, as Councilwoman Akins-Wells informs Councilwoman James that the City Manager has a right



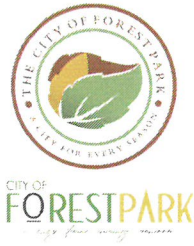
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to make that decision under \$10,000. Councilwoman James also states that this particular company, Councilwoman Akins-Wells took issue with because the company did not complete the detailed cleaning. The other company charged us almost to the limit, \$9,800 she states this is where she began to complete her homework. She states that she finds out that Safe Sanitizing Solution, the company that we paid almost \$10,000 was just incorporated in May of this year in Florida. She is wondering, are they licensed, are they bonded, is the City protected, those are her concerns. She states that we are utilizing the company simply because our City Manager is best friends with the owner of the company, is that why we are using the company. She states that you may say it is politics, and Councilwoman Akins-Wells agrees that this is politics. She states that when your city is the largest city in Clayton County and you have to go to a company that was just incorporated in May of this year to complete these services, for this amount and because we had a case at the Fire department, we paid another almost \$7,000 to this same company. The first company that charged us \$54,000 to complete all of the buildings, when I contacted him to ask him to provide a quote for Fire Station #2, which is what he did before, he provided a quote for \$1,800, so we paid almost \$7,000 to a company to sanitize Fire Station #2 when the company that we paid \$54,000 said that they could do it for \$1,800, she states she has an issue with how we are jumping into contracts. She states that she wishes the City Manager was here, because when he gave his City Manager report, I was going to ask him to allow the Directors to tell her what they thought of the presentation that was given. She says she has no problem with sanitizing our buildings. When she spoke with Atlanta Air Experts, she asked how often you sanitize buildings. She stated that it depends on the volume of the building. She states she is doing her homework; she is not playing politics. She believes that she may have informed Councilwoman Gutierrez that the company was co-owned by Mr. Kevin Thomas. She states that she asked Mr. Barker, how did he learn about these companies, Mr. Barker was very open and honest and informed her that, and I'm going to be very honest with you, is part owner.



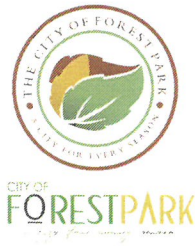
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She states that she has an issue entering into a contract with this company, is they licensed in Georgia, and are they bonded because they were just incorporated. Per Councilman Gutierrez, he states that he appreciates Councilwoman James research. As elected officials, it is our duty to do the best with taxpayer's dollars. He states that he wished that she had seen the presentation, and how well put it was presented and the way it was explained everything. It has allowed him to see the complete sanitization process in different eyes. He states that there is something in place that is able to complete the sanitization process. He is in favor of the RFP process. When he saw Mr. Kevin Thomas presentation, he states that they were in favor of the RFP process; this was not new to them. He has not received any negative interaction with Mr. Thomas. He has heard his name come up a lot; Mr. Barker was not trying to hook his buddy up. Mr. Barker does not have expertise in this area. It was a clear recommendation. He states that we need something in place now, although he is in favor of the RFP process going forward. Just for the sake of our employees entering the buildings, we have to be on the safe side as it relates to COVID 19, it is life or death. Councilwoman Akins-Wells agrees. She also states that Councilwoman James did states that it was only the employees, but again, the people in and out, but we are unsure of who the employees have been around. This is not just maintenance; it is completely different. She states that she has completed her homework as well. This company is licensed, insured and bonded. Additionally, when she saw the presentation, she wrote some notes, this level of sanitation is much different than the general maintenance which the Fire department has done for years. This is part of the Fire department's daily chores; this is something which is done as part of their job duties. The electrostatic process not only kills the germs, bacteria and viruses, but it also has a protective barrier for all surfaces for up to thirty days. It is not something that needs constant approval; it only needs approval every thirty days. She admits that she would rather be better safe than sorry. We've had two employees that tested positive in a week. She does not feel that this is a conversation that needs to be had. Additionally, while we



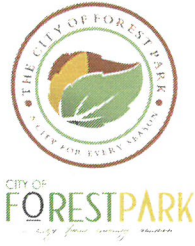
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are going out of town to get companies from out of town, we've had out of town companies in the past, everyone is not local. We've just had an out of Town Company to help us with the process of finding a Fire Chief; there were no complaints about that. Since it is this company, everyone is worried that they are from Jacksonville. Everyone has to start from somewhere. Whether it is this company or another company, it has to be done; she does not see how anyone can be opposed to it. Councilman Gutierrez asks the Mayor, what her thoughts were. Per the Mayor, she agrees with Councilwoman Wells, in a sense that it needs to be done, all agrees. She would like to see this go out for an RFP, when she sees the contract, she does not see an amount, and she is unsure how much we are approving the contract for. If we can go cheaper, as Councilwoman James has spoken of with the other company, then that may be something that we need to consider. Councilman Gutierrez asks what happens now, and what just happened, the sanitization. Councilwoman Akins-Wells states that we wait until the RFP is done. According to Mayor Butler, we can expedite the RFP and actually would like for the Council to consider closing City property considering the cases that we have, that have recently manifested itself. Mayor Butler states that is a conversation that will continue in Executive Session. Per Attorney Williams, two points, one to clarify, we can't discuss the closing issue in Executive Session, we can however; discuss personnel issues except in Executive Sessions, and second point, the contract shall go with that will have a 30 day termination provision. Per Councilman Gutierrez, he did ask the difference in having a contract or not, the presenter did state that the dollar amounts would be different. Councilwoman James states that she wants to make sure that she is doing her due diligence as an elected official. One of the things that was noted and that came out when they had discussions with the City Manager, is the lack of experience that he has and the lack of knowledge that he has with knowing who certain people are. With the association that he has, he does tend to go to one person to get information. She states that she did give him GMA, Georgia Municipal Association whom are connected to all of the cities, and informed him that if he needs anything, you can speak



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with them. Per Councilman Antoine, listening to everyone's comments, it comes back to trusting your City Manager and giving him exactly what he needs to perform his job. He gives an analogy, would you send your kids to school unprepared, you give them the correct tools that they will need. This is the same thing that we have in Mr. Barker; he is one of our students. He is asking for certain positions, as it relates to contracts. He will in turn make this a proud city for the citizens of the community. Every City Manager that we've had, we need to give him what he needs to complete the job. Are we going to micromanage the City Manager? Councilwoman Akins-Wells agrees with Councilman Antoine. She also states that with the previous manager, no one asked about them, no one knew who received anything, in certain departments; the same company received all of the contracts. All of a sudden, he hasn't been here sixty days, you're questioning everything that he does, he is unable to do his job, and you're making it hard for him. We hired him to manage the City, let him do that. At the end of the day, we want the same thing; we are not able to communicate it. Our citizens will suffer if we go through the RFP process. Per Councilman Gutierrez, he believes in the City Manager, he is a visionary; he does have the best intent. He hopes we can come to a decision to act, rather than react. Councilwoman Akins-Wells asked if the company, who we paid the \$54000 to, completes a presentation, or did we just sign off on it, no one asks any questions. Per Councilwoman James, it was up to City Manager to bring it to us. Councilwoman Akins-Wells, the council approved it. Councilwoman James agrees that no questions were asked. Voting was unanimous. Councilman Gutierrez asks if we can have this company and complete the RFP process, so we have something in place. Mayor Butler asks if we know how much the contract is for. Per Councilman Gutierrez, we're not approving the amount right now, just agreeing to go into contract. They charge as they service us. Per Mayor Butler, shouldn't the contract come with a total, so we have to complete all of the additions. Mayor Butler asks if it is customary to approve a contract without knowing how much we're paying exactly.



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**Executive:
Session**

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

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 8:37 pm.

Adjournment:

Councilman Gutierrez made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:13 pm and reconvene the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.