



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2020 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of June 15, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman James followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Present:

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

Also present were Police Chief, Nathaniel Clark, Finance Director, Ken Thompson, 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 Recreation Director, Tarik Maxwell and City Attorney, Michael Williams.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the June 1, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes with the recommended changes. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

City Manager's Report:

Mr. Barker deferred the city manager report to the directors to give their reopening plans.

Reopening Plans:

Parks and Recreation

Director Maxwell stated parks and recreation will reopen in 2 phases. He stated they will be following all CDC and Department of Health guidelines. The hours of operation will be from 8am-5pm Monday – Friday with the facility being closed for cleaning from 11am-1pm. All patrons will be required to sign in and do a



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temperature check. The city pool is the only facility that will be open on Saturdays. Regular hours for the pool will be Tuesday-Sunday. Monday will be used for maintenance and cleaning. The playgrounds are currently being sanitized 2-3 times per day. Phase 1 will be from June 29, 2020 – July 31, 2020. The senior center will not be opened during phase 1.

Planning Building &
Zoning/Economic
Development

Director Shelby thanked the city council for having the buildings sanitized. He stated that PB&Z will continue to conduct daily personnel screenings. If any employees show symptoms, they are contacting Major Turner and having the employee go home. They are incorporating staggering work schedules and virtual meeting.

Public Works

Director Jinks stated public works will continue to do daily temperature checks, maintain social distancing in their vehicles, and wearing masks while in the office. Director Jinks stated he would like to continue not doing community service at this time.

Human Resources

Director Brown stated her department plans to continue following the CDC guidelines. A limited amount of people will be allowed in the building at one time. Individuals will be required to wear a mask upon entering the building. They are accepting applications online. Employees will continue completing the personnel forms.

Fire Department

Interim Chief, Robert Brackett, stated the fire department will continue practicing social distancing. They are completing daily screenings, wearing masks, gloves, and eyewear when out on calls.

Police Department

Chief Clark stated the police department is still maintaining and practicing social distancing. His staff will be provided with masks and sanitizer. He plans to continue educating the



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public on what they can do to stay safe and protect others according to the CDC guidelines.

Finance

Director Thompson stated his department will only allow 4 customers in the lobby at one time. The floor and lobby area will be marked with numbers to help keep up with the count and also to ensure social distancing. All staff will be required to wear masks.

COVID-19 Update:

Major Turner stated as of 6/15/2020 there are 1,431 positive COVID-19 cases in Clayton County. As of 6/10/2020, Forest Park has 111 positive COVID-19 cases.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Ordinance:

Councilman Antoine made a motion to approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Councilwoman James inquired if the majority of the council approved the procurement officer position. I thought we were going to try to utilize that position within the finance manager. Councilman Gutierrez stated it was the administrative assistant that did not pass. Councilwoman Wells stated the procurement officer didn't either. Mayor Butler stated in my notes I had Councilman Antoine and Gutierrez were for all 3 of the finance positions that were recommended. Councilwoman James was not in favor ... I just put no. Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears was in favor of the deputy director and procurement officer so that was the majority. Mayor Butler stated that her notes could be wrong because there was a discussion on it. I don't know if anyone changed their mind. Councilwoman Wells stated she remembered the procurement officer being a new position, however they planned to hire from within. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Ordinance to Amend Fiscal Year

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the Ordinance that contains the



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2020 Budget:

amendments to the budget for Fiscal Year 2020 as indicated in Exhibit A. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

On December 16, 2019 the Governing Body approved the cost for email migration from IBM Notes to Office 365. However, the budget needs to be amended to reflect where the migration cost was charged along with City-wide network infrastructure improvements. There is also the need to amend the budget to reflect the receipt of additional revenue from Ft. Gillem in the current fiscal year.

The amendments in Exhibit A are as follows:

- An increase in Computer Hardware/Software of \$672,500. (Purchased/Contract Services)
- A decrease in Computer Hardware/Software of \$200,000. (Capital Outlays)

A total of \$472,000 to be funded from the fund balance.

2019-2020 SPLOST Ordinance:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the Ordinance establishing budgets for the 2008 and 2015 SPLOST Capital Project Funds for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Councilwoman James asked for more information explaining this particular item. Director Thompson stated this is a house keeping matter because we realized that we did not approve a SPLOST Budget for this year. We've basically been operating on the previous year's budget so it's basically the same numbers with a slight modification on the revenue. This is a house keeping matter to make sure we are in compliance in terms of having a SPLOST budget for the 19-20 year. We will be coming back with



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a 20-21 budget for SPLOST as well. Councilwoman James asked if these SPLOST Funds have anything to do with the funds that were allocated for the town center and then we readjusted it. Director Thompson stated there have been no readjustments at this time. Councilman Mears asked if the amount of SPLOST dollars received depended on the census numbers. Director Thompson stated yes. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Ward 4: Yard of
The Qtr Recognition:**

Each quarter Ward 4 Councilwoman, Latresa Akins Wells, celebrates and recognizes a yard in her ward that has exceptional upkeep and landscaping. This quarter she is recognizing the Ladonna Randall family at 382 Pineridge Rd. Typically the family receives their yard sign and gift card at the council meeting but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they are not able to attend.

**Discussion of Old
Dixie Hwy Name
Change:**

Mayor Butler stated this idea came to me from a business owner, specifically speaking it came from Eric Stalling, the owner of Chick Fil A. When he reached out to me about this, it was something that I believed was a good idea. Mayor Butler stated that she is not from Georgia and subsequently not from Forest Park, however her foundation is set in the south. She proceeded to give a background of her family's southern roots and history. She stated that she understands the root of the word "dixie". She presented videos and a PowerPoint to chronologically explain African American History. She also stated the word "dixie" represents the southern states, the states in the confederacy, and the confederacy army. Things done under the umbrella of the word dixie represent segregation, fugitive slave laws, Jim Crow, lynchings, etc. She asked that her opinion be respected just as she has respected others opinions. She stated that no decisions will be



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made. This is just a discussion, however it starts with us.

Councilwoman Wells stated that she was totally against changing the name. She stated she reached out to the community before the meeting to get different opinions. There are other roads in Forest Park that also have the word dixie in it that have not been recommended for change. She stated some of the comments received in regards to this matter was “they’re trying to change everything but the laws and the system that’s holding us back”. Another comment was “People won’t be moved by changing names, they’ll be moved when there’s an actual change in our communities, not the name of a street”. Councilwoman Wells stated the Old Dixie Hwy was maybe created through negativity, but the people of Forest Park turned it into something positive. She asked everyone to go on ancestry.com and look up the history of Forest Park.

Councilman Antoine stated he totally disagrees. He is totally for Mayor Butler’s courage, and that she is willing to take steps to make changes.

Councilwoman James stated this is really a tough place, and she really appreciates Mayor Butler trying to bring this topic to light, however she doesn’t agree with it because America is in a tough place right now. She stated it’s difficult sometimes to watch the stations and to see some of the history and injustices that has happened. She stated with the state the nation is currently in, she feels it would be divisive in our community and bring separation and division. Councilwoman James stated at this time, I would not be in favor of changing the name with the climate that we are in right now; however I am willing to have this discussion at a later time.



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Councilman Mears stated he appreciated Mayor Butler's presentation. He lived through a lot of the times that were mentioned in the presentation, however that was then and this is now. He stated many of his friends and colleagues are black, and he is not racist. He said he's been called racist, but he is not. He said changing a street name isn't going to get the situation done, it has to be something done as an individual in their hearts. He stated at this time he doesn't think changing the name is necessary.

Councilwoman Gutierrez thanked Mayor Butler for her presentation and education. He stated he served in the military with black people, and black people have always embraced him fully as a minority. He stated it hurts for him to see everything that is going on. He feels the name change requires a community discussion. He stated specifically the opinions of Forest Park residents matter.

**Discussion of Tobacco
Use and Personnel
Policy:**

Attorney Williams presented a tobacco use policy to the governing body. He stated the intent is to include electronic tobacco, vaping, etc in our policy because it is currently not there. The discussion tonight is to review the policy. He would like to make a formal adoption at a future council meeting. He stated there is a document prepared by our personnel labor attorneys regarding our disciplinary policy. This is also something he hopes to share with employees over the next few weeks in an effort to inform them of the changes, and also to meet requirements related to converting our current policy back to a pure "at will" employment process. Employees must be allowed to comment and provide input. It will be brought back after the comment period for adoption.

Councilwoman James stated her concern with the policy is she is aware that smoking is addictive. If we have an employee that is



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addicted to smoking, a policy like this could effect their employment. She asked if this policy would be for future employees only, or would this apply to existing employees as well.

Attorney Williams stated the policy would apply to all employees, both existing as well as future employees. The policy does allow smoking during breaks if it is off of city property. He stated that distance separation is something that is being discussed in the implementation.

Councilwoman James asked if any employees had any concerns about the policy. Attorney Williams stated that a question was raised about the topic. Director Brown stated she received a call from an employee that was concerned about e-cigarettes and vaping, and how it was affecting her health. She stated she spoke with Attorney Williams because our policy is outdated so she wanted to make sure that this was covered in our policy.

Councilman Mears stated he would like to research this topic to come up with a way to integrate vaping and e cigarettes in our policy.

**Discussion of Tax
Allocation District
Funding:**

Director Abraham stated Forest Park has a tax allocation district called "TAD". They are designed to bring private investment to target areas and to spur investments in undeveloped areas. Taxes are collected in these areas and the county returns a portion of the taxes back to the city. It is used for special projects to spur redevelopment. He stated the TAD Fund for Forest Park is currently at 1.1 million dollars. It has to be used in the Main Street and Fort Gillem districts. He asked the governing body to develop a policy where TAD Funds can be used specifically to develop Main Street. He would like a certain amount of money dedicated to the Downtown Development Authority that has the



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jurisdiction for the property. The DDA could decide how it was spent. Director Abraham stated he could write a policy detailing what he's asking for so the governing body can review it.

**Agenda Amendment
Add Item 10-A:
Amendment of
Tri-City Urban
Redevelopment
Plan:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to add item 10-A. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion to amend the agenda to add item 10-A was recommended by Attorney Williams. Attorney Williams stated this amendment goes hand in hand with the text amendment that's before you for the senior facility. This amendment would amend the Urban Redevelopment Area for the Tri Cities Urban Redevelopment Plan to add that site to that map. That's all it does. In doing so, you make this project eligible for certain types of funding incentives from DCA.

**Map Amendment
To College St:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the regular meeting and open up a public hearing to consider the map amendment. The map amendment from R-80 single family residential to R-100 Apartment Dwelling District. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

There were 0 participants in opposition of the map amendment.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to recess the public hearing and enter back into the regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the map amendment to College Street. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the map amendment subject to the conditions of the staff report. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**10-A - Amendment of
Tri-City Urban
Redevelopment
Plan:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the resolution to modify the Urban Redevelopment Plan for the Tri-Cities Urban Redevelopment area. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Add Code Section
8-8-42 to Ordinance:**

Attorney Williams stated approximately 6-8 months ago, the council adopted moratorium for certain businesses with the understanding that staff would go to work on addressing ways to deal with the oversaturation of certain businesses. This new code will regulate the number and location of certain businesses for the purpose of concentration or clustering of businesses based on population.

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the regular meeting and open up a public hearing to consider adding a new Code Section 8-8-42 to the Code of Ordinance.

There were 0 participants in opposition of the Code addition.

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the public hearing and enter back into the regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve adding a new code section 8-8-42 to the code of Ordinances to provide standards for certain businesses. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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**Planning & Zoning
Board Ordinance:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing to consider an ordinance to combine the Planning Commission Board with the Board of Zoning. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Pastor Mike Clinkscales stated he was in favor of combining the Planning Commission and Zoning Boards.

There were 0 participants in opposition of the Code addition.

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the public hearing and enter back into the regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances to revise the composition of the Planning Commission Board.

**Surplus Property
Resolution:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the resolution by the City Council of the City of Forest Park declaring the Planning and Zoning Items listed in Exhibit A as surplus property. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Asbestos Service
Agreement:**

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the service agreement for an asbestos inspection between GLE Associates and the City of Forest Park. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilwoman James asked, how do we go about getting this particular company. Director Shelby responded, we did a request for



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proposals, and we had 6 companies to respond. We had a selection committee. They eliminated four which left us with two companies. A scorecard was used to make the final selection.

CDBG Funds Transfer:

LaShawn Gardiner stated there are CDBG funds we need to spend as we are coming up on deadlines. Right now the demo project identified in the resolution is a viable project that can be done if Clayton County authorizes us to do so. Per the Clayton County HUD office they indicated we must first have legislation from City Council, a letter from the Mayor, and then this request would need to go before the BOC.

Councilman Mears made a motion to accept the Transfer of CDBG Funds from Public Facilities and Improvement to Clearance and Remediation for Demolition of Buildings. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Hate Crime Legislation:

In light of recent events involving potentially racially motivated crimes both in Georgia and nationally, it is proposed that the City of Forest Park request the Georgia General Assembly adopt hate crimes legislation. House Bill 426, which has passed the House and is pending in the Georgia State Senate, provides penalties for a person convicted of a crime who intentionally selected any victim or group of victims or any property as the object of the offense because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability, or physical disability of such victim or group of victims. The resolution expresses support for House Bill 426.

Councilwoman James made a motion to accept a resolution to encourage the Georgia Assembly to pass hate crime legislation. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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**Police Use of Force
Resolution:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to accept a resolution providing for a review of police use force policies. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilwoman Wells read a statement in regards to policy brutality and excessive unnecessary use of force by police.

Councilman Antoine stated this is something he brought up a few months ago and the Chief told him that we weren't ready for this. Councilman Antoine asked if the Chief could explain. Chief Clark stated he needed to take a quick emergency phone call.

Councilwoman Wells asked if "My Brothers Keeper" is apart of this resolution. Attorney Williams stated its one of the initiatives from President Barack Obama. He challenged every city and county across the nation to adopt that pledge for accountability, transparency, etc.

Councilwoman Wells stated she wanted to make it clear that she did not speak to Chief Clark in regards to this topic being on the agenda. She spoke with the attorney.

Chief Clark stated every presentation he's been apart of, he speaks about transparency and accountability...that has been from day one. He stated we're at turning point as far law enforcement in the United States. He stated he's always been talking about building relationships with the community. He's been visiting schools and churches to build strong and lasting with this community. He stated during the budget meeting he spoke about trainings that the police department needs. He wants his officers to have de-escalation, crowd control, cultural diversity training, and conflict resolution training. He stated Forest Park has been building



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relationships and partnerships with the community from day one.

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 Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 9:06 pm.

Councilman Mears made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:50 pm and reconvene the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Appointment of
Public Works
Director:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wells to appoint Bobby Jinks as the new Public Works Director. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Public Comments:

A public comment from Karen- Bradndee Williams was read by Attorney Williams. The letter reads as follows:

15 June 2020
To the Governing Body of the City of Forest Park,
GA Re: Mike Blandenburg

Greetings,

After the firing of former Finance Manager Mike Blandenburg, I've waited for unbiased, fair, and proper justice to be served against him (and possibly many others) with some type of criminal prosecution placed upon him; even after Mayor Butler made a public statement that whatever is revealed in the audits, she will prosecute to the



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fullest, anyone found in violation, but to no avail! Well, not sure if his criminal activities were revealed from the audit or by other means; nevertheless, you fired him and allowed him to live out his life! What happened to Mike Blandenburg? Why haven't you pursued a case against him? Mike Blandenburg was the former Finance Manager who had direct access to all monies and finances that came into the City of Forest Park, GA. While in my official role as an elected councilmember participating in an annual cleanup campaign in my ward, Mike Blandenburg was the "go to person" who instructed me how to present proper documents and allowed me to purchase \$250.00 worth of t-shirts for Ward2 cleanup by providing me with an approved requisition order and written check payable to the vendor, only to collaborate with the former 2010 governing body's scheme to (Mayor Corine Deyton, Sparkle Adams, John Parker, Attorney Robert Mack, etc.) manipulate citizens and use this against me by wrongfully placing a bench warrant arrest thru the DA, with allegations of "Theft by Deception; in attempts of having me removed from office!" Your decision to fire Mike Blandenburg stems from obvious years of "Theft by Taking" tax payer dollars, while he was Manager of Finance having access to these monies (which I'm sure was definitely well over \$250.00), but without conviction, arrest, prosecution!

Where were the questions to be asked of him?

- 1) Did he have permission to do those financial acts of crime?
- 2) Did he share the proceeds?
- 3) Did any other governing body or staff also enjoy the pleasure of stealing from taxpayers in our City?

My Black Life matters and I'm still awoken with nightmares of enduring a horrific, malicious, political ordeal of being falsely accused, but this White Male was actually stealing from our City



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possibly since he was hired as the “Finance Manager, but to did not prosecute!” You just let him walk away! All of you should be ashamed of yourself, especially Mayor Butner, for not taking a stance and prosecuting this man; nevertheless, I will no longer sit silent without seeing justice done against Mike Blandenburg; therefore, I am demanding justice, right now, so revisit this case and prosecute him and anyone else who have enjoyed the residuals from this theft! I expect feedback and action on this matter.

In His Righteousness,
Karen-Brandee D. Williams
PO Box 42 Conley, GA
30288
404-431-5833

**Comments by
Governing Body:**

Councilman Gutierrez thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked everyone to stay cautious of covid 19.

Councilwoman Wells thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilman Mears thanks everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She asked everyone to attend her neighborhood zoom meeting. Mayor Butler ended the meeting with a quote from Barack Obama. “Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones that we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

Adjournment:

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



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- city for every season

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