

CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2020 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of June 1, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation: The Invocation was given by Police Chief, Nathaniel Clark followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

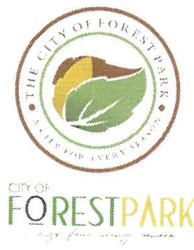
Present: Mayor Angelyne Butler
Councilmembers: Kimberly James, Dabouze Antoine, Hector Gutierrez, Latresa Wells, and Allan Mears

Also present were Police Chief, Nathaniel Clark, Finance Director, Ken Thompson, Public Works Interim Director, Bobby Jinks, Planning and Zoning Director, James Shelby, Human Resource Director Shalonda Brown, and City Attorney, Michael Williams.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor Butler asked if there were any changes to be recommended to the May 4th and May 18th meeting minutes. Councilwoman James stated she has recommend changes on the May 18th minutes. She stated on page 5 it says "Councilwoman Wells stated she was unable to hear". This should be Councilwoman James. Also, it says "Councilwoman James stated masks should be worn while in the building". This should be Councilwoman Wells. Councilwoman Wells stated she recalls making that statement. Councilman Gutierrez stated on the May 4th minutes, page 3 states "Mayor Hernandez". This should be Councilman Gutierrez.

Councilwoman James made a motion to group the May 4th and May 18th minutes, and approve with the recommended changes. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

City Manager's City Manager, Albert Barker, thanked the citizens and



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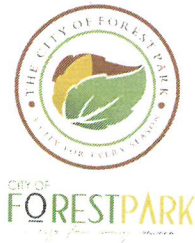
Report:

employees of Forest Park for their prayers during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also thanked the city employees and citizens for doing a great job during this pandemic. The city's health and wellbeing is a top priority. He also discussed his vision as the new city manager of Forest Park. He has goals to incorporate unity within the city.

COVID-19 Update:

Mayor Turner (Via Zoom) stated within the county, numbers are still rising, however at a lower rate. Forest Park currently has a total of 76 cases. There was a discussion about the accuracy of the quick testing. None of the state testing sites used the test that private businesses used (CVS, Walgreens). He urged the continuation on good hygiene, social distancing, and mask use. Councilwoman James asked if the positive COVID-19 cases are accumulating, or dropping off. When someone has tested positive many weeks ago, are they dropping off the positive list, or are we continuing to add to that list? Mayor Turner stated that the numbers from the state are a total cumulative since they've began tracking; however the cases that are being kept for the City of Forest Park are not cumulative. They show only active cases.

Mayor Butler stated she would like the governing body to consider July 1, 2020 for the reopening of city property, unless there are any other dates to recommend. Mayor Butler stated to Mike Williams, "I know we were once operating under the state of emergency, but if we decide we're no longer at that state do we have to do an order to rescind it, or do we just let it fall off? Mr. Williams responded your orders as I recall was to declare a state of emergency for so long as the state does, and the governors state of declaration goes through July 12th. You could always restate that to lift the state of emergency for Forest Park, and open up at whatever time the governing body sees fit. Councilwoman Wells asked if the outside parks can be open now. Mr. Williams responded that it would be the governing body's decision. If you wanted



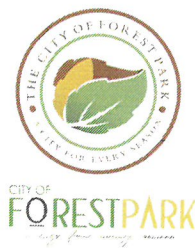
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to have certain restrictions in place, you can always go back and keep your state of emergency in place for as long you deem necessary, and keep whatever facilities closed or open that you agree upon. These things can be done independently of the state. Councilman Gutierrez asked Director Maxwell if it would be ok to open the outside parks immediately. Director Maxwell stated the parks crew could start a sanitizing routine in which they would close down every 4 hours to clean the equipment. Councilman Antoine asked if the pools would be open. Director Maxwell stated the pools can be open now if they are certified. The board of health is currently working with limited staff. Councilwoman Wells asked if public works has the supplies to keep the recreations and parks equipment clean. Director Jinks stated public works is currently doing a monthly cleaning on park equipment. Director Maxwell recommended opening up on a Monday instead of a Wednesday. He preferred to open up on June 29, 2020 so the pool will be open for the 4th of July pending the needed certification is completed. Director Maxwell stated he would like to check with other cities to see what they are using to sanitize their equipment so he knows what to purchase. Once he gets this information he will forward it to the City Manager and recommend an opening day for the parks.

Councilman Gutierrez asked Director Jinks what's the status of the 5 employees that were tested for COVID-19. Director Jinks stated everything came back negative, and everyone is back to work. Bulk pickup has been resumed.

Councilman Antoine made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion of the following jobs: #1 Public Safety Director/Deputy City Manager, #2 Administrative Research Manager, and #3 Communication Manager. Councilman Gutierrez made a second.

Voting for the motion was Councilman Mears, Councilman Gutierrez, and Councilman Antoine.



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Voting against the motion was Councilwoman Wells and Councilwoman James
The motion passed.

Councilman Mears asked if these topics would be discussed and voted on one at a time or will they be discussed and voted on all together.

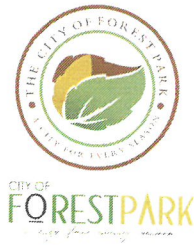
Mayor Butler stated that each item is listed individually. Councilman Antoine stated they would be grouped together. Councilman Mears stated he would like to change his vote if they are not discussed and voted on separately. Councilman Antoine asked Councilman Mears if he would like each item to be discussed individually. Councilman Mears replied yes. The governing body agreed to discuss and vote for each item individually.

**Discussion of
Brewery Ordinance:**

Michael Williams stated when the council originally amended its ordinance, it only provided for brew pubs and not distilleries and breweries. The new drafted ordinance would include breweries and distilleries. It's anticipated that in the companion zoning piece, you would set forth areas where these facilities can go. Breweries and distilleries would only go in industrial areas, and brew pups could go in your regular commercial areas. The provisions largely incorporate what is authorized under state law. It provides the local variances that are permitted under state law in terms of where they go and the operational hours. This is presented to the governing body for your advance review. We would send this to our planning and zoning for them to review and make recommendations for location areas. We would anticipate bringing this back for adoption in approximately 1 month.

**Discussion of
State License
THC manufactures
Ordinance:**

Michael Williams stated this is very preliminary, and will be submitted to the planning staff for them to review which areas of the city would be appropriate for this type facility, and additional provisions that are consistent with state law as to how to handle those applications. He reminded the governing body that this

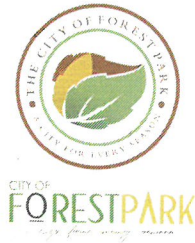


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is a drafted ordinance. They would only be permitted in the light, heavy, planned, and Gillem zoning industrial districts. The facilities will all be housed in a building. The state requires that a very comprehensive security plan be approved by state government as well as approval by the local governing authority. He anticipates this coming back for adoption in approximately 1 month.

Mayor Butler asked Director Maxwell to come back up. Councilwoman Wells asked how soon the governing body would hear back in regards to a date to reopen the parks. Director Maxwell stated he would have information to the City Manager by Wednesday. He hopes to have the parks open by the weekend.

Councilwoman James stated the items that have been added to the agenda are not items that should be discussed in executive session because it has nothing to do with personnel, litigation, or real estate. It has to do with adding items to the budget so I think this should be open to discussion in the public for everybody to hear. Michael Williams stated Madam Mayor because you're discussing the duties and assignments of public officials, you may discuss those in executive session, you're not required to, but under the circumstances that one or 2 of the positions involve current employees, I would recommend that we do discuss this in executive session. Councilwoman James stated I was not aware that this involved current employees; I thought these were 3 new positions that's being proposed. Michael Williams stated I may be mistaking, but I thought one was maybe a reclassification. Councilwoman James stated these are new positions, these are positions that we do not have right now so I would hold the council to see if this is something that we can discuss openly. We don't have anything to hide. We are a transparent government. Councilman Antoine stated the motion was on the table and it passed. Councilwoman James stated I have a point of order. Councilman Antoine stated I understand you had a point of order, but the



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motion was passed for us to go to executive session. Councilwoman James stated no we didn't have a motion to go into executive session so my question is, is the council ok according to the city attorney we can discuss this in the public. Is the council ok with discussing this in the public? Councilman Gutierrez stated I'm ok as long as it's not personnel related. Councilman Antoine stated in the past, wasn't there a motion to talk about this in executive session. Michael Williams responded no sir; the items were only added to the agenda. Mayor Butler stated we do have executive session items outside of this matter to discuss. Councilwoman Well stated I'm fine with discussing this out here as well. Councilman Mears stated I will also discuss it out here in the open. Councilman Gutierrez asked if the added items are after executive session. Mayor Butler stated it can be, we can go into executive session to discuss everything that we need to discuss, and when we come back out here a vote more than likely will be taken on these items in which that would open it up for discussion also. Mayor Butler proceeded with item number 5.

**Amended Item:
Administrative
Research Manager
Position:**

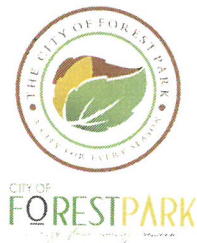
Councilman Antoine stated can I have a point of order. I make a motion that we go into executive session to discuss personnel, real estate, and legal matters. A second was made by Councilman Gutierrez.

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

The motion failed.

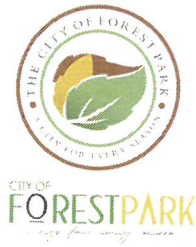
A motion was made by Councilman Antoine to accept the Administrative Research Manager Position. A second was made by Councilman Gutierrez.

Councilwoman James stated this is a position that was proposed during the budget hearing, and the request was to provide information on the different positions that was going to be added which included



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the grade and the salary range. In my opinion, this is premature to add this position now when we've asked all of our departments to cut their budgets 4%-6% in all areas. I don't think we should vote to implement this. Councilman Gutierrez stated what's the purpose of this position? It's to bring grants right? City Manager, Albert Barker, stated yes as well as forming partnerships with the community that will also bring funding to the community. They will also supervise the grant process ensuring that we achieve the target amount of grants we would like to receive. Councilman Gutierrez stated bringing in this position could offset all of the expenses that we did have to cut. City Manager, Albert Barker, replied this position would offset the cost we want to cut and bring in additional funds as well. Councilman Antoine stated would you send your kids to school without the proper tools to succeed. What the city manager is asking for is the proper tools so he can do his job effectively. Councilman Gutierrez stated I want to hold you accountable, and you're guaranteeing us grants and partnerships with businesses. I think we need to be open minded. I know this is new. There are several grants that could easily offset the salary for this position for 1 year. I urge the council if you need more information to table this item, but I highly encourage everyone to take a look at what this is and how it's going to benefit us. It's not a shady position. Whoever gets this position will work with our grant writer. Councilwoman James stated Mr. Barker; it's not that I'm opposed to your positions and what you want to bring to the table. It's not that I don't agree that this is something that can be beneficial to the city, but I will say that I cannot support something that I don't know anything about. I just got this tonight. I have not had a chance to look at it or review it to see what the qualifications are for the person. As an elected official, I'm accountable to every move that we make so again I'll say; it's not that I don't support you. It's just that I can not support this at this moment because I don't know anything about it, and I cannot blindly make a decision that I don't know anything about so that's my



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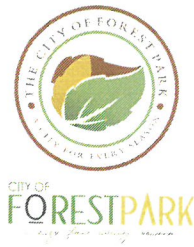
position. Councilwoman Wells stated I will piggy back off of what Councilwoman James said I'm not against it, but I don't feel like right now is the right time. As an elected official I have to be accountable for my decisions. Councilman Antoine made a motion to table the Administrative Research Manager Position. A second was made by Councilman Gutierrez. The voting for this motion was unanimous.

**Amended Item:
Communications
Manager
Position:**

Councilman Antoine made a motion to accept the Communications Manager Position. A second was made by Councilman Gutierrez. Councilwoman James stated I have the same comments that I had previously. Councilman Antoine stated so basically you want the City Manager to come back and give you more in depth information about these 3 positions. Is that what you're saying? Councilwoman James stated what I'm saying is that I have not had a chance to review it, and I need to see how it's going to affect our budget. I need to see if it's something that we really need at this time. Councilman Gutierrez stated to tell the public, this is a communications manager position. As you all know, we're not the strongest in our social media or communications. I think this pandemic has allowed us to see that we can be better in this area. Our City Manager wanted a person that we can have and hold accountable for our communications. Councilman Gutierrez made a motion to table the Communications Manager Position. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Councilman Gutierrez asked the other councilmembers why they did not want to vote for the Communications Manager position. Councilwoman James stated I have not had a chance to read the job description. I just received this information, so I can't just make a decision based on someone verbally telling me this is what they want. The voting to table this item was unanimous.

**Amended Item:
Public Safety
Director/ Deputy**

A motion was made by Councilman Antoine to accept the Public Safety Director/Deputy City Manager Position. It was seconded by Councilman Gutierrez.



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City Manager:

Councilwoman Wells stated I know this is something we discussed on our retreat, and this is something that I do support because I know exactly what it is, and I know it's been previously discussed. I just didn't want the city to have to go through the same process because the guy that I feel would fit this description perfectly is Chief Clark. I've said that on numerous occasions, and I will continue to say that. I don't feel that we should put someone over him, but I don't want the city to have to go through the process of finding another Police Chief because I don't feel like it gets no better than you. I couldn't see anyone else in this position because he has also served as our Interim City Manager. He did a great job with that.

Councilman Gutierrez stated I feel your sentiment as well. That was my main concern. Chief Clark has set the bar real high, but after speaking with him and our city manager, I do believe we will find the right replacement, and we also have an outstanding HR Director that will assist them in that search. I am in support of this position as well. Councilwoman James said I'll make a statement, I know that we have a Fire Chief that we just hired on that I understand is outstanding and reputable. I say this position is premature right now because as you all stated you know what we have as far as our police chief is concerned. We don't know what our fire chief is going to bring to the table, but I'm sure it will be the same type of quality. With the quality that we have in our fire and police chief, why would we need someone over them instead of having them report directly to the city manager? I think it's a waste of funds at this time. I just don't support this position at this time. City Manager, Albert Barker, stated he would like everyone to reconsider this position because the fire and police chief has a focus on their specific departments. The Public Safety/ Deputy City Manager would also be the backup if the City Manager is unable to perform his duties.

Voting for the motion was Councilman Antoine and Councilman Gutierrez. Voting against the motion was



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Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Mears.
The motion failed.

Executive Session:

Councilman Antoine 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 Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 7:15 pm.

Councilman Mears made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:50 pm and reconvene the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilwoman James to authorize the amendments of the contracts for the municipal court judge and the solicitor to provide for a flat fee. This was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wells to approve the additional COVID-19 incentive pay. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Public Comments:

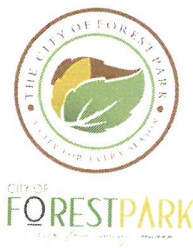
There were no public comments.

**Comments by
Governing Body:**

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for participating in the virtual meeting, and being a part of our great city. She stated in the midst of everything going on in the world, I love being in Forest Park, and I love Forest Park as well as the residents.

Councilman Antione extended a thank you to everyone for participating in the virtual meeting.

Councilman Gutierrez thanked everyone for tuning in. He stated he was happy to be here, and he wanted to



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let everyone know that they are in a city where their elected leaders are doing everything they can to keep residents safe. . He urged everyone to vote for someone who has the community's best interest at heart.

Councilwoman Wells thanked everyone for participating in the meeting.

Councilman Mears thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. He stated he will be happy when he can see everyone's smiling faces at the meetings again.

Mayor Butler thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. She gave special recognition to our first responders for their quick and efficient response over the weekend. She stated she would like the governing body to assist in planning a town hall meeting. The way to help bridge the gap is through open and honest dialog.

Adjournment:

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