



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of February 3, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Pastor Cook 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 Interim City Manager Nathaniel Clark, Director of Finance Ken Thompson, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Fire Chief Eddie Buckholts, Support Service Manager Diane Lewis, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services Tarik Maxwell, Director of Planning, Building and Zoning James Shelby, Economic Development Director Bruce Abraham, City Attorney Michael Williams, and Management Analyst LaShawn Gardiner.

Comment Period:

Mr. Williams - came before the Council and stated he wanted to give back to the community by providing his artistic ability by painting images in and around the city. He provided the Council with several of his paintings that represent his artwork.

Councilmember Gutierrez mentioned this is something good for the community and that he would like to see a positive image on the bridge/overpass.

Councilmember Antoine stated that he spoke to Mr. Williams after seeing his work and thinks this would be good for the city.

Councilmember Wells also stated that Mr. Williamses work was beautiful and she would



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like to see more of his artistic talent in the city since he is a city resident.

Mr. Pellegrine - came before the Council and asked that the Council consider option 2 on the gun possession ordinance.

Carl Evans - stated that now is the time for everyone in the City to come together on city things and work together. He stated there are projects that have taken forever, but now it is time to move forward.

Diane Lunsford - stated now that there is new leadership at the police headquarters neighborhood watch has ended, and now neighborhood watch will have to be held somewhere else in the community or at someone's home. She stated having meetings at someone's home is a safety concern and people are not comfortable doing that. She stated she guess the police headquarters can get the bullet proof glass.

Samuel Ibanez stated that the City needs to provide clarity on events that happen in the City. He mentioned he sees posters about events in Ward 4, but what about events in Ward 2. He also asked are we prepared for Coronavirus? Do we have enough alcohol, gloves, and masks?

Annie Jones stated she has a problem with bushes and trees that overgrowing on her property from her neighbor's yard and she needs to know what can be done about.

Councilmember Mears stated she is in his Ward and he will look into the matter.

Dennis Reed—stated that he owns the International Discount Mall which is in Ward 3,



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and he is interested in creating a business network project in Forest Park.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Kimberly James noted that the following corrections are needed: Page 1 in the work session section correct the name of Councilman Dabouze Antoine. On page 15 under the work session correct the name of Battalion Chief May, and the start time of Thursday night's meeting should be 5:00 p.m. not 5:30 p.m.; and on page 19 correct the word heart to hurt.

**Ordinance Amendment
Pertaining to Adult
Entertainment
Establishments:**

A request was made to amend the Adult Entertainment Ordinance to allow such businesses to open on Sunday afternoons and evenings.

Councilmember Antoine made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion were Councilwoman Wells, Councilman Gutierrez, and Councilman Antoine. Voting against the motion was Councilman Mears and Councilwoman James. The motion carried.

**Resolution to Surplus
Vehicles:**

A request was made to surplus five Ford Ranger vehicles in the Planning, Building and Zoning Department.

After checking previous Council records the City Attorney determined that this item had come before City Council previously and therefore could be removed from the agenda.

**Resolution to Adopt
a Policy regarding
Possession of a Firearm
by City Employees
on City Property:**

A request was made to adopt a policy in regards to possession of firearms by City employees while on city property.



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City Attorney Michael Williams stated that the City currently does not have a policy regarding the possession of weapons and firearms while on city property. He stated this came about in reference to an incident that occurred when a city employee purchased a firearm while in possession of a city vehicle and displayed it to other employees and mentioned what he would do with it. Attorney Williams stated due to there being no policy no disciplinary action occurred. Two options are on the table to consider, Option 1, employees who possess a valid Georgia Weapons Carry License, which requires an extensive background check, may possess firearms but must register with the City Manager and their department head prior to possessing them on city property. The City Manager and department heads could impose addition requirements or restrictions pertinent to their respective departments. All other employees are prohibited from possessing any firearms outside their personal vehicles. No employees (except for police officers) are permitted to possess any weapons while in a City vehicle. Option 2, possession of weapons by any Employees on city property is strictly prohibited, although employees would still be allowed to possess weapons in their personal vehicles.

Councilman Mears stated that the Fire Department has established a system that works for it, and he doesn't see an issue with it as long as the weapons are locked in a safe place. He mentioned that previously across Atlanta there was a rash of car break-ins at fire stations while firemen would be on calls and their personal effects and weapons that were left in their vehicles were taken. He mentioned he has had a right to carry permit for years, and everyone should have the right to protect themselves with everything that is going on all across Atlanta no



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matter what side of town, north, south, east or west.

Councilmember Wells stated she is not against people protecting themselves, but employees should not be allowed to have weapons while at work and in city vehicles.

Option 1 died for a lack of a Motion.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve Option 2. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion was Councilman Gutierrez, Councilman Antoine, Councilwoman James and Councilwoman Wells. Voting against the motion was Councilman Mears. The motion carried.

Adjournment:

Councilwoman Wells made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.