



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of January 21, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:30 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Minister 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 Buckholts, Deputy Chief Antonio Fletcher, Support Services Supervisor Diane Lewis, Recreation and Leisure Services Director Tarik Maxwell, Economic Development Director Bruce Abraham, Planning Building and Zoning Director James Shelby, City Clerk Shalonda Brown, City Attorney Michael Williams and Management Analyst LaShawn Gardiner

Comment Period:

Mr. Pelligrene – stated just because one can pass a background check does not make one fit to carry a firearm as a city employee. He stated he does not feel safe having a city worker other than a police officer carrying a weapon. He stated he read an article where a city employee purchased a firearm on his lunch break brought it back to the office and showed his co-workers and made a threat against another city employee and that concerns him. Mr. Pelligrene stated he is here to tell you that he does not buy the smack talk excuse. Please consider approving an appropriate policy and it will be a policy that if you want to work with Forest Park that you will adhere to it. He asked the governing body to please come up with a sensible policy that



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ensures that safety of the public and city workers.

Samuel Ibanez – thanked the governing body for allowing him to speak. He stated it is a good idea to leave the guns in the cars, but also think about if you have it then it is at your own risk. Mr. Ibanez stated when it comes to recycling we need to make sure everyone understands it. Forest Park High School received a threat and he stated he spoke with the school officer and a student who stated it was reported but nothing was done and he is concerned about it. Mr. Ibanez asked the governing body to move the podium so he won't be looking at the speaker from behind.

Carl Evans – stated he would like to speak on the firearm issue. Just telling people to not bring the weapon just doesn't work. He stated if someone is mad you're not going to stop them. The policy that the fire department has is a very safe policy. The cameras and fence don't stop thefts. We need to use common sense because if you stop a law abiding citizen from carrying their guns in their cars back and forth to protect themselves and something happens to them, you will open yourself up to a gross negligence lawsuit. You can't violate a person's constitutional rights. It doesn't matter how many people you have it is not going to stop a person that wants to shoot, but at least protect yourselves from lawsuits.

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to group and approve the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2020. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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**Resolution for Adoption
Of Firearm Policy:**

Request was made to Consider the approval of a Resolution to adopt a policy with the respect to the possession of weapons by employees of the City of Forest Park.

Councilman Antoine made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells.

Councilwoman Wells stated she would like to respond to the comment made by Mr. Evans when he stated they should use common sense. She stated the governing body is using common sense even though there is a law against drinking and driving and people still do it, there are repercussions behind it. If you choose to do it then you suffer the consequences later. As far as the fire department and the policy who approved the policy. She didn't know that a department head could make up a policy without the Mayor and Council's approval and that is also something that they will need to look into.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Property Maintenance
Ordinance:**

Request was made to consider an Ordinance providing for the maintenance of property within the right-of-way.

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve this request. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Comments by Governing
Body:**

Councilwoman James thanked everyone for coming out and thanked them for their continued support and prayers.

Councilman Antoine stated he think it is very important that we take note about this ordinance that was tabled. He stated there are a



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lot laws that the general assembly pass that he doesn't agree with such as this gun law. This law states you can bring guns to church, bar etc. He stated what will be next bringing a gun to school. He stated as an educator that is the last thing he wants is teachers bringing guns to school. He stated he doesn't think guns should be that accessible to anyone. Mental issues are big issues.

Councilman Gutierrez stated he has a city phone now and would like to publically give his number out to everyone. He states the governing body will discuss the issues and make the best decisions for the employees and to make sure they are not violating anyone's rights. He stated he's glad that there was nothing to hectic that was voted on tonight because his last meeting was stressful. He is happy to see everyone that came out and if you have any questions please feel free to reach out. Councilman Gutierrez thanked the governing body and city staff for making him feel welcomed.

Councilwoman Wells thanked everyone for coming out and wished them a great night.

Councilman Mears thanked everyone for coming out and encouraged them to keep coming out because they need the continued support now and for years to come. He stated if you can't reach your Councilmember and you can reach another one, they all work together.

Mayor Butler thanked everyone for coming out tonight and stated she looks forward to seeing everyone out at the next meeting.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation, real



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estate and legal matters. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m.

Councilman James made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session @ 9:58 p.m. and reconvene the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Councilman Mears made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.