



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2019 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of November 18, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:00 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, Sandra Bagley, Latresa Wells and Allan Mears

Also present were City Manager Angela Redding, Director of Finance Ken Thompson, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Chief Buckholts, Chief Nathaniel Clark, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Director Recreation and Leisure Services Tarik Maxwell, Interim Director of Planning, Building and Zoning Mike Tuttle, City Clerk Shalonda Brown, City Attorney Michael Williams and Management Analyst LaShawn Gardiner

Comment Period:

Connie Robbins – stated she would like to commend Willie Freeman, who's over the senior center, for the good job he did at the Veteran's Memorial. There were a few glitches but he carried on and did a great job. She also thanked the Police Department. They graduated last Tuesday night and it was a big experience for them and they really enjoyed it. She encourages everyone to try and go through the Citizens Police Academy because it's worth it. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Karen Johnson – stated she has a few things and she wrote them down. She stated she would like to see the neighborhoods cleaned up and she likes the idea of not having boarded up houses, there aren't any around her house and she wouldn't want that either. She doesn't know



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what's involved in that but it sounds like a good idea. Ms. Johnson stated she's a little troubled about some of the things she's hearing because the citizens don't have any idea of what the governing body is talking about. She stated things are being read and voted on and the citizens have no idea. She stated as she is listening about the adult entertainment wanting to do other events, what other events they want to do. Do they just want to open their bar and invite everyone to start drinking or what? Are the citizens not worth more than that just to bring in just anybody who's going to bring in a couple bucks? Can't we find other businesses out there to bring in to attract other people to want to live here or to fix up our homes and neighborhoods and bring people in or do we want to just bring in a bunch of adult entertainment so they can bring in other businesses? She stated she doesn't understand that whole mentality. As far as the comment about teaching and letting the citizens in on what's going on and teaching the citizens about what the staff is doing that is transparency. Ms. Johnson stated no one is perfect and that's how we grow by sharing things. The one way you control people is by keeping them in the dark and that's what is happening. She stated she is offended by the nude comments. She indicated if you have heard or read anything on next door, there are some stories there. There are people who are long winded and have stories to tell.

Samuel Ibanez – stated he agrees with the young lady that just spoke. He advised the governing body to come down there and face the heat. He stated he is glad the voting is over. He hates to keep repeating this but he was accused to taking signs and having the police called. He stated he doesn't want anyone to resign and if you win, you win and if you lose, you lose. He wants everyone to start over. He wants the city



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to be different. He stated there was a situation in the past where he thinks Ward 2 and Ward 4 was laughing and he wondered how they could laugh at that situation, it was embarrassing. Mr. Ibanez sent blessings to everyone.

Lawanda Folami – Mayor Butler asked Ms. Folami to state her street number and she stated her street name but not the number. Ms. Folami stated she did not want to give out her address for her personal reasons. Mayor Butler advised Ms. Folami that she needs to list it on the Public Comment Sheet. Ms. Folami stated no disrespect to the Chair, but it is not in a privacy status and she doesn't know who can go look at the book and see her address. She stated she is not fearful however she feels the governing body really needs to look at that a little closer about disclosing addresses. Mike Williams stated it is his understanding the reason we've asked for the address is to assure they are Forest Park residents. That is a decision that can be made by the Chair as to whether not that condition has been met. Mayor Butler advised Ms. Folami she will have the officer bring her the book to add her house number. Ms. Folami added her info.

Ms. Folami stated she comes before everyone this evening to change the motion and atmosphere of the chamber. They are doing an environmental assessment with the students at Forest Park High School. She stated she is very proud of the students. She stated she will allow Councilwoman James to elaborate more on it during her closing comments because they will do a presentation this week. She wanted to thank LaShawn Gardiner who is forming together the Census program for the community. The first meeting was very outstanding. They did a lot of brainstorming and it is going to be a good program so we can find out how many



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residents we do have in these households. She stated there are some things that are really getting to be a nuisance. When an elected official attend functions and leave their title at home and disrespect our students, we have a problem with that. When any elected official goes out in the general public you signed up for 24 hours. When an elected official goes to a high school and uses the “F” word constantly and then be asked to be removed from the school and banned from the school that has to be stopped. It’s going to come a time in life when the race is going to be over. You have to maintain your character at all times because you are representing the citizens. Ms. Folami stated she is going to piggyback off of the last constituent because we don’t have a clue of what the governing body is talking about. She stated sometimes we feel you all don’t know what you’re talking about. But when we come we become the uncorrupted and we’re wrong; when you all are wrong then you’re right. She stated Councilman Antoine is really out of order right now and you will reap what you sow. She stated when you direct a question to me I will remove myself from this chamber to correct you. We are grown and Ms. Folami stated she yields her time.

Dennis Reed – stated he has been in the city for less than a year now and he saw the elections go on and Councilwoman James at the high school. One thing he’s noticing is that this is a good community and it is growing exponentially and they would like to help do that as well. He stated they have a business down the street. He stated they are here about the family fun friendly activities and they would like to everything they can to incorporate those ideas. He stated we should go out in the community and find out what the young community wants



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and see where they want to go with this because it's really their community not ours.

Approval of the Minutes:

Councilwoman James made a motion to group and approve the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Proclamation Presented to Willie Rodney Finch:

Councilwoman Wells stated she met Mr. Finch some years ago and been knowing his family, grew up with some of nieces and nephews and the stories she was hearing, she's surprised that he was not already recognized for the work that he has done in our community and the changes he helped make in our community. She stated if it wasn't for Mr. Finch that paved the way for a lot of black kids in Forest Park; her son would not have the opportunity to be one of the number one players in Clayton County. She stated he paved the way for a lot of kids and it is his time to be recognized. The Proclamation was presented to Mr. Willie Rodney Finch.

Proclamation Presented to Gerald A. "Jerry" Murphy

Mayor Angelyne Butler presented the Proclamation to Mr. Gerald A. "Jerry" Murphy of Murphy & Orr. Murphy & Orr was established in 1946 and is one of the nation's oldest exhibit producers. Gerald A. "Jerry" Murphy joined the Management at Murphy & Orr and became president in 1988. Mrs. Redding stated that Mr. Murphy designed the new Council Chambers.

Recognition of Public Safety Official of the Year:

Chief Clark stated he has the honor and the privilege of recognizing the Public Safety Official of the Year. He stated a lot of people applied for this great award and it gives us great honor and the citizens should be proud because the honoree is in the house, Officer Gonzalez. Officer Gonzalez stated he is not very good at speeches. He stated he was honored that the Chief even nominated him for the award. He



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stated he was honored to represent the City of Forest Park in front of the entire county and he won for the entire county. Officer Gonzalez stated he has been with the City for 10 years, grew up here and went to school at Clayton State. He stated he really enjoys what he does and being a part of this community. Officer Gonzalez commended the governing body for what they do.

**Confirmation of Planning
Building and Zoning
Director:**

Councilman Mears made a motion to confirm Mike Tuttle as the Director of Planning Building and Zoning. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was: Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. Voting against the motion was Councilman Antoine. Councilwoman Wells abstained. The motion passed.

**Confirmation of Economic
Development Director:**

Councilman Mears made a motion to confirm Mr. Abraham Bruce as the Director of Economic Development. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Ordinance with Respect to
The Sale of Businesses:**

A request was made to consider an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia clarifying Ordinance with the respect to the sale of businesses subject to the occupation tax.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Request to Re-schedule the
1st Council Meeting in
December:**

Mayor Butler asked the governing body was it their desire to have only one meeting December. Councilwoman Wells stated she think the governing gets paid to hold 2 meetings and that's what they should do. Councilman Antoine asked the recommendation was.



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Councilwoman Wells replied December 3, 2019. Mayor Butler stated during the discussion during the Work Session Councilwoman James is the only one that said anything. Mayor Butler asked the desire of the council. Councilwoman James stated she is fine with one meeting but if we need to have more. She stated she is open. Councilman Antoine apologized and stated he didn't know that it wasn't something with any substance behind it.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to hold the 1st meeting of Mayor & Council on Tuesday, December 3, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Ordinance to allow
Non-Adult
Entertainment Events:**

A request was made to consider an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia to allow Adult Entertainment establishments to conduct non-adult entertainment events.

Councilman Antoine made a motion to approve the Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Councilwoman Wells stated she wanted to clear some things up because a couple of the citizens made the comment that this is not what we would like to be known for. She wants it to be known that this business is already here and it's not like we are bringing more of these types of businesses into the city they are already here.

Voting for motion was: Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Antoine. Voting against the motion was: Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. The motion failed.



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**Resolution to Declare
City Property as Surplus:**

A request was made to consider a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Forest Park declaring certain city property listed on “Exhibit A” to be surplus property and to provide for its proper disposal by auction or other methods pursuant to the city.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Ordinance with Respect
To the Regulation of the
Boarding of Doors
and Windows:**

A request was made to consider an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest with respect to the Regulation of the boarding of doors and windows.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to table this item until the corrections are made. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Approval of Forest
Park 101:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve Forest Park 101. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was: Councilwoman Bagley, Councilwoman James and Councilman Mears. Voting against the motion was: Councilman Antoine and Councilwoman Wells. The motion passed.

**Resolution to Apply for
HUD funding through
CDBG:**

A request was made to consider a Resolution by Mayor and City Council of Forest Park, GA to apply for HUD Funding through the Community Development Block Grant for Public Infrastructure improvements on various streets and to accept the HUD Funding through the CDBG one it becomes available.

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



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**Governing Body
Comments:**

Councilwoman James – stated to the residents when they come to the microphone they don't have to say their whole address. She doesn't feel comfortable with someone stating their whole address; as long as it is written in the box we have it. Councilwoman James stated she would also like to get more information on Next Door. She thanked everyone for coming out and wished them a wonderful Thanksgiving and to enjoy family and friends. There are a lot of churches that will be serving meals, so if you can volunteer that would be a great thing to do.

Councilman Antoine – welcomed everyone and urged the ones that are coming to keep coming because this is your city. He stated they try to make this city into a family setting. This is a new day in Forest Park and he would like to congratulate Councilwoman Wells and Hector Gutierrez for their victorious win. Councilman Antoine stated last but not least, those that come up here and bring negativity. He stated watch the news and there is so much negative. He said pray. If you have positive ideas, this is what they want to hear because they don't know it all up there. Come with some ideas that are going to make this City continue thriving. At the end of the day we will not be here because we are getting older. Councilman Antoine stated he comes here so generations can benefit. We can go anywhere to hear negativity. Bring positive so your grandkids and great grandkids can grow up in this city. He thanked everyone again for coming and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilwoman Bagley – thanked everyone that came out as well. Just remember that Thanksgiving is upon us and for those that are not as fortunate, just know that everybody has different circumstances. You may see the outer but you don't know what is going on with that



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person. The easy way to do it is just be kind. Remember those that are less fortunate because we do have a lot. We are making progress, but there is still a long way to go. Councilwoman Bagley stated welcomed the new directors. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to please be safe.

Councilwoman Wells – thanked everyone for coming out. She thanked Rodney Finch and everyone else that was recognized including our photographer for the Police Department. She stated she wanted to address a few things:

On December 7, 2019, she stated that Robin Kemp brought up the idea on Next Door (which is not just for negative stuff it'd actually a good thing now since the election is over. People were using it as a political platform). Ms. Kemp thought of the idea of a community potluck. Councilwoman Wells stated she jumped onboard because it is an amazing idea and something positive to bring our community together. On December 7th there will be a community potluck at the Community Center on 696 Main Street.

Councilwoman Wells stated she also wanted to mention about the “F” word. She stated that is so far from the truth and if you go to the school you can see the video to see and hear everything for yourself. She stated she will not go into details and she is a parent will continue to say that. She is a mom before she is anything to anybody else. When it comes to her kids she will protect them because that is her job. She stated if anyone wants to know the truth and see the truth it is all open records and request it from the school like her husband did. She wished a happy holiday to everyone and may blessings be bestowed up their families. She stated if you want better you have to do better. If you want positivity to come out you have to



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put positivity in. If you don't have anything positive to say don't say anything it's not going to hurt you. The people that get everyone riled up and then leave that should speak volume. She wished everyone a happy holiday again.

Councilman Mears – thanked everyone for coming out. He congratulated everyone that received the Proclamations and the Officer that was recognized. I wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and don't eat too much.

Councilwoman James - stated she forgot to mention about the Environmental Club. It is a club that some of the high school students participated in. They are trying to find ways to be sustainable and to help our environment. In fact their flyers states "Keep the Environment Safe Today so Future Generations Won't Have to Pay". She stated they did a whole survey and Representative Stovall and others from the community came out. Councilwoman James stated they will be presenting on Thursday at a Church in Forest Park (Damascus Church International on Jonesboro Road). She stated they are very proud of what the students are doing.

Executive Session:

Councilman Mears 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 Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session @ 7:41 p.m.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session @ 9:35 p.m. and reconvene the Regular Meeting. It was seconded



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by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Adjournment:

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