



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of October 7, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:02 p.m.

Councilman Antoine apologized to everyone stating the Mayor was very rude. Mayor Butler advised Councilman Antoine that he was out of order and advised him if he made one more outburst she will call for motion to have him removed.

Councilman Mears made a motion to remove Councilman Antoine from the meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion were: Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. Voting against the motion were: Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine and Councilwoman Wells. The motion failed.

Invocation:

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

Roll Call:

Mayor Angelyne Butler
Councilmembers: Dabouze Antoine, Kimberly James, 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 Eddie Buckholts, Chief Nathaniel Clark, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Deputy Director Recreation and Leisure Services Abbey Jones, Interim Director of Planning, Building and Zoning Mike Tuttle, City Clerk Shalonda Brown, City Attorney Michael Williams and Management Analyst LaShawn Gardiner.

Comment Period:

Samuel Ibanez – thanked everyone for their prayers during his illness. He invited everyone to



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

come to an event that will be held October 12, 2019 from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the National Mall on Jonesboro Road. He stated if anyone would like to bring candy etc., there will be approximately 10-15 piñatas. He stated it is time to vote and he wants everyone to do better.

Carl Evans – stated the citizens are getting tired of every meeting there are things that are said and done that's absolutely embarrassing. Mr. Evans stated they are tired of people acting like children and showing out. He stated the governing body needs to start acting like adults or resign and let people have the job who would appreciate it. He stated he wanted to know about somethings going on at Gillem. He asked how is it possible for a recreational area be sold to a company to be torn down and redeveloped as a commercial business; when this was designated a recreational area with a pavilion, picnic tables and fire pit that was supposed to be fixed, so the citizens could enjoy it and then it was sold without the citizens knowing about it. Mr. Evans stated it seems as though the governing body is hiding things instead of being open and transparent. He stated the citizens would like to be a part of the decisions that are being made.

Shantell Harris – stated as a resident of Forest Park she is angered and outraged. Ms. Harris stated we need a change for the better. As she looks upon this board there is un-organization, confusion and separation. There are people that strongly care about election, people that respond to you when their election is near and there are others that could care less and won't return phone calls and their voicemails being full because it is not their time for elections. Ms. Harris stated what she is not seeing are results. She is frightened about what Forest Park would



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

be like if changes are not made. The governing body works for the residents of Forest Park and you never know who you will come in contact with. Ms. Harris stated this panel passes laws without the knowledge of the law. She asked out of curiosity why there is a city tax and a state tax. The only things additional that she gets in Forest Park are fees. Ms. Harris challenged the entire boards that if they are not willing to put the residents of Forest Park first please step down. She stated she would like to be proud of her city and she feels that a change should be made overall in Forest Park and hopefully it is a change for the better.

Ms. Okunoren – thanked Councilman Mears for coming out trying to help reach a resolution. When he came he wanted to see the work that was being done with the children. She stated it's not just about the children, it is about the community. They want a healthy Forest Park. She stated they have items that are lacking in some stores which are healthy organic foods. Families don't have a choice except get what they see in the stores. She stated the program that they have is evolving for the nation.

LaWanda Folami – started with a song "A Charge to Keep I Have". Ms. Folami stated she had to moan that song because a councilperson literally cursed her, so she had to get that out of her spirit. Ms. Folami stated she comes this evening with great news. She invited United Methodist to come here because there is a much bigger concern than an elective official that can't carry themselves in professional manner. She asked the governing body to please look at the grave sites on Conley Road so they can get to the root of the problem. Ms. Folami stated her along with Ms. Protho and Ms. Adams worked on this project and they have a lot of good information about this site. This site is a historical site. She



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

stated it has been too long for people to go out to a site and don't know who actually owns the site. Ms. Folami stated on another note, in spite of what one may feel in their heart you must learn to yield yourself to get business done. She stated it is the job of an elected official to represent themselves at all times.

Mrs. Redding advised Ms. Folami that she has met with the group and they are working on a clean-up for the cemetery. The date is November 14th and information will be sent out asking for volunteers to assist. Ms. Folami thanked Mrs. Redding.

Steve Bernard – stated he is a business owner in Forest Park and his purpose of speaking tonight is to let the governing body know that there is a public restroom that will be built in the middle of downtown Forest Park. He stated he has talked with a lot of businesses along Main Street and they are not happy with that decision. He stated he is all about the growth of Forest Park. Mr. Bernard stated putting the bathroom in the middle of the city will not be conducive with the plans they have for the city. He stated whatever purpose the bathroom was designed for, they should try to come up with some type of compromise to get this accomplished. He stated he just wanted to bring this to the governing body's attention.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman James asked that the minutes be held so they can be further reviewed. Councilwoman James made a motion to table the Special Called minutes of September 11th and September 16th until the next regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Public Hearing:

Councilman Mears made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter into Public Hearing for the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Public Comments in favor
Of the grant**

Samuel Ibanez – he stated he is in favor of the grant and feels it would be good for the community and the officers.

LaWanda Folami – stated she is all in favor for the grant however she thinks the amount should have been higher. This is must needed as well as other grants are needed in the city. She stated she would never go against anything for the justice system because her sole reason for moving to this city was because of the police department. Ms. Folami stated again she wished the amount was greater.

Carl Evans – stated he agrees with the purpose of the grant. He stated all of the officers have to go through driver training at the academy and to have a machine inhouse to do ongoing training and avoiding them driving around in a field somewhere is a definite plus. The more training, they get it will be a big plus and help keep the citizens safe. He thanked them for finding that grant.

Opposition of the Grant:

There were no comments.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting it was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

**Presentation to Finance
Department:**

Mayor Butler asked Ken Thompson and his staff to come forward to be recognized for their



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

excellent financial reporting. The City of Forest Park has been awarded this certificate for every submission of the annual financial reporting for the past 39 consecutive years.

**Director of Recreation
& Leisure Services**

Mrs. Redding asked Tarik Maxwell to come forward and introduce himself and give some background information. Mr. Maxwell stated he has been in Parks and Recreation in many different levels for about 10+ years and it is a passion of his and he doesn't see it as just a job but as a face and foundation of the community. When people come to your community the first thing they ask about is how your parks and recreation department is. He stated it bridges the gap of all ages in the community. Mr. Maxwell stated he is not only here for the kids, but the seniors as well. He has an open-door policy and will sit down and meet with anyone. He stated he is happy to be here and ready to get started.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve Tarik Maxwell as the new Director of Recreation and Leisure. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

**Ordinance Establishing
The Budgets for Special
Revenue Funds FY 19-20:**

A request was made to consider an Ordinance by the Governing Body of the City of Forest Park, GA establishing the Budgets for Special Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020.

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve this Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

**Ordinance Establishing 2019
Ad Valorem Millage Rate:**

A request was made to consider an Ordinance by the Governing Body of the City of Forest Park, GA establishing the Ad Valorem Millage Rate for 2019 in accordance with the State of Georgia



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Section 48-5-32. The proposed millage rate of 16.743 is the same as for 2018.

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve this Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried

Resolution for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice

A request was made to consider a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Forest Park to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Department of Justice for said Grant in the amount of \$13,673 for the purchase of one driving simulator.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve this Resolution. It was seconded by Councilman Mears.

Councilwoman Bagley asked Major Reynolds to explain this process and are there resources to get more funding. Major Reynolds stated the amount applied for is a set amount and you get no more or no less. Each jurisdiction that is eligible there is a set amount and it is based on the crime rate.

Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

Ordinance to Appropriate Funds for Salary Increase:

A Request was made to consider an Ordinance by the City Council of the City of Forest Park to appropriate funds for implementation of wage and salary increases for employees of the City pursuant to a wage and compensation study.

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve this ordinance. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

**Ordinance Banning
Donation Bins:**

A request was made to consider an Ordinance by the City Council of the City of Forest Park, GA banning donation bins.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve this Ordinance. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion were: Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. Voting against the motion were: Councilman Antoine and Councilwoman Wells. The motion carried.

**IGA with City of Forest
Park and DDA:**

A request was made to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Forest Park and the Downtown Development Authority providing for certain payments to be made by the DDA to the City of Forest Park.

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the IGA. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

**Reduce the DA Board:
Members:**

A request was made to reduce the number of members on the Development Authority board.

Councilwoman James made a motion to reduce the members on the Development Authority Board. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

**Resolution Declaring
Items Surplus:**

A request was made to consider a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Forest Park, GA declaring certain property listed on "Exhibit A" to be surplus property.

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



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Amended Agenda:

Analyst Position Approval: Councilwoman Wells made a motion to amend the agenda to add item 11 which is to approve the Analyst Position in the Police Department. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

Saturday Voting Hours: Councilwoman James made a motion to amend the agenda to add item 12 to extend the Saturday voting hours from 9am to 4pm.

Lois Wright asked the Chair could she speak. She stated that will not be determined by the governing body that is something that is determined by the Election Superintendent because she has to have staff. Ms. Wright stated she discussed it with the City manager and her time was going to be 9am – 1pm. Mayor Butler asked the City Attorney for clarity. Mr. Williams stated the governing body can make a directive as for the staff times he can't speak to that issue.

It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Councilman Antoine stated the election superintendent knows her job very well and she is advising the governing body the time should be 9am – 1pm because she knows her manpower. He stated she has to do the job not us.

Councilwoman James asked Ms. Wright why the time has to be 9am -1pm. Ms Wright stated that is the time she will have staff available to work. She stated advance voting is set by the state and when it comes to Saturday voting that is set by the elections superintendent. Councilwoman James asked what has been done in the past. Ms. Wright stated there has never been a Saturday election in the past. Ms. Wright stated she will try accommodating the governing body.



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Voting for the motion were: Councilwoman James and Councilwoman Bagley. Voting against the motion were Councilwoman Wells and Councilman Antoine. Councilman Mears abstained. Mayor Butler had to break the tie.

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the Saturday hours of 9am – 4pm. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley.

Councilwoman Wells asked how you can approve the hours without allowing the Elections Superintendent time to see will she have staff. She stated the governing body needs to wait to see what she can do before approving this item.

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

**Governing Body
Comments:**

Councilman Mears - thanked everyone for coming out. He stated they are trying to move forward and it is an election year and everyone needs to vote their conscientious.

Councilwoman Wells – thanked everyone for coming out. She stated she tries to stay away from negativity but it seems to follow her. As far as citizens making comments there are a lot of wolves in sheep clothing and don't be fooled by them singing church hymns. The main one doing that are the ones bringing negativity into the community. She wants everyone to be aware that if you are a Christian you don't have to do all of that. Funs Friday is October 18th please come out and leave the negativity behind. Councilwoman Wells stated she is not a politician because they lie to get what they want; she is



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Latresa Shaunte Akins Wells always. She stated for the resident that stated she cursed at them, tell her what she said. Councilwoman Wells stated she is going to continue to do her job for the community as she has done for the past 8 years and try to put the negativity behind her. If you are for your community and want your community to move forward be an example.

Councilwoman Bagley – thanked everyone for coming out and the FPPD for allowing the use of their building to hold the meeting. She stated the Council Chambers is being renovated and she's hoping that we are back there for the next meeting. Councilwoman Bagley stated keep in mind it is an election year but it should not be about politics it should be about public service to the city and everyone in it. She stated she was not the one to bring up Saturday voting however if we are trying to get more people out to vote and concerned about the census then we have to allow them to get out. Everyone can't vote Monday – Friday, absentee ballots or early voting. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilwoman James – thanked everyone for coming out. She stated she wanted to address some of the changes you see going on in Forest Park. There are plans changes that are happening at Gillem and she thinks the changes that are happening are for the good. She stated we have a great Starr Park master plan that the governing body has approved. Councilwoman James stated the comment about the bathroom, she had no idea about that and thanks for bringing it to her attention and they will try to figure out what is going on with that. She said it is ok to disagree as long as they can get pass it. They all are individuals and have individual ways of handling things and just need to tolerate one another and move pass it and work together. That is her goal and she really believes that



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

everyone wants the best for the city. Councilwoman James stated she agrees with Councilman Mears that we are not trying to take away what the students are learning. We are moving towards organics etc. and she doesn't want to have everyone that has a garden put up for sale sign up in the city, so you have to have some type of regulation in place. The way the city was portrayed as not wanting the students to learn about vegetation and growing their own vegetables is not true at all. She stated kudos to our code enforcement staff for finding things and bringing them to our attention to address. We are either going to move the city forward, get the staff that we need, make the corrections that we need to make in the city or we will stay in the past. She extended the invite to be a part of the complete count committee and she has sent the information out to all of her constituents.

Councilman Antoine- thanked everyone for coming out. He welcomed Tarik Maxwell to the city. He stated he is one of the members that come to the gym to play basketball. He advised the residents that may not know the fee for residents is free for the recreational center.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman James made a motion to recess the regular meeting and enter into executive session to discuss personnel, real estate and litigation matters. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The governing body entered into Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session @ 8:58 p.m. and reconvene into the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

**Recording of Executive
Session Approval:**

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the recording of Executive Sessions. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the Motion were: Councilman Mears and Councilwoman Bagley. Voting against the motion were: Councilman Antoine, Councilwoman James and Councilwoman Wells. The motion failed.

**Police Chief Contact
Amendment:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to amend the Chief of Police Contract to provide education incentive pay and to receive the same benefits as other department heads. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. It seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.