



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of September 16, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:04 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Minister Cooke 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, Major Joel Turner, 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:

Julia Virginia Wise – stated she is a resident of Forest Park for almost 4 years. She stated she has come to express a deep concern and passion that has been in her heart for several years concerning the removal of cursive writing from the curriculum of our public schools. She stated it seems as though our signature has become obsolete and no longer necessary. Ms. Wise stated she realizes that technology is taking over; however no computer can sign your name. She stated it may seem insignificant to some but she feels that it is imperative that we restore this method of writing for our children. Ms. Wise asked the governing body to be the first to take this matter into consideration. She proposes we



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reinstate cursive writing and put it on the classroom agenda if only for once a week for 15 minutes or in an afterschool program.

Carl Evans – stated with regards to Government Day, they did the exact same thing several years ago with the Forest Park Teen Council and it was a success. The students learned a lot from the people they were shadowing. Mr. Evans stated we need to get our citizens involved. He stated the walkway is getting worse and Public Works repaired some bad places, but there are a lot of loose bricks and dents. He stated he is worried about someone tripping and falling. Mr. Evans stated there are also a lot of sidewalks in the city that are not ADA compliant and something needs to be done to address those issues. He stated Public Works would be glad to do it if they had a big enough budget to work with. Mr. Evans stated we need businesses and things to generate revenue because this city does run off of tax revenue, business licenses and sanitation fees that is how you get the money to operate. He stated there are still a lot of empty buildings out here on Main Street and Main Street is one of the places that don't have sidewalks from one end to the other and it should have sidewalks.

Yasmin Julio – stated there will be an event coming up called Hispanifest that will be held on September 29th at Starr Park from 12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m. and is free to everyone. She stated being a member of the Hispanic community she invites everyone to come out and she wants everyone to feel like it is a cultural diverse event for everyone. Mrs. Julio stated she would like to make a comment in regards to the agenda contents that are placed on the website. She stated the residents are not seeing what the governing body is making a motion on, especially the Waste Management Contract that has a



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buyout clause the citizens would like to see that. She stated that is her recommendation to have that added because it is public information anyway and there are other cities and counties that currently have an agenda packet that includes everything that will be discussed added to the website. She stated finally she would like to let everyone know that Samuel Ibanez is in the hospital and she asked everyone for their prayers.

Karen Johnson – stated she appreciates the grass being cut and the field being cut behind their houses, however the noise is still starting at 3:00 -3:30 a.m. in the morning. She asked if they could please do something about that and at this point she doesn't know what can be done maybe sound barriers or start their work later. She stated she is also thinking about Samuel Ibanez. Ms. Johnson stated she heard the mention of rats and she has a friend, who is not in this community, however he was just recently diagnosed with meningitis & hepatitis and the doctors finally realized it was from rat urine (exposure to urine).

Councilwoman Akins-Wells – stated she has a question because at the last meeting Waste Management indicated the noise was not supposed to start until 6:00 a.m. effective that Monday. Alan Owens stated when they say noise; they changed in which there was no activity in the transfer station. He stated anything on Cash Memorial they cannot control. Their workers don't start until 6:00 a.m. in the transfer station. The drivers do come and get their trucks and leave, so there are no employees inside of the transfer station. Mr. Owens stated he would like for the resident to meet him over at the transfer station so that she can see it is not just waste management, but from a noise aspect there are trucks up and down the industrial



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zoning area that's on Lamar Drive and Cash Memorial. Mr. Owens stated to Councilwoman Wells they did make that change within the employees and it has been a week.

Dianne Lunsford – stated she witnessed the parade and it was a small group, but it was effective. She stated it could have been organized better. Ann & Bill's restaurant before the parade, you could not get into the parking lot because there were students, parents and band instruments everywhere and it shooed away a lot of their customers. Mrs. Lunsford stated that a central place where they can park and congregate before the parade starts that would be a lot better because Ann & Bills are still open and they want their customers especially the elderly ones that like their breakfast. She stated this kind of concerns her; there were a group of girls in the parade who were behind the Clayton County Police Car that was dancing like a bunch of "Hoochie Mommas". She stated if they are taught that dance in the school then we need to have a better curriculum, unless they plan on going to one of the establishments on Jonesboro Road.

JoAnne Thomas – stated she witnessed something last Monday and that is the streets. Forest Park doesn't want to fix it and put the blame on Kennon Brothers and that is not the Kennon Brothers property. She asked will you please do something about their streets. Ms. Thomas stated when the Fire Trucks and School Bus come on to their streets they are bouncing around. She asked will they please help with those streets. Ms. Thomas indicated they also have rat problems and they are not mice and you can see them coming across the street at night. She stated the streets are in such bad shape and they can get arrested on those streets, but no one wants to come and fix them.



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Shantell Harris - stated she wanted to comment on some of the things that she has sat in the meetings and witnessed as far as moving Waste Management into another neighborhood. She stated she is firmly against that and no one in any neighborhood would like to experience that. Ms. Harris stated as a former Environmental Science major cancelling recycling is not a good idea because in the long run it will create more havoc to the environment and the citizens here in Forest Park. Ms. Harris stated she has another concern that at her home there are bogus claims from Public Works saying they need 10 people and a dump truck on less than an acre of land in which she seriously doubts. She has tried to get this resolved, but has had no luck and hopefully she will see some results.

Shelly Gawel – stated she would like to finish reading what Mrs. Julia Virginia Wise was reading during her comments. “If this program would be open to everyone at this point who wants to learn how to write their name and read cursive writing, it may not have occurred to you that most of the historical documents of our nation are written in cursive and as a concerned citizen of Georgia she employs this is enacted upon for the future good of the children, state and our nation”. Ms. Gawel stated she supports Mrs. Wise and the cursive writing and they have visited a couple schools & organizations and will continue to do so. Another concern she has is Mr. Yao being denied a business in Forest Park. She stated if we are hurting for money why businesses would be turned down. She also supports Mr. Mears regarding going into debt for 6 weeks and why wasn’t the new rate negotiated to start in January. She loves recycling and hopes that it is not done away with.



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**Approval of Minutes:
Agenda Items:**

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve approve Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes of September 3, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous. The motion carried.

Proclamation Presentation: Mayor Butler stated this item will be tabled.

**Consider Agreement with
The City of Forest Park &
Motorola Solutions, Inc.**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the agreement with the City of Forest Park and Motorola Solutions, Inc. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider Suspending the
Tuition Reimbursement
Program:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve suspending the tuition reimbursement program for the employees in the Police Department. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider Revision to the
Police Department
Education Incentives:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to approve the revision to the Police Department Education Incentives. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider Approval of
Residential Sanitation
Pricing:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve residential sanitation pricing beginning January 2020. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion were: Councilwoman James, Councilman Mears and Councilman Antoine. Councilwoman Wells and Councilwoman Bagley both abstained. The motion carried.

**Consider Approval of
Government Day:**

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve Government Day. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consider Approval of
Option 2 of the CCCS:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to allow the City Attorney to draft a possible budget amendment for the next Council Meeting. It was



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seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Governing Body
Comments:**

Councilman Mears - He stated he's glad to see everyone and they are working hard get things right with Waste Management and our employees.

Councilwoman Wells - stated she has a few comments. She stated to Ms. Thomas we have to hold elected officials accountable because if things like that occurred in her Ward she's on top of those things. She suggested Ms. Thomas reaches out to her Councilmember. Councilwoman Wells stated she would like to address the "Hoochie Momma" comment. She stated it is very embarrassing for someone to get up and make these types of comments on children. She stated it takes a village to raise kids, so if you see something like that happening instead of coming to a public meeting discussing it, pull that child to the side and see what you can do to help them. To bash children at a council meeting in which we are here to handle city business says a lot about individuals who feel like that. Councilwoman Wells reminded everyone about Fun Friday and invited everyone to come out from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and there will be different vendors present.

Councilwoman Bagley – stated she has been in touch with Ms. Thomas successfully, so it is not a problem with her elected official not trying to help her. She stated they have reached out to Jeff Eady (Public Works) and we found out that we don't have the rights to go on this private property because the property is leased by the Kennon Brothers. The streets are listed as city streets; however we can't go on their property and fixed these streets. She stated she has been working with Ms. Thomas to try and remedy this.



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The property is owned by the URA and it is nothing like the Mayor and Council can go over there and fix these streets. She suggested maybe we should get the Kennon Brothers here and have them address us as a whole in a public forum because they are not returning any calls. Councilwoman Bagley stated her and the Mayor had the honor and privilege of being invited to the Gillem Enclave. There was a change of the 3rd Medical Command and they got the chance to experience on the Parade Field, they got the chance to experience everything and it was very moving and very befitting that it happened the week of 911. She stated it was a blessing to be a part of this event. Councilwoman Bagley thanked everyone for coming out and she asked that everyone keeps Mr. Ibanez in their prayers.

Councilwoman James – thanked everyone for coming out. She stated she would like to comment about the cursive writing. She invited Ms. Wise to School Board Meetings on the 1st & 3rd Mondays and the Superintendent will certainly hear the comments about that. She stated she supports her and she actually home schooled her kids and they all know how to write in cursive because she taught them. She thanked Mrs. Lunsford for her comment on the parade and they are going to work on not hindering the parking at Ann & Bill's. She stated it is a hiccup in the road but they will take care of that. Councilwoman James stated she wanted to recognize one of the living legends in the building, Dr. Leon Beeler was recognized at the Forest Park Ministers Association Living Legends Banquet. She stated he has done some great things in Forest Park and continues to do great things.

Councilman Antoine – thanked everyone for coming out. He stated he's on Facebook and



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can be added as a friend. He stated if anyone needs him please reach out to him.

Mayor Butler – thanked everyone for coming out and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next council meeting.

Executive Session:

Councilwoman Bagley 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 7:37 p.m.

Councilman Antoine left Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

Councilman Mears made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session @ 9:00 p.m. and reconvene into the Regular Meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Adjournment:

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