

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF MAY 18, 2015

- Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of May 18, 2015 was called to order by Mayor David Lockhart at 7:00 p.m.
- Invocation: The invocation was given by Rev. Leon Beeler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
- Roll Call: Mayor David Lockhart and Councilmembers Latresa Akins, Dabouze Antoine, Maudie McCord, Linda Lord and Tommy Smith.

Also present were City Manager Frank Brandon, Director of Finance Mike Blandenburg, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Chief Dwayne Hobbs, Management Analyst Angela Redding, Chief Eddie Buckholts, and City Attorney William Denmark.

- Approval of Minutes: Ms. Akins made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of May 4, 2015 and the meetings of May 11 and May 13, 2015, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

- Comment Period: Sandra Bagley – reminded everyone to appreciate the officers. She stated while living here, she has had to call upon all the departments and always has gotten really good results. She stated we shouldn't get into a squabble who is worth more and everyone is valuable. She also asked if there could be mosquito spraying on her street and also look at the property in the 1300 block of Waverly Drive and clean that up.

Pamela Lake – stated she is happy to see the Mayor has given his support to the full staff in terms of a raise. She also stated the Police Departments doing a good job, but as opposed to them getting a raise, that we should consider a raise for all city employees, in particular in the Sanitation Department. She stated we should think about them all getting one raise, and a 4% across the board raise is an equitable way to do that.

Lawanda Folomi – stated one reason she moved to Forest Park was because of public safety. She stated she is supporting what the Mayor is doing for the officers and that would bring a better class of officers to serve and protect. She felt they are not getting the substantial pay they should be, because they have a high risk position. She also stated she felt not everyone should get a raise, but those who have put in the time and had evaluations should qualify for the raise.

Jasmine Hulio – invited everyone to the Forest Park Kiwanis Club for the annual spaghetti dinner on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Recess: Ms. Lord made a motion to recess for a public hearing, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Public Hearing: Ms. Akins made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Ms. Lord. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Mayor Lockhart opened the Public Hearing to receive comments on proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Dianne Lunsford – she asked wasn't the \$750 bonus enough that was given several months ago. She felt it was extravagant and others thought so too. Now a few feel Public Works should have more of a raise than other departments. She stated a pay raise for police officers against a better raise for public works, both are great departments. We don't have enough police officers to keep our streets safe, because they leave after a couple of years because our pay is not in line with other cities. She said we should give the blue collars of the police department a raise and leave management (white collar) alone. In light of the huge bonus, leave all other salaries as is.

Jasmine Hulio – stated there was a study done and nothing ever came from that. Mayor Lockhart stated it showed that we have deficiencies in our pay in every department. Compared to the budget we have, we don't have the income without increasing the tax rate to bring it in line.

Lawanda Folomi – felt the police officers should get an increase because of the public service they do and we want to initiate others to come join our force so our pay needs to

come up and be compatible. She stated they go over and beyond the call of duty. She stated raises should be given by work performance and evaluations. She stated this is why she moved to Forest Park, because of the Police Department.

Sandra Bagley – stated she has called officers on numerous occasions, including Fire and EMT's. She stated she personally doesn't think we can pay the officers enough. She stated raises should be based on merit, but as far as the officers and firefighters, we can't pay them enough.

Roy Lunsford – stated these guys on a daily basis put their lives on the line for us, and you can't pay them enough to put their life on the line. He stated we should reward them with a raise. He stated if anyone gets anything extra, it should be public safety.

Keisha Crockett – asked if the raises had to be either or. She stated she appreciated the police and also public works. She stated it is sad that we don't have enough to give both raises.

Jasmine Hulio – asked if there was a way to divide the funds up with merit raises and let the Directors choose the percentage the employee gets, then they could both get it. Those that deserve it, would get a higher percentage.

Lawanda Folomi - stated we aren't saying departments aren't needing a raise, but we are saying we want to be more compatible and more in public safety and they need a raise.

Ms. McCord made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Proclamation: Mayor Lockhart presented the Director of Public Works along with Public Works employees, a proclamation for Public Works Week.

Ordinance: Request was made to consider an Ordinance to adopt the Budget for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Mr. Smith.

Ms. McCord stated when we first looked at the proposal, we talked about giving everybody a 4% raise and 2% for part-

time and then said we couldn't do just one department, but all of them. Now, we come back, and say we can't give a raise to everyone, the police department needs this money. She stated she looked at our budget and suggested that the ward money from each ward be removed and that money go towards a raise for the public works department.

Mayor Lockhart explained before council met on Monday night, the budget was revised. The original budget is what is before you for consideration tonight. Monday before Council met, we had revised figures to give an across the board raise of 4% and that 4% figure came from taking the increase away from the Police Department and defunding several police officer positions that we have, which is obviously not doable.

Ms. McCord made a motion to amend the budget by allocating council's ward money and distributing that into the Public Works Department for an across the board raise, seconded by Ms. Akins.

Ms. Lord stated she felt this was not enough to do them a lot of good and there are other departments who feel they are deserving of raises too.

Ms. Akins stated this could have been prevented if we had done the managerial assessment in the first place and you cannot say police officers are leaving only because of salaries. She stated with a managerial assessment, you will really see why some of the officers are leaving. She stated both departments need a raise and it shouldn't just go to one department.

Mayor Lockhart clarified this amendment is an on-going pay rate increase.

Voting for the amended proposed ordinance by allocating Mayor and Council's ward money to the public works department to be divided equally and increasing their pay rate were Ms. McCord and Mr. Smith. Voting against the motion were Ms. Lord, Mr. Antoine and Ms. Akins. The motion failed.

Ms. Lord stated we have other employees that deserve a raise just as much and this shows favoritism.

Mayor Lockhart called for a vote on the original motion to adopt the budget as presented. Voting for the motion were Mr. Smith, Ms. Lord and Ms. McCord. Voting against the motion were Ms. Akins and Mr. Antoine. The motion passed.

Ms. McCord stated she thought she was voting on the amendment and not the budget as it is stated on the agenda.

Ms. McCord made a motion to reconsider the vote, seconded by Ms. Akins. Voting for the motion were Mr. Antoine, Ms. Akins and Ms. McCord. Voting against the motion were Mr. Smith and Ms. Lord. The motion carried.

Ms. McCord stated she is not in agreement to voting yes on the budget as written.

Mayor Lockhart called for a vote to adopt the original budget as presented. Voting for the motion were Ms. Lord and Mr. Smith. Voting against the motion were Ms. Akins, Mr. Antoine and Ms. McCord. The motion failed.

Resolution:  
Surplus:

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 either by auction or other methods pursuant to the City's Ordinances; and for other purposes.

Ms. Lord made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Voting Delegate:

Ms. Akins made a motion to appoint Dabouze Antoine as the voting delegate to the Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention, seconded by Mr. Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Akins. Voting for the motion was unanimous.