

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of November 17, 2014 was called to order by Mayor David Lockhart at 7:20 p.m.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Mr. Barnett followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call: Mayor David Lockhart, Mayor Pro-tem Maudie McCord and Councilmembers Tommy Smith, Linda Lord, Dabouze Antoine and Latresa Akins.

Also present were City Manager Frank Brandon, Director of Finance Mike Blandenburg, Management Analyst Angela Redding, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Director of Planning and Zoning Al Wiggins, Deputy Director of Recreation and Parks Sharon Smith, Chief Dwayne Hobbs, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell and Mike Williams, City Attorney.

Mayor Lockhart asked that the recognition of the Babb Middle School football Team be placed first on the agenda.

Ms. Lord made a motion to amend the agenda and recognize Babb Middle School first on the agenda, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Proclamation: Mayor Lockhart presented the Babb Middle School Football Team with a proclamation for their winning season.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Akins made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session of November 3, 2014, the revised minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 3, 2014 and the Special Called Meeting of October 30, 2014, seconded by Mr. Dabouze. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Comment Period: Keisha Crockett - thanked the Mayor and Council for their willingness to take a situation and make it right. She also thanked the Mayor for responding to her e-mail so promptly. Ms. Crockett also thanked Tiffanie Byrd in business licenses

for her work with the City and helping to promote the businesses.

Carl Evans - stated he felt the City did not need a Public Relations employee and told Council it was their duty to spend the citizens money wisely.

Lawanda Folomi – she asked Council to consider when we have guests, to change the comment period. She said they are still taking away time the citizens have to speak due to the Executive Sessions.

Miriam White – stated she does not see participation like the Council is a team. She stated the Council shows division and we should all work together. She felt things on the agenda are not broken down so they can understand them. Having separate meetings is not fair, they have asked for a budget and felt they are not receiving information.

Forrest Webb – thanked the Police and Fire department and Al Wiggins for their service. He stated when you take action in censoring one of your colleagues budget, which has already been authorized, you could become liable. He said to censor one of your peers from gaining additional knowledge about other cultures and other individuals not represented here is disappointing. He said he was extremely disappointed.

Keep Forest
Park Beautiful:

Mr. Al Wiggins presented Forest Park First Primitive Baptist Church with the commercial Beautification Award.

Amendment to
Agenda:

Mr. Antoine made a motion to amend the agenda and add Item #3 to discuss the City Manager, 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. Akins made a motion that we terminate our current City Manager immediately and appoint Angela Redding as our Interim City Manager, seconded by Mr. Antoine.

Ms. Akins felt the City Manager has not been doing his job, he is arrogant, unprofessional attitude toward council. She said she has been trying to get a management assessment done and he does not want to get involved in major issues of the Public Works Department.

Mayor Lockhart stated Mr. Brandon has been doing an excellent job managing the City and we cannot afford to terminate him due to severance pay, and we are in the middle of Fort Gillem. He stated Fort Gillem still has unanswered questions as to what property maybe developed. He stated if the Army, EPD and EPA see a hint of crumbling government, he is not sure if we will see any more development at Fort Gillem.

Ms. Lord stated we should not let our egos and personalities get involved in the situation and we need to have stability and that will not come from getting rid of our City Manager or directors.

Mr. Antoine stated he has not shown professionalism and shows disrespect to the city council and refuses to handle racial incidents and has not followed Council directions.

Mr. Smith stated Mr. Brandon has been doing an excellent job and has no problem.

Ms. McCord stated we know the Mayor has the power to appoint new members to any committee at any time. We know the council may make inquiries and investigations into the affairs of the city and the conduct of any department. The Mayor and Council may individually make inquiries of any city employee concerning the operations of the City. She would like to see our employees come to work and not have to worry how they will pay the bills and take care of the needs of their family. She stated there is no excuse for this not happening. She said changes are going made in some of our departments, we will not see a massive change today but if we work together we can accomplish great things for our City, It will never happen if we cannot get together, discuss and plan and execute. She said we can move this city forward if we work on providing solutions rather than excuses. If we work together not only as a council but as a community, and we will not all agree on everything and we have that right to agree or disagree and we can do that and still respect each other. She said it is her desire to work toward creating a better relationship between city and employees to support the leadership of the city as long as the city is moving in a positive direction.

Voting for the motion were Ms. McCord, Ms. Akins and Mr. Antoine. Voting against the motion were Mr. Smith and Ms. Lord. The motion carried.

Mayor Lockhart explained this is effective immediately awaiting further action.

Mr. Brandon left the meeting.

Mr. Antoine asked if the Mayor has the right to veto this action. Mr. Williams stated he had answered that question in a memorandum that's attorney work product and would rather not at this point answer that publicly.

Alcohol
Renewals:

Request was made to consider the following:

RENEWAL OF RETAIL ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR BEER AND WINE

- Shree Gogajikrupa LLC, Parkway Bottle Shoppe, 11 Forest Parkway, no exceptions noted
- Mou Enterprises, Forest Park Food Mart, 4193 Jonesboro Road, no exceptions noted
- GJMMA, Inc. Buddy's Food Mart, 5891-A Ash Street, no exceptions noted
- SAB Mart, Inv. Piggly Wiggly, 4769 Jonesboro Road, no exceptions noted
- Old Dixie "C" Store, Inc., Texaco Food Mart, 5111 Old Dixie Highway, no exceptions noted

Ms. Lord made a motion that all of the renewal of retail alcohol licenses for beer and wine presented be approved, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Krachele
Agency:

Request was made to consider Krachele Agency as the vendor for the Christmas Parade T-shirts.

Ms. Akins made a motion to accept Krachele Agency as vendor for the Christmas Parade t-shirts, seconded by Mr. Antoine.

Ms. Lord stated we have a committee that has made their decision which was unanimous and we need to let this committee do what they were designated to do. Mr. Smith agreed.

Voting for the motion were Mr. Antoine and Ms. Akins. Voting against the motion were Ms. Lord and Mr. Smith. Mayor Lockhart voted against the motion to break the tie. The motion failed.

Public Relations- Request was made to discuss the hiring or retaining of a public relations staff member or consultant to assist the City of Forest Park with media and public relations.

Mr. Antoine made a motion to remove this item from the agenda, seconded by Ms. Lord. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Investigation of Public Works: Request was made to authorize investigation of the Public Works Department.

Ms. Lord made a motion to remove this item from the agenda, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion were Mr. Smith, Mr. Antoine, Ms. McCord and Ms. Lord. Voting against the motion was Ms. Akins. The motion carried.

Appointment Of Solicitor: Mr. Antoine made a motion to appoint Ms. Kristal Holmes as our new solicitor for the City of Forest Park, seconded by Ms. Akins. Voting for the motion were Ms. McCord, Mr. Antoine and Ms. Akins. Voting against the motion were Mr. Smith and Ms. Lord. The motion carried.

Adjournment: Ms. Akins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Lord. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

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