

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF DECEMBER 2, 2014

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of December 2, 2014 was called to order by Mayor David Lockhart at 7:15 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present were: 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, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Chief Dwayne Hobbs, Asst. Chief Tommy Orr, Major Jamie Reynolds, Deputy Fire Chief Matt Jackson, Chief Eddie Buckholts, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Deputy Director of Recreation and Leisure Services Sharon Smith, Management Analyst Angela Redding, Director of Planning and Zoning Al Wiggins, Executive Director of the URA Fred Bryant and City Attorney Winston Denmark.

Approval of minutes: Ms. Akins made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of November 17, 2014, seconded by Mr. Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Smith made a motion to amend the agenda and add the presentation to John Chafin, seconded by Mr. Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Brandon presented John Chafin with a Forest Park Blanket for being the Grand Marshal in the Forest Park Christmas Parade.

Comment Period: Sandra Bagley – stated council works for all the citizens of Forest Park and encouraged everyone to be reminded what the city has good to offer. She

commended the Forest Park officers and wants to focus on something positive. She stated there is a problem on Old Jonesboro Road for those that walk and no visibility for drivers and it should be looked at.

Sparkle Adams – stated Forest Park is a uniquely diverse city and she cared about the safety and security of the community. She also stated the parade was awesome.

Yasmin Julio – stated Marta is holding a public hearing Thursday at 112 Smith Street and public transportation is being provided. She also stated she felt the \$750 for a Christmas bonus is a lot for employees.

Lawanda Folomi – spoke about changes that have been made and agreed with the Christmas bonus. She stated abandoned homes are being taken care of in her neighborhood.

Brenda Adams – addressed Ms. McCord and stated she hoped she is not being lead in her decisions and hoped her decisions are in the best interest of the City.

State Representative Valencia Stovall – stated they are very excited Marta will be starting in March and public comments will be held Thursday and transportation is provided at the Recreation Center. She stated Legislative Delegation meetings will be held January 12th. She stated she has been approached about veto powers and asked the opinion of the City Attorney. She stated the Council would have to ask him to look into what is the rule, using Home Rule, which you would decide if the Charter needs to be changed or whether the delegation needs to look at it and present it to the General Assembly. She recommended that request be made so there can be clarity brought to this Body as well as the citizens.

Alfonzo Daggett – stated he owns First Class Ultra Lounge and thanked the City for giving him a chance to open his restaurant and lounge.

Presentation:

Mr. Al Wiggins presented Ms. Sylvia Crews with the Residential Beautification Award.

Renewal of alcohol
Licenses:
Quick Stop:

Request was made to consider the renewal of a retail alcohol license for beer and wine from Old Dixie Food & Gas, Inc. Quick Stop, 5428 Old Dixie Highway, no exceptions noted.

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

*Forest Park Speed
Food Mart:*

Request was made to consider the renewal of a retail alcohol license for beer and wine from Shuvo Enterprises, LLC, Forest Park Speed Food Mart, 868 Forest Parkway, no exceptions noted.

Mayor Lockhart recused himself from the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Mayor Pro-tem Maudie McCord presided over the meeting.

Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the renewal, seconded by Ms. Akins. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Mayor Lockhart returned to the meeting to preside.

Park Food Mart:

Request was made to consider the renewal of a retail alcohol license for beer and wine from Marshall Business Ventures, Inc. Park Food Mart, 4209 Jonesboro Road, no exceptions noted.

Ms. Akins made a motion to approve the renewal, seconded by Ms. McCord. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

First Class Ultra
Lounge & Restaurant-
Alcohol License/
Best Food Mart-
Retail Alcohol License:

Request was made to consider renewal of an On-Premises Consumption Alcohol License for Liquor, Beer and Wine from First Class Ultra Lounge & Restaurant, 5340 Old Dixie Road, no exceptions noted and the renewal (and location change) of a retail Alcohol License for beer only from Mint Trader, Inc. Best Food Mart, 4700 Jonesboro Road, no exceptions noted.

Ms. Lord made a motion to approve the renewal of the First Class Ultra Lounge & Restaurant and retail alcohol license for beer only from Mint Trader, seconded by Mr. Smith. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Christmas Bonus:

Request was made to consider Christmas Bonus in the amount of \$750 for all full time and part time employees.

Mr. Antoine made a motion to approve the Christmas bonus for all full and part time employees in the amount of \$750, seconded by Ms. Akins.

Ms. Akins understood that the bonus would actually be \$825 to take into consideration taxes, so the bonus would be \$750.

Mayor Lockhart stated what is necessary to get a net check of \$750 would be \$825.

Ms. Akins amended the original motion that the bonus be approved in the amount of \$825, seconded by Mr. Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Voting for the original motion to appropriate \$825 per employee for a one time Christmas bonus was unanimous.

Appointment of Solicitor:

Mr. Antoine made a motion to appoint Ms. Holmes as Solicitor of Forest Park.

Mayor Lockhart stated his motion was out of order because the City of Forest Park charter provides the method whereby the Council may undo the veto is with a motion to override, effective with four affirmative votes.

Mayor Lockhart explained he may make a motion to override the veto.

Mr. Denmark explained that the motion made at a previous meeting, was vetoed by the Mayor and under the Charter, if the Council wants to override the Mayor's veto, it requires four votes. He stated if the Council could simply bring the motion again at

another meeting without attempting to override the veto, it would be circumventing the veto power. He stated the appropriate thing to do is override the veto and if you can't override the veto, the matter is dead.

Mr. Antoine made a motion that we override the Mayor's veto by hiring Ms. Holmes as the City Solicitor, 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 failed.

Adjournment:

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