

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF MARCH 7, 2016

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of March 7, 2016 was called to order by Mayor David Lockhart at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Mayor David Lockhart and Councilmembers Tommy Smith, Dabouze Antoine, Sandra Bagley, Allan Mears and Latresa Akins.

Also present were City Manager Al Wiggins, Director of Finance Mike Blandenburg, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Director of Planning and Zoning Jonathan Jones, Major Jamie Reynolds, Chief Eddie Buckholts, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Management Analyst Angela Redding and City Attorney John O'Neal.

Mayor Lockhart stated this comment period is for residents to speak to Council but asked if Council was in favor of this, questions raised during this time can be responded to at the next meeting.

Comment Period: Lawanda Folomi – said on the northbound side of Jonesboro Road headed toward Thurmond Road, there are a lot of potholes and it causes cars to swerve making it a dangerous situation. She said the Retreat discussed would be beneficial and restore unity.

Maudie McCord – introduced everyone to a program called South Metro Family and Marriage Alliance. This program envisions a community where businesses, schools and government thrive because of the strength of the family. They are working to lower the divorce rate, raise the marriage rate, lower the rate of out of wedlock births and increase potential involvement in a child's life.

Pamela Lake – During the audit presentation, she stated she had questions regarding the uncollected funds to be turned over to the State. She asked what collection methods are

used for those situations and what does the State do with the funds once they are turned over to them?

Marcella Levy – she brought to the attention of Council, that trash is being dumped on Cynthia Lane at the top of Old Dixie and Cynthia Lane behind the Royal Mart store. It is becoming a dumping ground and she lives on this street. She is interested in beautifying the City and she sees cars parked in the yard, on the side of the yard and is concerned about her home value.

Proclamation: Mayor Lockhart presented a proclamation to members of the Forest Park Police Department Cadets and GirlsROCK! Program for their dedicated public service and commitment of law enforcement professionalism.

Mayor Lockhart presented Ms. Petula Samuels with a proclamation for her recognition in the Cricket Community, being named to the 2015 Cricket Hall of Fame.

Mayor Lockhart presented the Atlanta Regional Commission with a proclamation commending them for their assistance they provide and their continued efforts to aid us in enhancing the quality of life in the City.

Review of Main Street-Phase 2: Mayor Lockhart asked for a recess to speak with someone regarding the Main Street review. Ms. Akins made a motion to recess, seconded by Mr. Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

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

Mr. Wiggins stated Mr. Sidney Douse of ARC is present to discuss the Community Choices Grant the City was awarded. Since there have been some modifications made to the streetscape since this plan was put in place, he wanted to make sure the guidelines currently meet today's best practices. Mr. Douse was asked to look at our sign and mixed use zoning Ordinances and will present his report.

Mr. Douse stated he was asked to look at the Main Street overlay, how it is laid out, how its structured and see if it could be improved. He said one thing they did find was the overlay covers most of Main Street but also includes the

Forest Square shopping center. He suggested taking the shopping center out of it unless there is major redevelopment of the center in the future. He stated he looked at parking, and thought they could be made a bit more specific, vegetation standards in parking lot, architectural and design standards and recommended loosening up on the committed materials, windows and lighting requirements.

He stated in general, the City could consider backing off on some of the detail requirements. The comprehensive plan does mention the goal of mixing uses, providing housing options. The overlay district is set up that the underlying zoning permitted uses still hold, but the overlay standards are over the top. If the City considers multi-family housing that are not permitted in commercial zoning, the overlay still would not allow for that without changing the underlying zoning.

He presented ways to simplify the ordinance in regards to signage and housing options.

Main Street-
Streetscape-
Phase 2-

Ms. Angela Redding presented an update of the Main Street Streetscape, Phase 2, and presented 2 conceptual options for consideration.

She stated initially the project was designed for total acquisition of property located at 1141 Main Street. The property owners do not wish to sell, so other concepts were created.

She then presented 2 conceptual options for the City that would not acquire acquisition of right of way from 1141 Main Street.

Conceptual Option 1 - Main Street at Courtney will remain the same. Pros –

- Maintain the flow of traffic
- Eliminate the need to acquire right-of-way or construction easement from 1141 Main Street

Cons-

- Traffic safety
- Not pedestrian friendly
- Traffic eastbound on Courtney leaving the Post Office would need to access to Main Street

Conceptual Option 2 – Clean up the intersection at Main and Courtney but also provide an access street which would run behind 1141 Main Street. This provides a direct connection to Forest Square Shopping Center and provides for additional parallel parking on a one way access drive.

Pros –

- Redesigned intersection at Main Street and Courtney will improve the traffic
- Pedestrian friendly
- Provides for additional parking on Main Street
- Eliminate vehicular traffic cut through on the Wells Fargo property
- Eliminate the need to acquire right of way or construction easement from 1141 Main Street and provides a direct connection to Forest Square shopping center.

Cons –

- We would have to acquire the property directly behind 1141 Main Street.
- There is a potential impact on traffic at the stop control intersection
- Problematic left turn from the one way access drive

Mr. Wiggins discussed the two plans along with traffic patterns and issues. He felt Option 2 was the most beneficial and is the most pedestrian oriented. Mr. Wiggins asked Council to review these options and come back to finalize how we will realign the Courtney and Main Street intersection.

Appt. to
Planning
Commission:

Request was made to appoint a member to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Bagley made a motion to appoint Ms. Janice Colvin to the Planning Commission, seconded by Ms. Akins. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

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.

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

Adjournment: Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.