



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

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of January 7, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Dr. Beeler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

Mayor Angelyne Butler, Councilmembers, Kimberly James, Dabouze Antoine, Sandra Bagley, and Allan Mears

Councilwoman Latresa Wells present via conference call

Also present were City Manager Angela Redding, Director of Finance Ken Thompson, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Chief Eddie Buckholts, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services Elaine Corley, Interim Police Chief Reynolds, IT Director, Darren Duke, City Clerk Shalonda Brown and City Attorney Michael Williams

**Comment
Period:**

Carl Evans – stated he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year and know that he is praying for the city. He stated he hopes that 2019 is better than 2018 was and everyone can work together making the city prosper.

Ms. Mussington – wished everyone a Happy New Year and a prosperous New Year. She stated the last time she was present at a meeting she spoke on her discontent. She stated she got a call from someone that doesn't live in Forest Park about things that she said. She stated Councilman Antoine disclosed the information to that person. She stated she is not unapproachable therefore, if you have anything to say to her please come to her.

Mattie Hartsfield – she stated Councilman Antoine called her and told her he would meet with her. On



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

last night she stated he made the phone call and today is the Council meeting and she doesn't appreciate it. She stated she has questions about the Chief of Police salary and the Directors salary. She stated the city needs a Police Chief that is going to look out for the welfare of the citizens within the City.

Yvonna Taylor – stated she is speaking on behalf of her mother. Ms. Taylor stated she would like to know is there anything going to be put in place to govern how much rent is being charged to seniors. She stated to have someone be able to raise the rent up by \$200 is more than the 5% federal guideline. She wanted to know is there something that she can do to help facilitate programs geared to helping the seniors.

Samuel Ibanez – stated he agrees there needs to be a Chief of Police in place. Mr. Ibanez requested 1 minute of silence and asked everyone to hold hands in honor of all officers in the line of duty.

Representative Schofield – wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated the Legislative Session is starting on Monday, January 14, 2019. She stated she has an open door policy and can be reached at 404.656.0220 with any concerns you may have on the State level.

Representative Stovall – wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated she wanted to echo what her colleague had stated that Legislative Session starts Monday and they will all be sworn in for another term in office. She gave updates on items the City had come before the delegation with. Representative Stovall asked in June when the City received the advancement of the Grant for the Jet Fuel Tax and the money goes into an account that collects interest what does the city proposes to do with the interest that is earned. She also gave updates on items the Legislative Body is proposing. She advised everyone they may need their help as in the past to rally support to get items passed.



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

Councilman Antoine stated he has a question for Mrs. Redding. He stated one of the things that he has been fighting for is the Jet Fuel Tax and now that he knows that there is interest that will be collected he stated that's one of the things that he was proposing. Councilman Antoine stated he gets a lot of phone call from individuals that need food and energy assistance. He wanted to know could the interest be used to help these people.

Representative Stovall responded to his comment. She stated that will be a great idea and maybe the governing body could consider a grant program that can help the citizens. She suggested working with non-profits and getting a committee together to oversee the program.

Diane Lunsford – stated she wanted to know from the city attorney about an ethics question. Her concern is if there is a City Council member and she is married to a city employee and the governing body goes into Executive Session regarding personnel issues should she abstain from going into the session. She also wanted to know why the City has to go out looking for a Police Chief when they have able employees that work in the Police department. Lastly, she wanted to know if Lois Wright is the Election Superintendent.

Lawanda Folami – stated there was an incident in which she was called out of her name by Councilman Antoine and she doesn't feel that a Councilmember should address a citizen like that.

**Approval of
Minutes:**

Councilman Mears made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2018. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.



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

Agenda Items:

Councilman Antoine made a motion to move the Yard of the Quarter to the last Agenda Item. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem:

Councilman Mears made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Bagley as Mayor Pro-Tem. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Fence Project Award Approval:

Councilman Mears made a motion to accept this approval to award Natural Enclosures the fencing project at Kiwanis Stadium. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Ordinance to Authorize Temporary Loans:

Request was made to consider an Ordinance authorizing temporary loans by the City of Forest Park.

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

Resolution to Set Qualification Fees:

Request was made to consider a Resolution to set and publish qualification fees for the 2019 General Election for the Offices of Council Wards 3, 4, and 5.

Councilwoman James made a motion to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilman Mears. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilman Antoine asked what is the qualifying fee. Mrs. Redding stated the fee is \$612.

Resolution Naming Depositories for the City:

Request was made to consider a Resolution to name the depositories for funds of the City of Forest Park; authorizing withdrawals of said funds by check or draft; and naming the officers of said City authorized to sign checks or drafts.



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

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilwoman James.

Councilman Mears asked how many check signers does the city have currently. Mrs. Redding responded there are 2 people authorized to sign checks.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Resolution to Declare
City Property
Surplus:**

Request was made to consider a Resolution to declare certain city property surplus property and to provide for proper disposal.

Councilwoman Mears made a motion to approve the Resolution. It was seconded by Councilwoman James.

Councilman Mears stated usually the items are worn out but he wanted to know does anyone evaluate the value of the property before it's discarded. Mrs. Redding stated according to State Law anything valued \$500 or less could be thrown away. She stated some things like the chairs are in working condition, but the other items are just obsolete.

Councilwoman James stated the chairs the school received from the Public Works department which were surplus items were dirty, but they had someone to come in and clean them and they look beautiful.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Yard of the Quarter
Ward 2:**

Councilman Antoine presented Ms. Elaine Glenn with certificate of recognition for Yard of the Quarter Ward 2. Photos of her yard were displayed during the presentation of the award.

Governing Body

City Attorney Mike Williams stated the City's Ethics Ordinance provides whenever a complaint is filed the first thing that happens is that complaint is referred to the City's Attorney for an initial opinion. He stated it is inappropriate for him to give any advisory opinion on hypothetical in the absence of an actual complaint



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

being filed. He respectfully declined to answer the question.

Councilman Mears thanked everyone for being in attendance. He stated there are a lot of things they are trying to do for 2019 and he wants to make sure they are able to account for 99% of the revenue for the city. He stated that he is relieved with the findings for the audit and will wait on the results of the Forensic Audit.

Councilwoman Wells apologized for not being in attendance. She thanked everyone for coming out and wished them a Happy New Year. She stated she wanted to address the concerns of Mrs. Lunsford. She questioned how does she know what happens in the Executive Sessions. Next, she stated yes she is married to a City employee however when she speak on anything it is about the entire department. She advised individuals to stop being so negative and change who you are. She stated that her husband has put in his notice and will no longer be working for the City. She stated she will be having a community meeting for Ward 4 on January 17th at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Mrs. Redding stated Interim Police Chief Reynolds indicated the Neighborhood Watch meeting for January will be held at Gateway Restoration Church @ 6:00 pm.

Councilwoman Bagley wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked them for coming out. She stated that she prepared a written statement. She congratulated Sgt. And Mrs. Yermack of FPPD on the birth of their new daughter. She also sent out condolences to Officer Dewinter on the loss of his mother and to Forest Park Fire Capt. Batten on the loss of his mother-in-law. Councilwoman Bagley informed everyone on the passing of Michael Myers of NOPI. She stated the governing body seated before you has been in place for 1 full year. She stated she



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

has had several residents, business owners and even co-council members reach out to her and express some concerns that she would like to address publicly. Councilwoman Bagley asked that the Mayor and Council is provided with the following items on a monthly basis:

- FAA Update: Where are we at with fuel tax discussions?
- Listing of ALL City owned properties including: URA, Development Authority, Downtown Development Authority to include complete street address. (monthly)
- Ownership/Lease clarification for The Park at Gillem formerly known as Holland Park
- Forest Park Vacant Property and Land Bank Listings WITH OWNER information (monthly)
- Taj Mahal and Conley Road Apartment status
- Complete Business Permit Listing (Monthly)
- Copies of City Attorney Invoices (Monthly)
- Complete listing of all boards to include appointment/expiration term date and all minutes not just the agenda.
- Waste Management contract info: A number of complaints regarding the lack of service being received. Councilwoman Bagley suggests an RFP to see what other companies are available and best suit the needs of the residents and business owners.
- City Memberships: What is the cost and what is in it for the City? (Aerotropolis and NLC)
- Status of Interim Police Chief and PBZ Director: Where does the City stand procuring permanent replacements?
- Status of the Forensic Audit, HR Audit and Wage/Compensation Study?
- Status of property detail on 770 Main Street aka Theater?
- Grants: Complete listing of what the city has applied for, received, or been denied for in the past 12 months and year to date. Who applies?
- GMA: The City events are STILL not being listed



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

Status of Election Superintendent vs the County running elections. Councilwoman Bagley stated she would like to clarify her comments from the last meeting in which she stated it was understood that Mayor Butler would contact Clayton County to obtain cost information of the county handling elections versus City expense if we conduct our own. There was a nomination by Councilwoman James to appoint Lois Wright as Election Superintendent, even in the absence of Mayor Butler and the requested information from Clayton County. I advised during the discussion period tabling this appointment pending receipt of the information and the minutes reflect Councilman Mears had the same understanding that we were waiting to get information back from the county. The minutes reflect Councilwoman Wells stated in her opinion there has been not issues, so why change now. Councilwoman Bagley stated she was contacted last election by numerous residents confused about where to vote because the City and County both had elections. The motion was still voted on with the majority approved. However, the Mayor vetoed the appointment. Councilwoman Bagley stated she received a call from Councilwoman Wells asking to reconsider her vote and asking if there were personal reasons why she voted against Ms. Wright. She stated that she replied no and she was trying to be a good steward of the City's money. Councilwoman Bagley stated Councilwoman Wells asked her if she would speak with Ms. Wright and she stated she did and she advised Ms. Wright the same thing that it is strictly from a financial view and nothing personal.

Councilwoman Bagley stated there were several discussions between Mayor and Council regarding veto power, limitation of and authority to exercise. She stated rather than speaking after the fact, she advises Council to speak BEFORE the vote rather than trying to overturn it and start doing what is truly best for the residents who elected us including timely notification by the City Manager when emergency situations arise within the city to avoid us having to rely on word of mouth or social media. Lastly, Councilwoman Bagley



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

asked everyone to continue to support local businesses and welcome the new ones. She stated she would like to suggest a walk to pray for healing in the city. She stated as we start 2019 together please remember united we stand divided we fall.

Councilwoman James wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated she has been asked what is the city doing and some of her residents have complained about some of the things going on in the city. She stated she wanted to say publicly that she is proud of the employees that work for the City of Forest Park and we have been short staffed in a lot of areas. Councilwoman James stated when you see something like trash not being picked up and limbs etc.... please bring it to her attention. She stated Mr. Eady is very responsive and a lot of the problems are from renters and the homeowner is not even in the City of Forest Park. She wanted to assure everyone that they are working on the issues and they plan on moving forward in 2019. She stated if you have any concerns please call her and she will go through the proper protocol to address the issues. Councilwoman James stated in reference to the Chief of Police position, they decided as Council to do a national global search and it doesn't mean that the local employees can't apply.

Councilman Antoine stated his work stands for him and darkness hates light so he chooses to turn on the light. He thanked everyone for coming out and wished them a Happy New Year. He stated moving forward there is a lot of work to do in the city.

Mayor Butler wished everyone a Happy New Year. She stated with this being the 1st year she would have hoped that the city would be further along than where they are. She stated they are attempting to make progress. She stated she has looked at each isolated incident that she has heard when in actuality when the pieces are put together it tells the bigger picture of what's really going on and she is unhappy with it. Mayor Butler stated she doesn't feel that no employee



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

should have to work with any apprehension, fear or doubt as to their job. She stated she is operating with the best interest of not just the city and residents, but the employees as well. If there's anything that needs to be brought to their attention, please let them know. The only way things will change is if people step up and speak about what is going on. She stated hearsay is one thing but putting something before them is another and until someone is willing to step up let's stop with the hearsay and try to work together. She stated it really is going to be a new day in Forest Park.

Adjournment:

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