



CITY OF FOREST PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of January 22, 2019 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 7:11 p.m.

Invocation:

The Invocation was given by Pastor Durham followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll Call:

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

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:

Bernard Bloodworth – stated he wanted to speak on Councilman Dabouze Antoine. He stated he is a wonderful guy and a lot of things he asks him to do for the homeless, he does. He stated that for over the past 3 years he has been helping making sure the homeless get fed. He advised the Mayor that he is still awaiting her help because there are still trying to feed the homeless and the veterans that served the country for us.

Boton Cicero - stated he is a business owner in Forest Park and wanted to introduce himself. He stated he opened a Dollar Store next to Little Caesar and wanted to make himself known in the community. He stated he looks forward to doing things to help the kids especially during back to school events.

April Wright – stated she owns a hair salon in Forest Park and she wanted to get to know the community and decided to attend the meeting. She stated it's a pleasure to meet the Mayor and be a part of the city.



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Christine Fitzhugh – stated she has lived in Forest Park for 32 years. She stated she just retired from Atlanta Public Schools and this is her first time attending a meeting and she is glad to be here.

Mayor Butler stated Ms. Fitzhugh is being considered to serve on the URA Board.

Carl Evans – stated he enjoyed the parade on Saturday. He stated he would like to see that the dance groups are scrutinized on the way they perform. Mr. Evans mentioned maintenance work that needs to be done on some streets in the city.

Felicia Davis – stated she missed the last Council Meeting and she heard that some personal things related to people were shared and she thinks that must be avoided. She advised the governing body collectively they should not do things that are hurtful to one another. Ms. Davis stated folks are moving forward and doing a good job and she is hearing much more positive feedback from the community. She stated she missed the parade, but heard a lot of rave reviews from everyone.

Mayor Butler stated that Ms. Davis is also being considered to serve on the URA Board.

Diane Lunsford – stated she has been a citizen in Forest Park for 40 years and been actively in attendance of just about every City Council Meeting for the past 20 years. She wants to know when will the Forensic Audit be finalized, she stated she wants it known that she would like to be considered for the Development Authority & the URA Board and the Ethics Board. She mentioned police officers low pay and to consider promoting from within instead of going outside of the city to hire a Police Chief.

Samuel Ibanez – stated there are some good things that are happening in Forest Park. He stated there are some old trees near Old Dixie that needs to be taken



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down. He stated he has spoken with someone and hopes this can be taken care of.

Deborah Jackson – stated she doesn't come to the Council Meetings often and when she does attend she often hear everyone talking about bringing the city together. She stated there is no need for Councilmembers who are out scandalizing others name and then come in here and quoting scriptures. She stated we need to come together and stop putting people down. Ms. Jackson stated if you want to hold that position you need to put yourself in place so people can respect you. She stated that her daughter is a Councilmember and she knows that she is doing a good job. She stated instead of quoting scriptures everyone needs to be praying.

LaWanda Folami – stated it is not about the person personally it is about the action. She stated attitude brings on altitude. She stated it is not about black and white it is about bringing the city together as a community. She stated if the governing body continues with the black and white theme then they will be out the door and no longer sitting at the Dais if she has anything to say about it.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2019. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Agenda Items:

Appointment of An Election Superintendent

Councilman Antoine made a motion to appoint Ms. Lois Wright as the Election Superintendent. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells.

Councilwoman James stated we are in an election year and there are certain mandates that need to be met such as registering approved Election



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Superintendent for training. She stated she can't understand the desire of some to move in a new direction because of some unsubstantiated allegations that spurred after the 2017 election results. She stated that some of the allegations were directly targeted at her and her integrity. Councilwoman James stated she would like the members of the governing body to come up with some solutions rather than oppositions. She stated the City Manager explained that in the absence of an election superintendent and deputy superintendent the duties will fall on the City Clerk. She stated they were told that the City does not have the manpower nor does the city want to place this responsibility on city employees. It was decided years ago based upon complaints of individuals running against incumbents that city employees should not serve as the election superintendent and therefore an independent election superintendent and deputy election superintendent was hired to handle the election. One solution posed by the governing body is that we consider the cost of a county election vs city elections if it was sufficient or efficient to have the elections ran by the county. Another solution was to open up the position to have others apply. Councilwoman James stated she doesn't have a problem with the solution only the timing of the solution because it is an election year. She stated she feels that if the majority of the council agrees on a certain election superintendent (Lois Wright) it would be a waste of time looking for someone else when the majority agrees. This is a waste of the city's time and money.

Councilman Antoine stated per the City Manager the Clerk is already overworked. He stated if you overwork a person the election won't go as professional or smooth as it is supposed to be. He stated this is a personal issue and the people suffer. He stated the right thing to do is to allow Lois Wright to continue because she knows what to do. By not doing so it just shows that this is more about personal than professional.



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Councilwoman Wells stated she agrees with Councilwoman James and Councilman Antoine. She stated it seems personal because the last elections went fine and now certain people want to wait until the last minute to change the election superintendent and don't have a valid reason to do so. She stated Lois Wright did a great job; she is experienced and knows what to do.

Councilwoman Bagley stated the reason she is moving towards change is because this has been discussed since this new group was formed with the last election. She stated they are trying to open up the panels, boards etc. to include more members of the community. She stated she has spoken with Ms. Wright and every member of council. Councilwoman Bagley stated yes it is her election year; however it is not a personal issue. She stated it has been alluded that she is a part of a special interest group and that is not true. She stated the city is being divided when people are saying mine and theirs and it needs to stop. Councilwoman Bagley stated the problem that she has is regardless of who goes to training it is not going to cost the city any more or less to do so. She stated the Mayor attended one of the Voter Registration meetings and has been told that the County does not want to do the City's Election. She stated that is the reason she will vote the way she is voting.

Voting for the Motion were: Councilman Antoine, Councilwoman James and Councilwoman Wells. Voting against the motion were: Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. The motion carried.

**Appointment of
Assistant Election
Superintendent:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for motion was Councilman Antoine and Councilwoman Wells. Voting against the motion were: Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears.



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Mayor Butler asked is there a recommendation to appoint someone. Councilwoman James stated they will be using the same person as before. Mrs. Redding stated she spoke with Joan Burton and due to health reasons she will not be able to hold that position, however she will be willing to assist if needed.

Councilwoman James made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Appointment to
the DA Board:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to appoint Christine Fitzhugh to the Development Authority Board. No one seconded the motion. The motion failed.

**Appointment to
the Ethics Board:**

Councilwoman James made a motion to appoint Jill Morris to the Ethics Board. It was seconded by Councilwoman Wells. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Appointment to
the URA Board:**

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to appoint Felicia Davis to the Urban Redevelopment Authority Board. It was seconded by Councilman Antoine. Voting for the motion were: Councilman Antoine, Councilwoman James and Councilwoman Wells. Voting against the motion were: Councilwoman Bagley and Councilman Mears. The motion carried.

**Governing Body
Comments:**

Councilman Mears stated he wanted to comment in regards to Councilwoman Wells. He stated it is hard to imagine people to talk about personal involvement and personal issues. Councilman Mears stated he would hate to be a Police Chief in this situation thinking that they have a secured job because there have been two good ones and it totally personal that the two guys were removed. He stated that is not good leadership and people don't have any good reason except we are moving in another direction.

Councilman Mears asked how you ruin people's lives by moving in another direction. He stated there



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are good people that were born, raised and put their lives and soul in this city that were dropped like a dirty boot. He stated he thinks that is pitiful and it happened only because of personal interest.

Councilwoman Wells stated she is not going to focus on negative energy. She stated she recalls that Councilman Mears voted to remove the last Interim Police Chief as well and she noted the position was Interim not permanent. She thanked everyone for coming out and stated she will not focus on negativity because it is a new year and new day and she's a new Latresa. Councilwoman Wells asked everyone to pray for her and she will continue to pray for them.

Councilwoman Bagley thanked everyone for coming out and reminded them that it is an election year. She stated there are going to be campaign commercials, people knocking on your doors and you need to vote your conscience and vote for who is going to do the right thing for the city. She stated it is disheartening to see longtime businesses closing in the city. Councilwoman Bagley stated she will compliment the Mayor on one of things that she actually has lived up to and that is trying to bring the city into its promise. She stated if you see less division then it needs to stop because we are doing it to ourselves. Councilwoman Bagley stated there is a lot of activity going on at Ft. Gillem and there is tons of growth and potential. She stated it is sad that she has heard children say they would not want to be a leader in the community or school because they are our leaders of the next generation.

Councilwoman James stated that she has completed 1 full year as a Council Member for Ward 1 and is humbled by some of the things that she has accomplished. She stated she established communication with most of her constituents with voice calls, text messages and emails. She has been able to get specific calls resolved which included,



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removal of hazardous tree branches out of a tree at a school bus stop, dangerous tree removal over powerlines, fixing a broken guard rail, debris pickup and trash removal. Councilwoman James stated she has had Waldrop Drive successfully added to the list of roads that need sidewalks. She stated she has also had a successful Ward meeting, formed partnerships with local business owners to honor all principals and parent liaisons within the Forest Park Cluster with recognition and dinner and she has successfully partnered with a business owner to give turkeys during the Thanksgiving Holiday. Councilwoman James shared statistics from July 2018 – November 2018 of all departments to show that the City is short staffed and it is still moving forward in a positive and productive manner and work is being done. She stated if you have any type of issue or problem that you feel that is not being addressed please call. Councilwoman James stated in regards to the search for a Chief, they can promote from within and they can apply if they wish to do so. She stated they are doing a global search and it is open for anyone to apply. The issue with Waste Management she stated she will meet with the rest of the governing body to try and push them to do what they need to do or go back to the way it was before they had Waste Management.

Councilman Antoine stated he wanted to say once again that the devil likes darkness and he is going to turn on the light. He stated he has been getting attacked recently. He stated people have been being dishonest and he wants to tell the truth. Councilman stated the statement that was said that implied that he called a citizen out of their name in public was never said. He stated he would like to commend Councilwoman Wells for spearheading the 1st Annual MLK Jr. Day Parade. Councilman Antoine stated people are speaking about the city being divided, yet they didn't even show up for the parade. He stated there were 2 Council Members that did not show up.



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He stated if you don't show your presence who is really trying to divide the city. Councilman Antoine stated Martin Luther King didn't work for just one race. Councilman stated Atlanta Technical College is having a job fair and advised everyone that's interested to email him and he will forward the information. He thanked the Police Department for bringing awareness about the scams within the community. He advised everyone to keep the Government in their prayers due to the shutdown.

Robin Kemp – asked the governing body to please speak into their microphones because it is hard for the audience to hear them at times. She stated it is her job as reporter to capture details and it is hard when she can't hear due to the governing body not speaking into the microphones.

Mayor Butler stated as it pertains to Waste Management Mr. Owens will be at the next Council Meeting giving a full presentation and to answer any questions that you may have.

Mayor Butler stated from the time she was campaigning to date several people told her to use her own mind. She stated there is a dichotomous nature on the Dais and that's undeniable. Using her own mind she will either be on one or two sides. She stands true to what she is saying and doing. Mayor Butler stated as it pertains to the Election Superintendent, yes it was vetoed previously and Mr. Williams provided the framework for her veto. On January 11th she asked Mr. Williams was there anything additional that she needed to do and his response was no because by default it would fall onto the City Clerk. Mayor Butler stated in her initial veto she wanted to find out more information from the County Election Board. She stated she attended that meeting and did not get the information that she wanted however, two things were brought up: 1) she stated she has history of working in elections and



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registrations particularly in Fulton County and have worked under the current Elections Director here in Clayton County. The Elections Director stated she felt that it would be a conflict of interest. Mayor Butler stated she replied that it is not her election year and a board member there stated she could see it being perceived as a conflict of interest. 2) In previous years there has been an issue with the city's election in which the County was brought into and she didn't feel that they should be put in that position. Mayor Butler stated she feels that is all the more reason they should take it over. She was never provided a solid answer as to yay or nay. Mayor Butler stated because of the tension with this Council on this issue she finds it extremely important that this issue should be a unanimous decision and it's not. She stated she has prepared a veto for this item.

Adjournment:

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