

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF APRIL 16, 2018

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council of April 16, 2018 was called to order by Mayor Angelyne Butler at 6:57 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present were: Mayor Angelyne Butler and Councilmembers Kimberly James, Dabouze Antoine, Sandra Bagley, Latresa Wells and Allan Mears.

Also present were City Manager Angela Redding, Director of IT Darren Duke, Director of Public Works Jeff Eady, Interim Director of Planning and Zoning David New, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services Elaine Corley, Chief Eddie Buckholts, Director of Support Services Christine Terrell, Major Matson, Interim Finance Director Ken Thompson and City Attorney Mike Williams.

Comment Period: Mr. Parker – thanked everyone for allowing him to voice his concerns and he has already had some results. He also wanted to talk about the protection and looking out for tenants in the city. Just want to help tenants and offer resources to help them deal with the landlord rather than finding a new residence. He also wanted to express that 30 minutes is a long time however, 3 minutes is not long enough.

Ms. Lancaster – Ms. Theresa Lancaster introduced her 17 year old son Deivon, who is a student athlete at Forest Park High School. She wanted to make the public aware of an incident that occurred about a week ago that involved a Forest Park Police Officer. She states that her son was pulled over for what supposed to be a routine traffic stop, however there were K9 dogs pulled out, 3 officers on site when she arrived just for a traffic stop. She wants everyone to know that there is a lot of harassment that goes on in Forest Park as well as profiling. She states that she has spoken to Mrs. Redding about the situation, which is still currently under investigation.

Dr. Beeler – Dr. Beeler wanted to share some events that will be taking place in Forest Park. The main event is the clean-up which is done yearly and has been done for the past several years. This clean-up will take place on the Northside of the city. The date is Saturday, April 21st at 8am – 12 noon. The meeting place will be The Paradise Church of God in Christ located at 4234 Hendrix Drive and we will be meeting in the gym. The concept is to bring the city together to clean up the streets. Mr. Beeler states that not only will you clean-up there will be prayer as well. There will be another event in a couple months on the Southside. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Mr. Beeler also thanked staff members and police for their assistance during these events. The next event will be the National Day of Prayer on May 3rd.

Approval of
Minutes:

Mayor Butler asked were there any corrections that need to be made for the Work Session or Regular meeting on April 2, 2018. Councilwoman James states that on the Work Session Minutes under the Agenda Item, “Ms. James asked Chief Hobbs what the minimum/maximum fines were?” Ms. James wanted to make a note that information wasn’t readily available at the time. Ms. James states that she never got the answer to the question and she wants it noted in the minutes. Councilwoman Bagley states that she had a correction also on the Work Session April 2nd 3 pages into the Agenda items 2nd paragraph it should be “deter the habit” not “detour the habit”.

Councilwoman James made a motion to combine the minutes and approve them with the recommended changes. Councilwoman Bagley seconded. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilman Antoine made a motion to recess the regular meeting and open the public hearing on the rezoning request. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting was unanimous.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Butler opened the public hearing and asked for comments on the rezoning request of 4423 Jonesboro Road from R-80 (Residential) to C-1 (General Commercial).

Mr. Archie Wanamaker states that he is there on behalf of Jim Matheson, who is the owner of the property located at 4423 Jonesboro Road. Mr. Wanamaker states that he is

requesting R-80 to C-1 to allow for a retail building to be constructed. It will be 4 sided brick with awnings. A 50ft buffer has been added alongside of the church. Asking for full access off of College Street and proposing 150ft decel lane with a 50ft taper to give enough distance from Jonesboro Road to have better and safe access. Mr. Wanamaker states that the property is no longer suitable for residential and feel it's consistent with the other commercial properties in the area. Mr. Wanamaker states that their hope is that they land a tenant that will serve the daily needs of the community and provide jobs.

Councilwoman James asked Mr. Wanamaker did he already have a tenant. Mr. Wanamaker stated "not at this time."

Councilman Mears asked is this the first time submitting an application for zoning changes. Mr. Wanamaker states that it is.

Mayor Butler asked Mr. Wanamaker was he aware of the restrictions on the re-zoning? Mr. Wanamaker states that he is aware and he actually put them in there.

Councilwoman Bagley asked has GDOT or the County been consulted as far as the impact, such as traffic count and will that be required? Mr. Wanamaker answered no since College Street is a city road.

Councilwoman Bagley stated that her only other concern would be Marta stops and bus stops and she wanted to make sure that all of those concerns were addressed. Mr. Wanamaker states that the Memorial that was mentioned would be preserved and worked around.

Councilman Antoine asked what type of jobs they were thinking about bringing to the city. Mr. Wanamaker states retail, cashiers, stockers, managers, etc.

Mayor Butler asked if there was anyone that would like to speak in favor of the re-zoning. No response. Mayor Butler asked if there was anyone that would like to speak against the re-zoning.

LaWanda Folami stated that she has a concern about the survey of the property and it is already very congested. She states that she is against it until it can be proved that they

can have a turnaround properly without hurting the pedestrians because there are a lot of people walking in that area. Mr. Wanamaker responded by saying that there is a survey in the re-zoning and the concerns have already been taken into consideration. Councilwoman Bagley asked have they been given the opportunity to speak with public safety to take a look at any intersections or any accidents to make sure safety for the pedestrians because she is concerned since there has already been a fatality on Jonesboro Road. Mr. Wanamaker responded that they are not doing anything on Jonesboro Road and that is why the driveway was pulled down to College Street. Ms. Folami stated that before anything takes place regarding this property, please put out a public notice in front of the property, to give the citizens a chance to come back before it's reviewed.

Councilman Antoine made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman Bagley. Voting was unanimous.

Agenda Items:
Re-zoning
Request

Request was made to consider the re-zoning request for 4423 Jonesboro Road from Residential (R-80) to Commercial (C-1).

Councilwoman Wells made a motion to consider the re-zoning request for 4423 Jonesboro Road from R-80 to C-1 with the conditions that were proffered. Seconded by Councilwoman Bagley.

Councilwoman Bagley asked Mr. New to explain the differences pertaining to the property going from R-80 to C-1 and how would that affect the property. Mr. New states since the property has been vacant for over 15-18 years that would not be the best use to allow a piece of residential property to sit that long. There should not be any effect to Jonesboro Road. He thinks that it would be an asset to the community.

Councilman Allan Mears asked Mr. Wanamaker is the building going to be in the center or moved to the back of the property. Mr. Wanamaker states it's roughly in the middle of the property.

Councilman Antoine asked Mr. Wanamaker about the landscaping of the property. Mr. Wanamaker states that the landscaping of this property will be maintained.

Councilwoman Bagley asked Mr. Wanamaker to clarify that in his plans that he was going to keep some of the older trees. Councilwoman Bagley referenced page 5 “what environmental impacts would the proposed project have?” Mr. Wanamaker states that he will be preserving some of the larger trees on the property.

Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Ethics Board
Decision:

Request was made to consider an appeal by LaWanda Folami of the Ethics Board decision on the March 21, 2018.

The City Attorney explained the Ethics Board met on March 21, 2018 regarding a complaint against Frank Brandon and they made a decision. Per section 2-1-47 (c)(3) the complainant has the right to appeal the decision of the Ethics Board to the Mayor and Council. Essentially you will either approve or deny the decision of the Ethics Board.

Councilman Antoine made a motion to approve the decision made by the Ethics Board. It was seconded by Councilman Mears.

Councilwoman Wells stated she didn't see how you can approve the decision when you weren't there to hear what was going on. Councilman Mears stated since the Governing Body appointed the Ethics Board Members we should uphold their decision.

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

Executive
Session:

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation and real estate matters. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

The Governing Body entered into Executive Session at 7:35p.m.

Councilwoman Bagley made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. and reconvene the Regular meeting. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting was unanimous.

Adjournment: Councilwoman Wells made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Councilwoman James. Voting was unanimous.