



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, July 17, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.4720

FOREST PARK CITY HALL
745 Forest Parkway
Forest Park, GA 30297

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James

The Honorable Hector Gutierrez

The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine

The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager

Michelle Hood, Interim City Clerk

Mike Williams, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm by Mayor Butler.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Minister Cook, Rock Church

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Wattley, Deputy Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Police Chief; Brandon Criss; Tarik Maxwell, Parks and Recreation, and Joshua Cox, IT Director.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

I only have 26 pages tonight. One of the things I would like to inform the residents about is that starting tomorrow the publication of this city manager's report will be online. So in lieu of me going through all 26 pages I'll try to call out some of the highlights. The first thing I want to do as we do every month is bring up our various Chiefs. Chief Clemons as well as Chief Criss who will recognize the new employees that we have had to join our organization since our last city manager's report. He would like to recognize the new employees within the Forest Park Police Department.

Chief Criss - Good evening again mayor and Council, our newest employee comes by way of the City of Morrow. He was a lieutenant at the City of Morrow as of the NCID and comes to join us as a Lieutenant NCID, in Forest Park. I would like to welcome you, Lieutenant Skelton.

Lieutenant Skelton – Thank you all for the opportunity.

Chief Criss – I would like to give a moment of silence if I can. Yesterday in Clayton County there was an incident involving a former Captain Podsiadly, who was shot trying to take a suspect into custody, down in Hampton, GA. He is going to be ok, but I would like to take a moment to recognize him.

Chief Clemons – I am going to defer to division Chief King, because we always do it in all recruit fashion foreign.

Chief King – I would like to introduce our newest recruits. We are a little short in numbers tonight, a few of them had to go ahead and leave, but I will go ahead and give you the seven names of our new members. The ones that are not here tonight Cameron Moss has been with us about a month. Carol Drake comes from Clayton County Fire Department; Aaron Jackson also comes from Clayton County. We have Latoya Grant who comes to us from Florida, Mr. Yuahrek Johnson who comes to us from Fairburn and DeKalb County with some experience. The other two gentleman here, Mr. Julian Barber and Mr. Devontavious McClendon.

City Manager - Just a few of the notable items that I would like to report relative to this city manager's period. Through the efforts of our Planning and Community Development Department our Code Enforcement Department and our Police Department, we have been successful in being able to get into compliance over 35 businesses that have been operating in this city illegally. We are excited about this initiative, we are thankful for the departments that have contributed, but my philosophy is if you make money off the backs of our community then you must pay your fair share. These efforts alone have yielded over 39 thousand dollars just for the period of June.

One of the other things I would like to point out in this revenue recovery initiative that I have for this 100-day period is that we have been able to collect back sanitation fees of \$88, 000, and this was only unpaid sanitation fees. One of the directives that I have put out for all the departments, if it is under your purview, you are responsible for it. If we have monies owed to our community, we need to get that caught up. The third thing we want to report on is our efforts relative to property taxes. We have identified over one million dollars' worth of property taxes that have not been paid in this community.

We believe that by the next report we will have been successful in collecting at a minimum four hundred thousand dollars of that number by our next meeting. In addition to that with our Revenue Recovery Acts this council also approved the contract with Peachtree Recovery, and what they are doing is going out and looking at all the public facilities or utilities that have had claims on them and trying to reclaim some of those funds. We have also through the effort of our public information officer as well as my executive assistant been able to chronologize all the work that is going on every week in this community, so that you are not only holding your city manager accountable, but your city manager is holding your departments accountable. To ensure that the work which we are doing is efficient and effective and that we are operating on the mission of One Forest Park. Last week we released the celebration of

my 100-days within this position of city manager. It feels like 25 years, however that event will be held on August the 26th at the pavilion on Main where the water fountain is. We will have a big announcement that night, that we will be released to the residents of the City of Forest Park. It will be the first of its kind in this community and of course. Our commitment remains to consistent transparent communication across this organization. I have shared with the departments that the onus is on them as directors to ensure that we are doing positive work on behalf of the citizens that call Forest Park home.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Free Gifts at the Park Recognitions - Legislative Offices

Background/History:

Summer 2023 has turned a bit brighter for families in Forest Park, thanks to an event which was coordinated by The City of Forest Park in partnership with Helping Hands Ending Hunger INC. (HHEH). A truckload of donated goods from Good360 was gifted to residents at a summer fun shopping day on June 23, 2023, at the Forest Park High School Gym at an event aptly named: "Free Gifts at the Park."

Kimberly James, Councilwoman Ward 1, Carla Harward, CEO of HHEH, and Arvis Walker, Clayton County Council of PTAs spent the past several months planning and broadening efforts to maximize the impact of this fun event.

Councilmember James – June 23, 2023, we had Free Gifts in the park for our residents of Forest Park in Clayton County. This Core Group made the event possible, and we are the reason we were so successful. Hours of behind-the-scenes coordination and effort for the benefit of the Forest Park Community. Helping Hands End Hunger, Good 360, the City of Forest Park, Clayton County Council of PTSA. Thanks to our sponsors, Kroger Delivery, Robinson Week's Partners Chick-fil-A Dwarf House, and Forest Park High School. In Addition, I want to thank our continuous Partners Forest Park High School PTSA, Technique Concrete Construction, Falcon Design, Consultants and Blue Star Studios.

Thank you to all our volunteers. I know we have a great group of people in the audience. If you were all part of the volunteers, would you stand or wave your hand, there are some in the back, thank you so much. Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this one-day event work in four days. There were 24 pallets filled to the brim with Goods. It took a great deal of effort to unload, unpack, and organize; clothing shoes, bags, bedding, baby goods; toys, household, housewares, kitchen wares filled the table. Over 30 volunteers each day work tirelessly to make this effort a special event and we had fun while we were doing it. You can see some of the pictures there.

We cannot thank our partners and sponsors enough. Shout out to local business owner PGI Signs, who designed and printed the shirts. You all saw a picture of the shirts and I have some right here, they are all extra-large. If you all want one you can have one. I want to thank Good 360 for being the non-profit organization that enables communities to bridge the needs gap of organizations like Helping Hands Ending Hunger. Thanks to Robinson Week's partners for the T-shirts and every gesture mattered to the families who trusted us to come out and shop. I want to thank our sponsor Kroger Delivery for the snacks and drinks delivered every day for our volunteers.

As well as unexpected food bags for our shoppers that included dairy meat or pantry staples for our families. Thank you to Chick-fil-A who provided chicken biscuits and fruit trays to feed our volunteers every day. Thanks to the City of Forest Park for coming out to support and lend a hand thanks to our Clayton County Council, PTAS, Clayton County Elections, Dr Anderson, Victoria Williams our school board member. We

even had District Attorney Mosley and her office come out. Gifts, gifts, and more gifts this took place at Forest Park High School. We were able to provide gifts for over 250 families in our diverse community. Our volunteers helped our community shop, baggage their items and even hand deliver their items to the truck. Finally, Rock Church of Atlanta right here in Forest Park received a generous donation that was left, and you can contact the church to get more information. Rock Church of Atlanta received the remaining items.

Just a couple testimonies that we received. Miss Grant said, thank you for hosting this event. I was so blessed to be able to get some items that I needed. The event was very well organized. Miss Stroud said thank you for everything it was helpful to our family, thank you. I really appreciate it and yes, I am interested in upcoming events and very happy with what we received this Friday. We are indefinitely grateful to you, my family pants baby things and very useful household items. My daughter will wear pants the next time she goes back to school. Finally, this was one of the most organized events. I really appreciate the assistance from the volunteers. I want to give a special thanks to Madame Mayor for coming out and our City Manager for coming out as well. I want to bring up Miss Carla Harwood, she is with Helping Hands Ending Hunger, and the backbone behind this event coming to our city.

Carla Harwood, Executive Director, Helping Hands Ending Hunger -I am the executive director of Helping Hands Ending hunger, and our mission is a simple one we attack food insecurity, and we help bridge the needs gaps of many residents in our communities that suffer. Our unique helping kid model which is school-based and empowers our students to be catalysts for change, by teaching them how to rescue and repurpose uneaten food from school meals and instead of throwing it away, save it and give it to fellow students who need food to eat over the weekends and breaks. Not filling the landfills, making less trash, and reducing those harmful carbon emissions that are in our communities everywhere. We are helping to build a generation of children that are not only environmentally aware, but socially conscious now of the needs of their neighbors, changing educational outcomes as well as cultivating healthier habits in our communities.

Sustainable Solutions is our goal, so gifts at the park was part of our effort to really address the wider need of our communities and because of our partnership with good 360 we were able to financially support this event with all these amazing Goods. The value on a fair market standard was over two hundred fifty thousand dollars. It was amazing, the memories of mine that I'll take away are a grandmother who came with her six foster children and each of these children got to pick out a special toy. Shopping that they've not ever been able to do before. The picture of them still remains in my head. They were lined up against the wall and the big grins on their faces holding up what they were able to pick out.

Another was a mother who had just gotten a new job and she needed some nice dresses to wear to her job and she needed extra small. The clothes were piled up on the table, but all the volunteers came and helped her find her size and she walked away with a handful of new dresses, and right as she was leaving I found another one it was a bright blue it was perfect and beautiful .I handed it to her and she said you know what this one's so nice I'm going to save it for church. There was another mother that came with her twin newborns and two siblings. Two little girls who were just in la la land walking around with all this stuff to look at. Well one found a little princess dress that she had fallen in love with, and the other one came up to me and said I wish I could find a dress that was my size. We started looking and sure enough we found a bright red one that was her perfect fit and so she said this was perfect and they walked away with big smiles on their faces.

That mother kept shopping for baby goods, and we had to make her stop and look for something for herself as well so just the reward of those memories and the families that we were able to help I think made it all worthwhile certainly for me Sharing Hope and joy in the city of Forest Park. Thank you, Councilwoman James for all your effort, it has been a group effort. Mayor Butler, thank you very much for hosting this event

my friend Arvis Walker, Clayton County Council of PTAs. Amazing work and collaboration with all the sponsors that helped, and I'd just like to say you know from the bottom of my heart. I just want to thank everyone who made this event so special, the volunteers especially, it was a pleasure to get to know you and work with you. I look forward to linking arms and doing more in this community together, because you all set the bar. You are an amazing group; you care about your community it's obvious and I know we can do more together.

Councilmember James recognized the volunteers, and sponsors, and the mayor and council took pictures.

2. Proclamation in recognition of Muslim Heritage Month – Legislative Offices

Background/History:

“Muslim American Heritage Month” celebrates the contributions of Americans of Muslim heritage to the United States from its founding through the present. The national month’s observance spotlights Muslims embracing freedom to pursue the American Dream and celebrates Muslim contributions to American society.

Forest Park has significant numbers of Muslims, and such Proclamation will continue to make Forest Park an inclusive and diverse city. 25 other cities across Georgia are expected to do a Proclamation/Resolution regarding Muslim American Heritage Month. HB 360 - a bill re: Muslim American Heritage Month is a bipartisan bill currently in the House's "Special Rules Committee.”

Mayor Butler, read the proclamation to be presented, recognizing July as Muslim Heritage Month, and she and the council took pictures.

This item was approved to be moved to the Work Session.

3. Proclamation in recognition of City of Forest Park 811 Day - Executive Offices

Background/History:

The Clayton County UCC has partnered with Georgia 811 to promote 811 Day each August for the past total 2 years to coincide with the onset of peak digging season. The initiative was designed to heighten contractor and homeowner awareness of the national 811 notification system. By calling 811, Clayton County residents notify area utility operators, including City of Forest Park, of their intent to dig so that the utilities can be located ahead of the project. The 811-notification system is paramount to the prevention of damage to underground utilities and the safety of Forest Park, Clayton County residents.

Mayor Butler read the proclamation to be presented recognizing 811 Day, and she and the council took photos.

4. Presentation of Forest Park Police Departmental Logo/Seal - Police Department

Background/History:

The Forest Park Police Department recently completed a rebranding project for both the agency’s logo and seal in order to better improve brand awareness and overall communication with citizens, businesses, and community stakeholders.

Strong branding is extremely necessary to establish any law enforcement agency as credible, reliable and – above all – trustworthy.

The color palettes used in the new logo help emphasize the department's commitment to SERVICE, INTEGRITY, and RESPECT through quality policing.

Chief Criss - Forest Park Police Department recently completed a rebranding project for both the agency's logo and seal to better improve brand awareness and overall communication with the citizens, businesses, and Community stakeholders. Strong branding is extremely necessary to establish any law enforcement agency as credible, reliable and above all trustworthy. The color palettes used in the new logo help emphasize the department's commitment to service, integrity, and respect through quality policing. We partnered with Lavar Norsworthy who helped us design our new look. This new look goes along with Mr. Clark's One Forest Park initiative.

If I could get everyone to focus their attention on the new look for the police department. At the top is our new shoulder patch, and I have one of my offices here, officer Pope. Now mind you I have on the old patch, and this patch has been in existence for almost 30 plus years. We are in a new place at the Forest Park Police Department, so this new rebrand helps show that. This new patch is more modern, sleek, and clean. These will be our new vehicles; I have these two vehicles parked out front so everyone can go out and take a look. One is a navy blue with our color palette and then the vehicle to our left is silver. The blue vehicles will only be driven by lieutenants and above and the silver vehicles will be driven by sergeants and the remaining officers. This rebranding of the agency will not cost the taxpayers any dollars, because I am using forfeiture funds to fund this initiative project.

5. Recognition of Officer of the Month

Background/History:

Officer of the Month is a newly implemented program that recognizes officers of the Forest Park Police Department for outstanding service to the citizens and businesses of Forest Park. This program was implemented to boost morale and acknowledge our police officers that has gone above and beyond the call of service.

During the Month of June 2023, Officer Akin Frederick and Detective Marvin Malone were the most productive and active officers within the agency.

Officer Frederick excelled in the following areas: citizen contacts, traffic enforcement, law enforcement, and written reports. Officer Frederick overall work performance led him to be selected and recognized as Officer of the Month.

Detective Malone responded to and investigated a call for service where there was a loss of life. Detective Malone worked long hours without complaint and was able to identify the suspect involved, charge the suspect with the appropriate charge, locate the weapon used during the crime, and take the suspect into custody. His exceptional work ethic and dedication make him stand out among his peers.

Chief Criss – Introduced Officer Malone and he received a round of applause for a job well done.

6. Recognition of Employees – Legislative Offices

Background/History:

In an effort to further our commitment to an employee-first environment, as part of Councilwoman Akins-Wells initiatives, she has selected a group of employees in which she wishes to recognize. This initiative will occur quarterly. Councilwoman Akins-Wells will recognize the following employees for the first group who have received recent recognitions: Sgt. Brittney Sparks, Officer Sharaya Bailey, Officer Paris Thomas, Officer Renoldo Pope, Officer Eric Ellis, Officer Skydot Das, Officer Sheena Shelton, Joseph Kidd, Takuya Gatlin, Randell Boone & Kyle Grace.

Councilmember Akins-Wells recognized the employees, and the mayor and council took pictures. She provided dinner for them and their family at the Senior Center.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

7. Council Approval on Conditional Use Permit for Self-Storage- 4140 Jonesboro Road – Planning & Community Development

It was moved to open the Public Hearing to consider the Approval of the Conditional Use Permit- 4140 Jonesboro Rd.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

There was one (1) speaker in favor of this conditional use permit.

Gerald Tirella, Tirella & Associates Architects - This is a request for the existing tenants. They are asking that we provide some type of storage inside the facility. The line we put in there about the public just in case someone comes along and might want to rent it, but that is not the focus. There will not be any new construction, just a canopy over the rear door for weather purposes. I just found out this evening about the business license which will be the main hold up. Do I understand correctly if we take care of that everyone is in favor of this?

Mayor Butler – This is just your time to speak, it is not a question and answer at this point. Is there anything else?

Gerald Tirella – No.

There were no speakers against this conditional use permit.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit for Self-Storage- 4140 Jonesboro Rd.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez – With the majority of the board not being in favor of this until they get their license do they have to wait a certain amount of time, or can this be on the next agenda, if their license is approved.

Mike Williams – If it is not approved, they will have to wait 6 months. Alternatively, they withdrew the application they could come back earlier than that.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Can we table it? If we do not disapprove of it at this time, that way they do not have to wait six months.

Mike Williams – You can table your vote to a date certain, that is possible.

Councilmember Gutierrez – That will give us a chance to approve all the licenses or disapprove.

Mike Williams – What other conditions might be an issue.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

Councilmember Gutierrez motioned to table this item.

Motion made by Councilmember Gutierrez, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Councilmember James – A question came up when he was speaking. He said there will be no new construction. Are you talking about something already existing on the back of the building or is there going to be new construction? I am confused.

Gerald Tirella – It is already within the structure it is unused space. It is already walls and doors inside.

Councilmember James – I didn't realize that.

City Manager – I did not realize that.

Councilmember Akins Wells – I didn't either.

Councilmember Gutierrez – It is within the structure itself.

Mayor Butler – Please answer the question that was brought forth.

SaVaughn Irons – It is an interior renovation. He would be doing an outer canopy over the door. Based on other conditions he would have to ensure lighting in the rear of the facility and also exit and entry.

Councilmember Gutierrez – This is all inside the only thing outside is the canopy?

SaVaughn Irons – Yes.

Councilmember Akins Wells – I was thinking these were going to be storage units outside and people inside with the businesses were going to store their things there. So yes, I would be in favor of that.

Councilmember Gutierrez withdrew his motion to table the item.

City Manager – There are several conditions that have been recommended.

Councilmember James motioned to approve this item based upon the condition recommended by staff.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins Wells.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit for Self-Storage- 4140 Jonesboro Rd and open the Public Hearing on Rezoning from RS to GC at 4233 Thurman Rd.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

8. Council Approval on Rezoning from RS to GC - 4233 Thurman Rd. – Planning & Community Development

City Manager – We have the attorney for the applicant with us via zoom.

There was one (1) speaker for this item:

Newton Galloway, Galloway & Lyndall - My name is Newton Galloway, Griffin Law Firms Galloway and Lyndall and I represent Namrah Qureshi, who is the owner of TR1 USA which is the owner of the store she's present with you tonight, with Noorali Somani who is helping her with the redevelopment and. Also, there is a representative that is helping the owner, which is Ken Enterprises Inc, along with my Law Clerk Hunter Wallace.

In the workshop this evening you received a thorough report from Ms. Irons. A recommendation of approval with conditions and we support the recommendations of the staff and the conditions they have proposed. This is a difficult piece of property, because it is a small tract and has historically been used as a convenient store and then it was destroyed by fire. As a provision in your ordinance, it required this to come back before you to reestablish a nonconforming use, to be zoned commercially and to have the variance approved because of the size. We ask that you approve the conditions and the rezoning as that covers the ability as that allows the property to be redeveloped and allow the owner to reestablish her store.

There were no speakers against the Rezoning.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing for Rezoning of 4233 Thurman Rd.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to approve this item with the conditions made by staff.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Permit- 5370 Ash Street

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

9. Council Approval on Conditional Use Permit (CUP-2023-04)- 5370 Ash Street – Planning & Community Development

There were two (2) speakers in favor of this conditional use permit:

Kevin Waters – I am the owner of the property. I think the young lady said it was different from the school, but it is a part of the school. When I purchased the property was a Christian Private School and my church had to be affiliated with the school. I am asking the board to vote on the school and the daycare. It was an AA there for 23 years. We are trying to get back to the community and give back, so we were adding things inside the church. We did not know it had to be different, if we did, we would not have put it in there. We thought the church and the school was one entity.

When it comes to zoning, the school has its hours and the AA was in the evening, so they were not going to clash. Last time I was here it was something about the accreditation that I did. I had my people do the accreditation if you would like to see it. That school will be a great thing here. We are going into 16 years, and it can help get a lot of kids and get them off the street. We can partner and help build these kids up instead of tearing them down and kicking them out of school where we are taking kids in, that people do not want. We bring them in and develop them. That is what the church and the school are about.

Pastor Summit – I am the pastor of that church and I have been here in the Forest Park pastor for 23 years. To have Mr. Walters bring the school as part of the church would be a great asset to the community. Prior to us getting this building they had two AA groups meeting there on Tuesday nights and Thursday nights at 7. I was able to join those meetings to speak to the guys a couple of times. We ask that you give us the opportunity to serve Forest Park again.

There was one (1) person against this conditional use permit:

Connie Robins – I am opposing rezoning the Historic Ash Street Baptist Church. It should stay as a religious icon representing our faith in God. Please do not let this change to something it was never meant to be zoned for. My parents, my children and I were baptized at Ash Street Baptist Church. My grandson went to their preschool and serves in the navy, and I am really proud of him. This is a residential area and we do not need all these other things.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to table this item.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James - When this is brought back, I would like a little more clarity. I do understand it is not rezoned. It is a conditional use permit. Is it currently being used as a church, and we are asking for conditional use for the other things to be used or is it not a church. I am confused on if it is operating as a church, a school and requiring these conditional uses.

SaVaughn Irons – To our knowledge it is not operating as a church based on its history of the property and the permit that was submitted. They are trying to use it for the usage proposed in the application. None of the uses proposed to staff mentioned being operable as a church.

Councilmember James – If I purchase a property and it is a church do I have to get a conditional permit to operate as a church or can I operate as it is a church.

SaVaughn Irons – Places of assembly as well as religious workplaces have to have a conditional use permit to operate in the single-family residential district.

City Manager - If the business relocates before the nonconformance expires you do not have to get a conditional use, because you are still within that period. However, if you are outside that period you do have to have the permit. One of the things I will articulate that she is referencing is our LUPA and that governs our places of assembly etc. One thing I understand from staff is that you are confused as to the use and so is staff and the planning commission relative to the intent of the facility they are trying to house there.

SaVaughn Irons – Typically when we receive applications from businesses wanting to operate as a church it is listed on the application. Nowhere on this application was that listed, but all the other things were.

Councilmember James – Mr. Walter, you and your team should seek clarity of what you should put in your application.

Mayor Butler – They can have a separate conversation with our city attorney and staff.

Councilmember James – We are going to table this because I do not know what to approve.

Councilmember Antione – I echo that make sure you get with the planning committee. It sounds like a good program, but something is not being communicated.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I also encourage you to reach out to the residents and see how they feel, because the building is historic to the community as well. I am always in favor of bringing in educational resources into our community.

Councilmember Akins- Wells – I agree with my colleague. We have to hold them accountable and ourselves, because I am not sure if they have to operate as a church. So, is it clear how they have to operate if it was purchased as a church?

SaVaughn Irons – based on the current zoning of that district since it is a single family residential. The additional uses, if they wanted to operate as a private school or daycare center, we can approve that based on the conditional use permit. If there are other uses submitted that are not permitted uses, we would have to deny it based on the code.

Mayor Butler – There is so much confusion around this, and I want to remind the governing body that we are in this predicament because during the first hearing, they submitted fraudulent documents to elected

officials, which is a crime. To stand here now and say we do not want to do this, we want to do this adds to the confusion. We do not know what you want to do in that facility. Prior to those documents I did not question the necessity of the school you were trying to bring to the community. In fact, I heard great things about it. The attempt to defraud the government is something I cannot and will not let go of.

I do not know what you have now, but I advise you to take heed to what the council is saying and find out exactly what you want to do and then we will do the follow-up and verify all the documents that you submit.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing for Rezoning from RS to RM - Scott Rd.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

10. Council Approval on Rezoning from RS to RM - Scott Rd. (RZ-2023-02) – Planning & Community Development

Councilmember James – Point of order. Can we put these two items together even though they are the same but two separate parcels.

Mike Williams – You can streamline the consideration of the second one based on the information, but you have to deal with them separately.

There was one (1) speaker for this item:

Lorenzo Kendrick, Divine dream Homes ATL- Bringing 30-35 townhomes to Forest Park. It aligns with your comprehensive plan of wanting to add at least 3,000 households by 2025. We are going to have a workforce where we are going to provide closing costs for the police, fire departments and paramedics of \$5,000. You want employers to bring certain people to this side of town and they will be closer to work. It will also bring extra property taxes to invest in other projects.

There were three (4) speakers against the Rezoning from RS to RM - Scott Rd

Frank Holtzclaw – Have valid concerns about what they want to put there. The road is 500 ft long and it is one way in and one way out. There is a lot of crazy traffic coming through there from Jonesboro Rd to Scott Rd. I do not know how 32 cars can exist on this road. Is this community going to have a homeowner's association, will it be rental or for sale. We heard at one meeting they were going to start at \$ 275,000 and they were also going to be for low-income. I am also worried about the crime. How will this be set up, what about the dumpsters, where will they be? We built a new home here a few years ago, this is where we retired, in Forest Park. We spent a lot of money on noise cancellations. We spent everything we had on this house, and it has been peaceful and quiet down there our whole life. We are only 300 feet away from where we will be buried, and I do not think it is fair to come uproot us.

Kay Holtzclaw – I was born on Scott Rd; I remember being bare footing and I love it. It started as 7 homes all family. Now it is down to three homes. Just to think of the wooded trees we have there that stop the buffering of JB Hunt and the scenery like I am out in a forest. I love Forest Park, and this is going to be heartbreaking. I can understand 3 or 4 homes going up there, I would love neighbors. You must consider how I feel about town homes. A lot of people will bring a lot of other things. I am not asking you not to let this pass, I am begging you to consider homes instead of townhomes.

Alice Hummel – I am asking that they build single homes around there. If they do build townhomes, I would like an 8ft private fence from my property all the way down.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez - I understand the mayor urge to build here and I honestly have not gone down Scott Rd. I have driven by but never gone down there. I am not comfortable approving this yet. I am about new development, but I also want to make sure we are respecting the people that are here. I am happy the developers chose Forest Park, but many developers are going to choose Forest Park. I don't want us to jump anytime someone comes here with a shiny coin we desperately jump on it.

Mayor Butler – That is not the case.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I did not say you. I just want to make sure we do not do that. I am not ready to approve this, you all can do what you want to. Thank you for the presentation.

Councilmember Akins Wells - I am dealing with this same thing in my ward. Some felt like it was okay to put a transfer station in the middle of a community. I agree with you all 110 percent. I have been down this street, and I have sat in Mrs. Kay house. I agree with Councilman Gutierrez, yes, we want development, but we have to take care of the people that are here, because they have been ignored for a long time. Transfer station for example.

They have been the only families there for a long time, so who are we to say here deal with it. I do not operate like that. I think the residents should have a say in what they have to deal with. They already have to deal with the noise from the trucking company and other things. It is dear to me, because I was on the phone prior to coming to this meeting with Mrs. Thompson from my ward who said they feel neglected by the mayor and council, because they have to live on the road where the transfer station is. I do not feel we should approve it, if you come back with single family homes then maybe we can talk about it.

Councilmember Mears- I agree with Councilmember Wells, the people have been there a long time and they say that they are willing to compromise. They would like to have neighbors there but not to that magnitude. I would like to table it to see if we can come to a conclusion with the builder and the people that are there.

Councilmember James -This is a tough spot to be in as a council member. We have housing stock issues in Forest Park. I know we have to have something of quality to make people want to move here. I do know Scott Roads and I have been to Mrs. Kay house. I can remember the first developers that came and wanted to commercial, we said no this is residential. What I told them when I was leaving their home is I'm leaning toward approval but would have an open mind and hear what is being said.

I will agree to table but I do believe we need housing stock. Mr. Lorenzo has agreed to do some work on the road, which is a major thing for you, and how the road was going to impede. As a council person, I do not want to stop the city from progressing, but I do not want to impact the quality of life for our legacy residents.

I believe there is a balance as to where we can improve our city as well as maintain the quality of life for our residents. By working with the police department and the work they have been doing over there, addressing the loitering by McDonalds, and trying to combat any crime coming in over there. I just do not want to impede the progress our city has the potential of making. Again, I will agree to table this to see what we can do. I do not know if the developer will even agree to do something smaller.

This is high quality in my mind, and it may seem like a lot, but when you have townhomes that are right there together it is like a big house. This is a tough situation to be in as a council person. I will agree to table this, but if the developer is not willing to do something different, I will lean in favor of approval.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – What will we be tabling? What will be tabling it for, just them because other developers can come in too, right.

Councilmember James – No. For me personally, I do not know about Councilmember Gutierrez, I would say table it to have a discussion with the developer. I know it has taken a long time, because I have done a little research on the history of how we got to this point. This is the first time this has come in front of us as a council. We were made aware of the other developers; you remember that Councilmember Wells. With this property there are so many different variants he was trying to do there; it never came before us because it kept getting rejected by the planning commission. They are at the point now as to where the planning commission has approved it. With all fairness I can say he has done what he can to come in compliance with what we as a city say we want.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to table this item.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez – Yes, I would like to take a tour of this area and talk to the developer. What is it that you are planning to do over there outside of these pictures. I plan on visiting Scott Rd.

Councilmember Wells – We are tabling this to see what he wants to do, but would you be willing to put single family homes verse townhomes? I agree we need housing, but at the end of the day we do not want to make our residents that have already been here uncomfortable. If you ride down Scott Rd., it is not a place that you see and say oh I want to me here. There is plenty of land here that can be developed. I would be contradicting myself if I agree with this but fighting to have the transfer station moved.

Councilmember Mears- I do not know the building codes of zoning, or the room It would take to put that many condominiums there. I knew the guy who wanted to do it before, known him for about 30 years and we have not spoken since, because I didn't vote for him to put a shop or business over there. I would like to table this to see if there will be a compromise and bath parties can come out.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing for the Rezoning from RS to RM - Scott Rd.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

11. Council Approval on Rezoning from RS to RM - Scott Rd. (RZ-2023-02) – Planning & Community Development

There was one (1) speaker for this item:

Lorenzo Kendrick – I presented single family homes a year ago. I am not trying to outcast anyone. I just want it to be a bigger community, that is why we are adding playgrounds and dog parks. If you build it, they will come, it does not matter if they can see it from the expressway. The reason we are not bringing low model stuff is because it brings a different type of neighbor.

If we are having high-end neighbors come in there is not going to be crime. That is why we are in vesting in police is so they can live here, the paramedics and firemen it will be a nit community. I know, Ms. Kay and everybody, that change is hard. In the words of Ms. Kay, I asked several different ways, how can we do this? She said she would like it to remain woods forever. I said I cannot let it remain woods forever. They said with JB hunt being there they have to pressure wash their homes. The way we built this neighborhood is to block them from JB Hunt, to block the noise to expand the streets, so they can have sidewalks, even biking in and out.

You have 1.6 acres on both sides, and it is big enough to support this. Each individual townhome will have their own rash can just like a house. I do not know what else to do, I have brought multiple things. I think this will be great for the neighbors and for the city.

There were three (2) speakers against the Rezoning from RS to RM - Scott Rd

Mrs. Kay – He was basically telling me something is going to be put here, the property has been here for too long we not gone let it deteriorate. He asked what I want, I said the trees. He said something is going to be here I do not care what you say. So, I said we will have to go to the hearing. He can put 4 homes there, beautiful homes, I don't care. I want neighbors just not that many. In the meeting he said it would be \$275,000 for the ends and before the end of the meeting he said it is going to be for low income as well. Just consider a motion to table and if you have not been down the road please come. It is just going to be hard.

Ms. Felicia Davis – I could not sit in my chair and not say anything. A lot of times we want economic development and I want it more than anything. People know I work with issues related to the environment and climate. As we are experiencing heatwave and tree cover, this is a situation for trees that she is speaking on that are probably older than all of you. When you take them out it takes that much time to come back. We are defined as the City of Every Season; we do not want the season to be 120 degrees and unbearable. It seems efficient but we all underestimate the value of trees. Our city will become more livable the more trees we are careful to preserve. The two- and three-thousand-dollar homes with trees in the

vicinity can you imagine 500-thousand-dollar homes, in proximity to what you already have, but we have to prioritize sustaining our natural environment.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to table this item.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

City Manager – So that we are clear as we motion to table these items, first we need and understand of how soon, and when that tabling is and what the table is. I noticed on the previous item there was no time given by the governing body relative to requests such as these. What I see happening is when a new development goes up on land, the individuals that have been here are not going to want to see the development. The notion that I want to dispel is that town homes are not just afforded to low-income communities. The second thing is just looking at the process that Mr. Lorenzo has gone through to get here. He was essentially told he couldn't do one thing and maximized his opportunity and I must say I have never heard the notion of low-income during the course of this development. What it did hear is that it would be preference to police, firefighters, to keep our employees living here, because of an incentive they would receive. Also, a townhome does not have dumpsters. They have residential garbage cans receptors outside their home and the trashman comes to pick it up once a week.

I would like to get some understanding from the governing body on their wish to do a tour. Second, when we are out and developing this land in the City of Forest Park, how do you want to handle these types of developments. As you have seen, the work that Mr. Lorenzo has done, in response to staff and the planning commission to get to this point. I know we have to preserve it for our legacy resident, but to be successful, we really need to know where this governing body wishes to go. If the governing body wishes to table this, that is fine we just need some direction on what you want to bring back, so we are meeting the mark relative to communication with the developer.

I heard talk of a particular fence that could go up on this site. I don't know if I came out on the playground if it would be afforded to the residence that are already on the street. One of the process improvements that we are going to try and do, as these items are coming up before the planning commission is going ahead and shooting them out to the governing body. So, any and all tours you plan to do can be done prior to the meetings. We can then hear from the governing body, relay that information and keep it consistent across the board so that we can help our developers that are coming into the community.

Councilmember James - I would say this is July and we have a meeting coming up in August. Everyone who has not seen the street can see the street and then we can have a meeting with Mr. Lorenzo. From what I am hearing him say, there was a proposal before on single family homes. I do not know the whole story, but I say we be able to come back in August.

Councilmember Antione – I think that is fair. It gives me time to look at it and make the right decision.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I do not want it to look like I have known about this the whole time. When I got the agenda and looked at it. Based off that I would like to personally go out there and look and talk to the residents. Mr. Lorenzo can give us a tour and inform us of his plans are.

Councilmember Akins Wells – Same thing I said before. When we are looking at redevelopment it is not what we want. We are elected officials, and we work for them. So, I feel we need to get the community's input on some of these developments to see what they want. It is not just up to us we are the policy and decision makers. They elected us and we should hear what they want in their community. It would be slapping the residence on Lamar Drive in the face if I said we are going to put townhomes here, and these three families have been here all of their life. We need to take them into consideration when making this decision.

Councilmember Mears – The three residents are in a position to make some changes, if we can get them and the other party together to make a compromise that everyone can live with. Like Mrs. Wells, said it is bad to come in and just take over, because this side is open, and this side is building and run over the residence. I think there is a compromise that can be made between the two parties.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were three (3) public speakers:

Mr. Pellegrine – I wanted the city manager to know, I have been impressed with the ideas coming out of the Leaflet Report. I agree with you on the home repair fund and having the city take care of handling disbursement of any said funds. SeeClickFix, has not fixed my problem yet, but within three hours of reporting it, I had guys by my home, and I will follow-up with public works. Mr. Pellegrini, missed it, but appreciated the Muslim Heritage month recognition that was giving.

Ms. Gunn – I want you to reconsider your vote on the redistricting. The city council are the lawmakers, you govern, and you are supposed to be here to protect us, not open the door and just let people come in and have their way. In the last presentation they came in talking about relining and lawsuits, has me flared up. You say it is not political, but about business, if that is so, why are we tabling this and putting it down the line? If there is no political agenda and it is about business moving forward for the city for our residents take care of the business.

I am hearing things that we need in this city, and you are able to table this and look at it down the line and open the door for these things to come down and ravish us, ravish our finances. That is not sound judgement when it comes to business. Take care of the business and do what you are required to do. Make sure we are sound in the city and moving forward. I have never seen Mayor Butler come and stand on this side and give a presentation. That lets me know how important this is.

Zack Parker - This will only get him more promotions but let me start by saying Anthony Morgan should not be on the police force. I have had problems with you, mayor, as well.

Mayor Butler – Please direct all comments to the chair, and we will not use name.

Zack Parker - This will only get him more promotions but let me start by saying Officer Morgan should not be on the police force.

Mayor Butler – This is your last warning?

Zach Parker – I have had problems with you mayor, as well as members of the council, going back years. Mayor, you rolled your eyes, when that lady asked about an eight-foot fence. How horrible is that representation of our city mayor. Is technique providing their services to these town homes. When I came to the council of previous city managers, I was never met with answers, but always excuses. Then what would follow is retaliation from officials and police. This is not new; I have come here to talk about retaliation before. If anyone has been around paying attention, they have heard me say these things for years. The Forest Park police and city officials continually retaliate against me for breaking no laws but holding them accountable and asking questions. I was illegally detained by Forest Park police last May, because I was white and suspicious in the words of the caller. I am not sure when that became a crime in Forest Park.

Council, please look into decriminalizing that. We have a new police chief, and I was told to give him a chance. I would love to come before you and say the new chief has solved all the problems and I am no longer retaliated against; this is not the case. I was walking in the park a few weeks ago and there were about 40 other people using the park that day. I was committing no crimes and causing no problems, so why did seven police cars show up at various times in 45 minutes and shadow me, follow me, and four officers made contact with me? The police officers who contacted me I did not see contact any other resident in the park that day then why the interest in me.

My first contact was officer cannot say, who pulls up beside me and asks me how I am doing, gets out of his vehicle and asks me if I'm okay. Breaking no laws and walking on the sidewalk, told him I was okay, and he was free to go. He then gets back in his patrol car, at the same time another officer who was obviously shadowing me as well in his patrol car, because they pair up stopped to ask me if I was related to another white person he happened to know. I guess we all look alike to him. Then about 10 minutes later a police officer in his vehicle came within two or three feet of me, as I was coming off this crosswalk onto the sidewalk.

That officer got on his cell phone and began shadowing me too as I was walking away from the park on the sidewalk in front of city hall. He maneuvered to go around me and get in front of me by going down the parkway. When I saw him do this due to my previous experience with Forest Park police it scared me. Why was he following me, and why was he trying to cut me off in the park? I turned around and began jogging back towards the park on the sidewalk in front of city hall. Remember I had not broken any laws, then why did the officer then activate his lights and siren and pull me over while jogging on the sidewalk. He too got out of his car and was ready to run after me. I asked him if I was being detained or arrested, he told me no I told him he was free to go. At that time another officer pulled in behind him, they continued to follow me in their vehicles on the phone until I got to Hines Ward as another patrol car drove by.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Council agenda for July 17, 2023, as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

12. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2023, and Special Called Meeting Minutes from June 22 & 29, 2023 - City Clerk

It was moved to accept the Council Work Session, Regular Meeting minutes from June 20, 2023, and the Special Meeting minutes from June 22, 29, 2023.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

OLD BUSINESS:

13. Council Approval of Request to Reconsider Previous Vote on Redistricting – Legislative Offices

Mayor Butler – Councilmember James, Councilmember Antione, and Councilmember Mears, I will need one of you three to make the motion for this.

It was motioned to approve the Request to Reconsider Previous Vote on Redistricting.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember Akins- Wells – Where are we, discussing the streets? Are we going to get into that, do we have time to get into it today?

City Manager – The motion on the floor is only for this item to be reconsidered. We can go through street by street if you would like Councilwoman Wells.

Mayor Butler – Could you send it in an email, would you like to see it now?

Councilwoman Wells – No, I just want us to understand because it still looks unbalanced. If we are going to do it, I want to do it right and know exactly what we are doing.

Councilmember Antione – So, all wards will be balanced out.

Councilmember James – I am going to vote not in favor of this. There is no time and I mean we see the map, but we haven't looked at the map I mean it does look like the lines are cleaner but still um it's still a I mean it still seems a bit rushed. It is rushed because Mr. Clark is just getting the information that should have been to us fair enough. I am in opposition.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells

Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Mears

City Attorney- Madam Mayor, you can adopt a motion to approve what was presented and prepared by the State Apportionment Office of if you need more time to look at streets, according to the calendar you have about a week or so to finalize it.

Mayor Butler – I will just put the vote out there to approve what was presented because that is just a week longer what we have to get the notices out there. Timing is of the essence.

It was motioned to approve the Redistricting as it was presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.
Voting Yea: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez,
Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears
Motioned failed due to a lack of votes.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- I want to be clear because I asked specifically, so we can all look at the lines and make sure everything is okay, but you took that out.

Mayor Butler – We already went over it.

NEW BUSINESS:

14. Council Approval of City of Forest Park Accident Review Committee – Executive Offices

It was moved to approve the Forest Park Accident Review Committee.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

15. Council Approval of CDBG Funds Reallocation – Executive Offices

It was moved to approve CDBG Funds Reallocation.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

16. Council Approval of Revision to Personnel Manual with Respect to Employee Terminations – Executive Offices

It was moved to approve Revision to Personnel Manual with Respect to Employee Terminations.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

17. Council Approval of Revised Resignation and Paid Leave Policy – Executive Offices

It was moved to approve Revised Resignation and Paid Leave Policy.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

18. Council Approval of Request for Ratification Purchase of Ford Interceptors - Police Department

It was moved to approve the Request for Ratification Purchase of Ford Interceptors.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

19. Council Approval of Reorganization of the Police Department - Police Department

It was moved to approve Reorganization of the Police Department.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – I would like City Manager Clark to get us an up-to-date organization chart of all the departments, so we will know where we are. I would also like the council to consider the deputy city manager's position.

City Manager – I believe as part of the budget we will be working on updating all the charts. We will work with Lavar to make sure they are all uniform, but we will work to get that document to you.

Diane Lewis, Deputy Director HR – We will get that over to you. Part of the finance department and go over to the meetings for the budget review and update the org charts.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

20. Council Approval of Forest Park Fire Department Employee Referral Program – Executive Offices

It was moved to approve Forest Park Fire Department Employee Referral Program.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

21. Council Approval of Forest Park Fire Department Sign - On Bonus – Executive Offices

It was moved to approve the Forest Park Fire Department Sign on Bonus.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – Thank you, it has been a long night. Thursday is the ward meeting. I will be at the senior center instead of 696. Come out at 5'oclock and have a great evening.

Councilmember Antione – God bless you, drive safe, and I love you all.

Councilmember Gutierrez – We had an amazing time at Food Truck Friday and an amazing time at Bingo night. Make sure you all are coming out. The back-to-school bash was a success. Thank you for coming, reach out if you have any questions and be safe.

Councilmember Akins Wells- Mrs. Felicia Davis, thank you for everything you do. She is a hard-working woman, and a little soft-spoken She received a grant from HBCU Green Fund of one million dollars from the Bezos fund announced today in the AGC. As an elected official, I do not go along to get along. I am one of the realest, honest, and transparent people that you will ever meet.

One thing I do not like is for us to disrespect our residents. I do not care how I feel about you personally, I may not want to hear what you have to say, but I got to hear it because it is my job to hear it. That is something we need to pay attention to. How we react and respond to the people that is getting up voicing their opinions, because they can.

As far as the redistricting, my vote lets you all know that either way, if I do my job the people are going to vote. If they do their job the people are going to vote, but I am a voice for my residence and the only reason I wanted to look more into the lines is because my residence requested that we do so. Having that taken out did not make sense to me. I already have people texting my phone. I do not have to explain my vote, but I will. The residents have questions and I need to be able to answer them. If I cannot answer those questions, it seems like I am not doing my job. So, me voting for that and not doing what they asked me to do, I would not have been doing my job. That is why I voted the way I did.

You cannot feel as a developer that you can come to Forest Park and run anything. Yes, we need the development, but you are not going to come here and disrespect our residence, because they are here, and we serve them. I think it was distasteful to want to build in our community and then disrespect our residence. The residents and I are looking forward to Fun Friday, we have a nice band Red Sample, on Friday from 7 to 11. That Saturday, we will have a huge Back to School Bash. Some of the young men and myself will give out uniforms and school supplies, we have the bouncy house for the kids, and I hear pd and fire will come out to volunteer. These are the things I am about, giving back and bringing the community together. I am trying to be One Forest Park, if you have not been to a Fun Friday, or back to school event come out. The employees be enjoying themselves at Fun Friday and that is what we do it for, to bring everyone together. Thanks to everyone that came and joined online and for being patient.

Councilmember Mears – I recognize the oldest Forest Park resident that attends the meetings, but he is gone he had to go to bed. I just want everyone to know that Willie was here, thank you.

Mayor Butler – I want to thank everyone for coming. Please bear with me a little longer, I have an item for the Executive Session. As it pertains to the redistricting, nothing was removed. Mike was presenting, was essentially that we wait another week to have everyone look at everything, which in my opinion would have just prolonged another week of getting this out to the residence. Nothing was changed, it was what was presented at our Special Called Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate)

It was moved to enter in Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate matters at 9:57pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to reconvene back into the Council Regular Session at 10:25pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to Reconsider Redistricting.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells

Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to approve the Redistricting.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Akins-Wells

Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Mears

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Council Regular Session at 10:27pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears