



**CITY OF FOREST PARK
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 5:30 PM
City Hall-Council Chambers

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
Phone Number: (404) 363.2454

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
745 Forest Parkway
Forest Park, GA 30297

MINUTES

Billy Freeman, *Chairman*
Alvin Patton, *Vice Chairman*
Felicia Davis, *Member*
Hector Gutierrez, *Member*
Bennett Joiner, *Member*
Victoria Williams, *Member*
Rhonda Wright, *Member*

MEETING NOTICE:

Due to COVID-19, CDC requirements of masks and social distancing will be adhered.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Vice Chairman Alvin Patton called the Development Authority Meeting on October 26, 2022, to order at 5:32pm.

Present:

Billy Freeman, Jr.
Alvin Patton
Victoria Williams
Rhonda Wright

Also Present:

Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director
Councilwoman Kimberly James
Kirby Glaze, DA General Counsel
Bruce Abraham, Economic Development Director
Charise Clay, Economic Development- Staff Assistant
Danita Hamid, Economic Development Project Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of September 28, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Victoria Williams made a motion to approve the September 28, 2022, meeting minutes. Rhonda Wright seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. 850 Main Street

Chairman Freeman, discussed 850 Main Street:

- Mr. Freeman delivered the architectural renderings for 850 Main Street. The renderings described a mixed used building with 8 apartment units on top and one retail space on the bottom. If the board decides to move forward on the project gathering construction costs and building designs will be the next steps.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Façade Grant Application Review

Danita Hamid, Econ. Dev. Project Manager delivered the Façade Grant review update:

- The board was given a list of all the current recipients and new applicants for the grant. 7 businesses on Main Street have been awarded grant funding. The 2 new grant applicants are Atlas Strength & Conditioning (4931 Phillips Drive) and Tabejo Investments (752 Main Street). Atlas is requesting funds for an outdoor workout area. Both companies are operated by the same organization. Before approving grant funds, the board requested the owner of both properties to come and discuss their project with the board.
- 780 Main Street: Nachae Jones of Jonesy's Place was approved for a Façade Grant in August of 2021. According to the Grant Acknowledgement Form, recipients have 6 months to start their project once it is approved by the board or they can be removed from the program at the discretion of the Development Authority. To stay in accordance with the Façade Grant Acknowledgement Form, Nachae is asking for an extension to begin her project due to switching contractors.

Victoria Williams made a motion to approve an extension for Jonesy's Place. Rhonda Wright seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Economic Development Update

Bruce Abraham, gave the Economic Development, update:

- DA Financial update: Charise Clay and Chiquita Barkley, City of Forest Park- Finance Director, met to discuss the process of transitioning the Development Authority's finances from the city to a private institution. Monthly meetings prior to the monthly board meetings will occur between the 2.
- Forest Park Business Association: Every business in the city was invited to Breakfast on the Go with the city. Almost 100 businesses attended the event. A business directory was created with all attendee information. More events and seminars are coming.
- Gillem: A very substantial prospect is looking to take about 75-80 acres at Gillem. The organization is expected to provide around 2,000 high-earning jobs. 3 restaurants and a brewery are interested in beginning their project at Gillem.
- BlueStar: The movie studio at Gillem Logistics Center is finally beginning construction. 600,000 sq. ft. renovation will be coming. \$180 million investment for the City of Forest Park. The studio will support about 1,200 people.

5. Local Community Initiative (LCI)

Bruce Abraham, gave the LCI, update:

- New landscaping, curbs, and other improvements are underway on Main Street. The improvements will take place in phases.

Other Discussion:

- Councilwoman Kimberly James informed the board of an event that'll take place next year. The event will be a community giveaway at the new movie studio in Gillem in June of next year.

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

Rhonda Wright made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter Executive Session at 6:02pm. Victoria Williams seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Victoria Williams made a motion to exit Executive Session at 6:13pm. Rhonda Wright seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Victoria Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18pm. Alvin Patton seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 404-366-1555.