



**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers, Virtual Meeting Via Zoom and YouTube Livestream

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

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

AGENDA

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James The Honorable Dabouze Antoine
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells
The Honorable Allan Mears

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager
S. Diane White, Interim City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

INVOCATION/PLEDGE:

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. Councilmember Gutierrez would like to present a proclamation recognizing June as LGBTQ Month**

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 2. Council Approval of Second Reading and Adoption of FY22 Fiscal Budget Ordinance - Interim Finance Director Darquita Williams**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2021 - S. Diane White, Interim City Clerk**

OLD BUSINESS:

4. **Withdraw Fire Scene Investigation Unit from Donation to Sister City** - Deputy Fire Chief Clemons
5. **Council Approval of Fire Squad Vehicle for Donation to Sister City** - Deputy Fire Chief Clemons

NEW BUSINESS:

6. **Council Approval to Surplus Vehicle/Equipment for Auction on Public Surplus** – Public Works Director, Bobby Jinks
7. **Council Approval to give Support for the Restoring Neighborhoods and Strengthening Communities Act** - Dr. Cooper, City Manager
8. **Council Approval to Apply for GEMA Grants** - Fire & EMA Departments
- [9.](#) **Council Approval of Resolution 2021-91 for Bulletproof Vests Partnership Program** - Police Department and Grants Management

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

File Attachments for Item:

1. Councilmember Gutierrez would like to present a proclamation recognizing June as LGBTQ Month



CITY OF
FORESTPARK

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING JUNE AS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH IN THE CITY OF FOREST PARK

- WHEREAS:** The City of Forest Park recognizes that it has a diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ) community and is committed to supporting visibility, dignity, and equity for all people in the community; and
- WHEREAS:** many of the residents, students, city employees, and business owners within the City of Forest Park who contribute to the enrichment of our city are a part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning community; and
- WHEREAS:** various advancement has been made with respect to equitable treatment of lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, and questioning persons throughout the nation, but there continues to be some opposition against people from this community and around the world making it important for cities like Forest Park to stand up and show support for our residents who are affected; and
- WHEREAS:** several cities across the United States recognize and celebrate June as LGBTQ Pride Month; and
- WHEREAS:** June has become a symbolic month in which lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and supporters come together in various celebration of pride; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Forest Park does hereby declare the month of June as LGBTQ Pride month in the City of Forest Park and invites everyone to reflect on ways we all can live and work together with a commitment of mutual respect and understanding.

File Attachments for Item:

2. Council Approval of Second Reading and Adoption of FY22 Fiscal Budget Ordinance - Interim
Finance Director Darquita Williams

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CLAYTON

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF FOREST PARK, GEORGIA, TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, ENDING JUNE 30, 2022; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FOREST PARK AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE AUTHORITY OF SAME THAT:

Section 1: The annual budget for the operations, capital projects, grant programs and debt service for the city for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022, is **\$34,714,281**. The budget includes all revenues and expenditures for governmental and enterprise purposes as detailed in the accompany budget documents herein incorporated is hereby adopted in accordance with Georgia Law. The Fund Summaries are as follows:

FY 22 FUND REVENUES

TAXES:	\$24,111,166
LICENSE AND PERMITS:	\$683,172
CHARGES FOR SERVICES:	\$548,980
FINES AND FORFEITURES:	\$833,816
INVESTMENT INCOME:	\$35,000
MISC INCOME:	\$5,521,544
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:	\$2,980,603
TOTAL REVENUES:	\$34,714,281

FY22 FUND EXPENDITURES

LEGISLATIVE:	\$804,270
CHIEF EXECUTIVE:	\$1,222,133
FINANCE:	\$5,440,749
JUDGE AND SOLICITORS:	\$139,007
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES:	\$724,540
SUPPORT SERVICES:	\$578,652
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:	\$291,638
FLEET SERVICES:	\$108,300
POLICE SERVICES:	\$10,179,524
E911 COMMUNICATIONS:	\$764,386
RECREATION AND LEISURE:	\$1,333,520
PUBLIC WORKS:	\$3,562,050
PUBLIC WORKS - PARKS:	\$137,900
PB&Z:	\$967,478
ANIMAL CONTROL:	\$129,212
FIRE - EMS SERVICES:	\$2,323,415
FIRE - FIREFIGHTERS ADMIN:	\$6,004,007
EMERGENCY MANagementsERVICES:	\$3,500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$34,714,281

Section 2: This ordinance shall become effective immediately and the budget shall be implemented for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Section 3: Repealer – All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4: Severability – In the event any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance shall be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall in no matter effect the other section, subsections, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect as if the section, subsections, sentence, clause, or phrase so declared to be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not a part hereof. The Council hereby declares that it would not have passed the remaining parts of this ordinance if it had known that such part or parts hereof would be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

First Reading: June 16, 2021

Second Reading: _____

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

This Ordinance having been duly advertised and public hearings thereon held, the same adopted and approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Forest Park, this day of _____, 2021.

Mayor Angelyne Butler

Council Member Kimberly James, Ward 1

Council Member Dabouze Antoine, Ward 2

Council Member Hector Gutierrez, Ward 3

Council Member Latresa Wells, Ward 4

Council Member Allan Mears, Ward 5

ATTEST:

City Clerk (SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Georgia lawmakers respond to crime wave

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — The double-barreled ugliness that was 2020 in America is reverberating in 2021 in a crime wave that has hit cities across the country, including Atlanta.

In Georgia, the rise in violent crime sparked by the coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide protests following the murder of George Floyd, a black man, at the hands of a white police officer in Minneapolis is being felt primarily in the metro region.

But the increase in crime is raising alarms at the Georgia Capitol to the point that a committee in the state House of Representatives has begun holding hearings to try to identify the causes of what's happening and how the state might help fix it.

"Atlanta has been the engine that runs Georgia," Rep. Darlene Taylor, R-Thomasville, said late last month during the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee's initial hearing. "We cannot let this deteriorate."

"We have a crime wave in Atlanta, a battle that we're losing," added House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge, who tasked the committee to look into the issue. "The only way we're going to win it is to work together."

The statistics are grim. Homicides in metro Atlanta are up by 60% so far this year over 2020.

Statewide, there were 125,873 "crimes against persons" – including death

investigations, assaults and robberies – during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. That's slightly higher than the 125,680 such crimes reported during all of Fiscal 2020.

The increase in the broad category of assaults, robberies, kidnapping and human trafficking was particularly dramatic: 19,746 through the first 10 months of Fiscal 2021 compared to 15,809 for all of the last fiscal year.

Dean Dabney, chairman of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia State University, said COVID-19 is partly to blame for the crime wave. While domestic violence didn't rise significantly during the pandemic, according to national research, street crimes did, Dabney said.

"It was people on the streets, gangs, drugs, those kinds of dynamics," he said.

Dabney said that trend was particularly pronounced in Georgia. As one of the first states to re-open its economy, Georgia drew people from other states anxious to escape mandatory lockdowns, he said.

He suggested the shutdown of courts during the pandemic also has contributed to higher crime by delaying prosecutions, which left accused criminals on the streets.

But Dabney said the fallout from the deaths last year of Floyd and Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta has played a larger role in the crime wave than

COVID-19 because of the impact the protests have had on police officers.

"There's been a slight drop in community willingness to engage with police," he said. "But more of it is due to police not feeling comfortable with the rules of engagement."

Several members of the House committee said much the same thing during the panel's first hearing.

"There's been a tidal wave that's touched down on law enforcement," committee Chairman J. Collins, R-Villa Rica, said. "Law enforcement [officers] are scared to do their jobs."

While the General Assembly is in the business of passing laws, Ralston said new legislation is not going to fix the problem.

"I'm not sure we need new laws," he said. "We need a new commitment to enforce the laws we have. ... We're not apprehending people for committing crimes, and those we do we're not bringing to justice."

Instead of legislation, the state is dedicating money and personnel to fighting the crime wave. Gov. Brian Kemp has committed up to \$5 million of the Governor's Emergency Fund to support state efforts to bring crime in Atlanta under control.

"The state has some assets that can be of help: the state patrol, GBI, the Department of Natural Resources and others," Ralston said. "I want to see a unified effort to deal with a serious problem."



Shutterstock

The increase in crime is raising alarms at the Georgia Capitol to the point that a committee in the state House of Representatives has begun holding hearings to try to identify the causes of what's happening and how the state might help fix it.

But the brunt of combating Atlanta's crime wave falls on the city. Rodney Bryant, Atlanta's new police chief, announced a plan June 7 to restructure the Atlanta Police Department by creating a new domestic violence team, centralizing its investigative unit and expanding its gun assault unit.

"The state can only do so much," Kemp said. "I'm glad the APD is stepping up. We've needed that kind of leadership in the city."

Dabney said the police presence needs to increase if Atlanta and other cities

are to come to grips with the crime wave.

"Crime rates dropped precipitously over the last decade due in part to a proactive policy ... as opposed to waiting for 911 calls and going there in a reactive manner," he said. "That came to a screeching halt last summer."

But in the current atmosphere, Dabney said police have to be careful in how they step up their presence.

"You can't just go back to the old way of aggressive policing; the community does not like that," he said. "You

need to revisit the tenets of community policing. ... You have to do reform and you have to do proactive."

Democrats on the House committee say they hope Republicans won't use the hearing to win votes by stirring up fears of crime.

"If it's political theater, I'm not interested," Rep. Scott Holcomb, D-Atlanta, said. "I'm interested in solutions."

Collins said the committee's mission is serious.

"There's going to be politics in this," he said. "[But] this committee wants to dig down and look at the facts."



Special Photo

Clayton police investigating shooting death in Riverdale

By Heather Middleton
hmiddleton@news-daily.com

RIVERDALE — Clayton County Police are investigating the death of Norman E. Johnson III after he was shot Wednesday night, June 9, in Riverdale.

Police said they were called to a person shot on Ga. Highway 85 at about 9:40 p.m. When they arrived they found Johnson dead on the floor of an apartment. Officers said it appears a robbery occurred.

No other information has been released as police continue their investigation.

PUBLIC NOTICE BUDGET HEARING

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FOREST PARK WILL HOLD MEETINGS
TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE
PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET ON

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021, @ 5:00PM

AND

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021, @ 7:00 PM

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL,
745 FOREST PARKWAY, FOREST PARK, GA 30297

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-
2022 BUDGET WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VIEW-
ING ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AND IN THE CITY
CLERK'S OFFICE, 745 FOREST PARKWAY, FOR-
EST PARK, GA 30297.

FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE
21, 2021, THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
BUDGET WILL BE ADOPTED.

LEGAL NOTICE CALL OF SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 1

CALL DATE: JUNE 1, 2021

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF DISTRICT 1 CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election shall be held on September 21, 2021 in the election precincts of County Commission District 1 of the County. A run-off, if needed, shall be held on October 19, 2021.

QUALIFYING: Qualifying for the special election shall be held at the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration Office, 121 South McDonough Street, Annex II, Main Floor Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. The qualifying fee shall be \$1,068 and can be paid by Cashier's Check or Money Order. The dates and hours of qualifying shall be as follows:

Monday, July 19, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 20, 2021 - 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 21, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, August 23, 2021 is the last day to register to vote for all persons who are not registered to vote and who desire to vote in the Special Election.

VOTING: The several places for holding said special election shall be in the regular and established election districts of the County, and the polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on the date fixed for the election. The first day Mail Absentee Ballot Applications can be accepted is Monday, July 5, 2021. The last day Mail Absentee Ballot Applications can be accepted is Friday, September 10, 2021.

Mail Absentee Voting will begin on Monday, August 23, 2021 and ends on Friday, September 17, 2021.

Absentee by Mail Drop Boxes will be open from Monday, August 30, 2021 to Friday, September 17, 2021 during the hours of In-Person Early Voting as established.

In-Person Early Voting will begin on Monday, August 30, 2021 and ends on Friday, September 17, 2021.

In-Person Early Voting will be held at Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration Office, 121 South McDonough Street, Annex II, Main Floor Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. Additional sites will be added to a future notice.

Those residents qualified to vote at said election shall be determined in all respects in accordance with election laws of the State of Georgia.

This notice is given pursuant to action of the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration.

For more information and updates regarding the Special Election in Commission District 1, Clayton County, please visit us at www.claytonelections.com.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND
REGISTRATION OF CLAYTON COUNTY

By: 
Chair

File Attachments for Item:

3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2021 - S.
Diane White, Interim City Clerk



CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL

City Council Work Session

Monday, June 07, 2021, at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Virtual Meeting Via Zoom and YouTube Livestream

Website: www.forestparkga.gov

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>

Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

FOREST PARK CITY HALL

745 Forest Parkway

Forest Park, GA 30297

DRAFT Work Session Meeting Minutes

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine

The Honorable Hector Gutierrez

The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

The Honorable Allan Mears

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager

S. Diane White, Interim City Clerk

Mike Williams, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 6:00pm.

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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4	✓	
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

DIRECTORS PRESENT: A. Girard Geeter, Procurement Manager; Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; James Shelby, Director of Planning & Zoning, Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Director of Parks and Recreation, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, and Latosha Clemons, Deputy Fire Chief

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager

COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:

- Moment of Silence for Clayton County Vice-Chairman Commissioner Sonna Singleton Gregory.
- Missing Child – Jessica Caulker missing since May 8, 2021. She is 5ft tall, slim/round body structure, weight 120. She likes to wear hoody hat, cover head. If seen please call Forest Park Police – 404-608-2366.
- Waste Management processing station we are working on a possible mitigation and/or resolution to this matter. We have contacted Waste Management and will be providing an update as soon as possible.
- Wharry House DDA is still gathering all necessary documentation and it is expected within the next two weeks City Council will be provided a full briefing, as well as a town hall for the residents. Please stay tuned for a date, time, and location for this town hall.
- Forest Park Ministers Association is hosting the Ministers for Healthy Communities Project 2021 Regional Town Hall Meeting. The meeting will be held Saturday, June 26, 2021, 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Starr Park (in accordance with CDC Social Distancing Guidelines + Virtual via Facebook live) for more information or to register visit www.Eventbrite.com/minister-for-healthy-communities.
- Forest Park Ministers Association and the City of Forest Park is sponsoring “Will Clean Up the Northside of our City” – June 12, 2021, volunteers are welcome. Facemasks are mandatory, hand sanitizers and gloves will be provided. For more information you can contact Edie Yongue 770-289-4640 or Dr. Leon Beeler 678-207-8904.
- City of Forest Park Presents FREEDOM DAY – A Juneteenth Celebration held on June 19th, starting at 4pm at the Starr Park Amphitheater, 803 Forest Parkway – Live entertainment, bounce houses, mechanical bulls, pony ride, food trucks, etc. Bring out the Family for a great day.
- Councilman Dabouze Antoine is presenting DIVE IN MOVIES – Poolside on June 13, 2021, 4pm – 8pm – movie featured will be “Tom & Jerry”. For more information you can contact Marquesa Moore 404-201-1126.
- Councilwoman Akins-Wells presents “Fun Friday” – June 18, 2021, from 8:00pm – 11:00pm at the Starr Park Amphitheater – featuring live band “Something for the Soul”.
- 2021-22 Budget Public Hearings – 1st meeting is set for June 16 @ 5:00 pm and the 2nd meeting is set for June 21 @ 7:00 pm both meetings will be held in City Hall Council Chambers.

CITY OPERATIONS:

- On May 26, 2021, the City of Forest Park Launched its new online payment portal visit www.forestparkga.gov and click on the “Online Payments” button to be taken to the link.
- The City of Forest Park Public Works department has resumed its Community Service Program as of May 18, 2021. The new hours will be from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm – Monday through Friday. Check in at 7:00 am at the right side of the Main Building Entrance located at 5230 Jones Rd, Forest Park, GA 30297.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Forest Park Police Department

- Thank You Officer Anfernee Morgan was working on duty at the “I’ve Been Broken to be set free” evening on May 23, 2021. We received correspondence from Ms. Chandra Heath, Executive Director of the Amazing Soldiers, Inc. who sponsored the event praising Officer Morgan. She stated that he was standing in the back of the room made his way to speak to the host and her other business associates. He stated that “he was

moved by the testimony of the women who had spoken.” He spoke for 3 minutes to the women in the room, and it was stated that his words moved them, so they wanted to let the executives and others know that they appreciated that moment. It was stated that “with all that is going on, we all needed that moment and it showed some of the women that not all police officers are bad.” The Executive Director stated that she believes “when employees show good gestures that their superiors should know.”

Finance Office

- Thank Deputy Finance Director Darquita Williams, Finance Manager Lori Still, Ms. Leigh Corley and Ms. Nekeeta Davis for being instrumental in the launch of the City of Forest Park’s new online payment portal.

Executive Offices

- The City Manager’s Employee Advisory Committee 1st meeting was held on Thursday, May 27th and I would like to personally thank members of the committee for speaking openly and candid with regarding issues concerning employees of our great city. Committee members are Ms. Yvonne Braswell, HR; Ms. Fatima Fernandez, Finance; Mr. Braun Allen, Forest Park PD; Ms. Shereka Rooser, PNZ; Mr. Marcus Porter, Public Works; Mr. Willie Freeman, Recreation and Leisure, Mr. Joseph Kidd, Fire; Ms. Lashawn Gardiner, Executive Office; Mr. Edwin Torres, Code Enforcement; and Ms. Brittney Sparks, Forest Park PD. This was a randomly selected group that has experience in the city ranging from 8 months to 24 years. We will be meeting monthly to discuss problems and solutions, if needed will be coming before the City Council for approval.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Deputy Fire Chief Clemons

Deputy Chief Clemons reported as of June 6, 2021, there has been over 24,410 cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) and 481 confirmed deaths. There were 61 new positive Covid-19 tests reported in Clayton County between May 31 and June 6th. Clayton County continues to account for 2.7% of the total cases in Georgia, and Forest Park representing 9.5% of cumulative Cases. 78,625 Clayton County residents (28%) have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and 63,981 (23%) have been fully vaccinated.

COVID Testing Location:

Rock Springs Baptist Church 5900 Reynolds Rd. Morrow, GA 30260
Appoints are required, contact 1 844 625 6522 then press option 3
Monday -Friday from 8:00am-4:pm

Covid Vaccination Locations:

Mundy’s Mill High School 9652 Fayetteville Rd Jonesboro, GA 30238. Call 678 479-2223

Additional Locations: Walgreens, CVS, Kroger, Publix, Ingles, Walmart

Vaccines can be received at (no fee) Insurance Information, Driver License or SS# may be requested but does not prevent residents from receiving the vaccine. Vaccination remains one of our best tools for stopping the spread of COVID-19, along with basic prevention measures:

Wear a Mask

- Wear a mask to protect you and others
- Cover your nose and mouth

Social Distance

- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance when possible

- Choose safe social activities
- Handwashing
- Wash your hands frequently
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

After discussion with the City Manager and the fact that the numbers have not shown much of a variance, Covid updates will be held on the 1st Commission Monday of the Month, unless deemed necessary.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Council Discussion Only on Rental Inspection Program** - James Shelby, Director of Planning, Building & Zoning

Background and Summary:

Discussion Only on Rental Inspection Program

James Shelby, Director of Planning, Building, and Zoning: Most of the presentation is inaudible on the recording. What could be interpreted in Mr. Shelby spoke to changing the ordinance, specifically the inspection portion.

Comments & Questions:

Councilmember Kimberly James: I believe this is an excellent idea, especially since we get some many complaints from residents about the problems in their apartment complexes. My questions are about private family homes. Does this ordinance speak to that at all? If I own a home and I am renting it out is this covered in this? How will you know that the house is being rented?

Shelby: Answer is mostly inaudible

Councilmember Gutierrez: I agree with Councilwoman James. I am glad this is being put in place. The cost of the annual. Can you briefly break down the fees that the owner is going to have to incur annually?

Shelby:

Councilmember Gutierrez: With this seems like a lot more work. Are we going to have to hire more staff? Is that something you are thinking about? I want to make sure that when we implement this, we are ready.

2. **Council Discussion Only on New Public Safety Building at Gillem Logistics** - James Shelby, Director of Planning, Building & Zoning

Background and Summary:

Discussion Only on the site plan and elevation for the new Public Safety building in Gillem Logistics - James Shelby, Director of Planning, Building & Zoning.

James Shelby – Presented site plans and the elevation for the Public Safety building at Ft. Gillem. It will sit on 4.32 acres. It will consist of a fire station with three bays with bi fold doors. It will also consists of police precinct. The fire station will be 13,208 sq. feet. There will be a conference room that will be

shared. There will be accommodations for the three shift changes. It is more than a step up than what our first responders have today. We are looking ultimately to address the needs that they have at the station. Groundbreaking is scheduled for July 26, 2021. A notice to the proceed for the contractor will be issued and the groundbreaking for the contractor is scheduled for November 16, 2021. Please keep in my mind that all dates are fluid and may have to be adjusted according to circumstance.

Comments & Questions:

Councilmember Gutierrez: Can you zoom in to the layout? I would like to know what is in there.

James Shelby – There will be a day room, dining room, kitchen with cabinets and storage space for the three shifts, fitness room, two officer bunks and shared office, eight bunks that will be put into pods (4 bunks pod a, 4 bunks pod b), watch sport room, and there will have a triage area/room. There are three bays in the fire station The police station will have a large conference room, lobby for citizens, office for patrolmen, office for the patrol supervisor, storage, deco room, and turnout gear room.

Councilmember Gutierrez: The top of the diagram says future training grounds. Are we going to use that a training area in the future?

James Shelby – This was supposed to be a replacement for the fire station, and we have gone over and beyond to ensure they have what they need.

3. Council Discussion on the Results of the Employee Survey - Councilmember Kimberly James

Councilmember James - Based on the Operational and Performance Audit there were some recommendations that were suggested to each department, and I am sure each Director has been task to implement as many of those recommendations as possible thanks to Dr. Cooper.

I am committed to focusing on the areas that we can change as the governing body. 33% of employees responded to survey and the scale ranged from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). The lowest score was 2.5, the highest score was 4.3. The highest score shows that employees more than agree that they are meeting the expectation of customers and understanding how their work relates to the success of the city and are proud to work for the city. I am very optimistic about these results. The lowest score from the survey relates to staffing levels, lack of clear communications and management. These areas are being addressed by our new City Manager, Dr. Cooper. We are proud of the level of experience and knowledge of our City Manager, and I am confident that the needed changes will occur.

There were eight open ended questions but for the purpose of this presentation, I want to focus on the question which asked employees to identify opportunities for improvement and the major impediments to making the improvements. Of the weaknesses/opportunities for improvement that were identified, some overlap and others are already being addressed. Are there any points on this list the council would like to address? The area I would like to address is Low Morale. I have forwarded a copy of an article, "11 ways to boost Employee Morale" to Dr. Cooper for his consideration. Of the impediments to making improvements that were identified, again some overlap and others are being addressed. Are there any points on this list the council would like to address? My next statement will address several points on this list and that is to say, "If we desire to be a progressive city, we need to make improvements in many areas and we must be willing to embrace change. I would challenge Dr. Cooper to continue work with and challenge our directors to continue with progress in these specific areas for the good of the city. We need to be sure that "leadership oppression" or any other type of oppression is not part of the City's Culture.

The final point on this list I would like to address is "elected officials inserting themselves in operations." As elected officials, we do not and should not have the power to hire and fire lower-level staff. The City Manager is the chief administrative officer of the city, and he directs and supervises all departments and is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the city. Employees are to follow the directions of their leaders who should follow the directions of the City Manager. There are only a handful of positions that the Council is directly responsible for filling. In fact, personnel are a very small fraction of the duties that we are responsible for, and most issues are handled by the City Manager who follows the charter and personnel policies with conviction. Employees should be comfortable doing their jobs without us interfering. Now then, I recognize there are certain situations when matters are brought to our attention and we can investigate to find out about the matter and, if warranted, we can discuss further as a council. I also want to say that of the issues that I have had to research, I have found that our staff has used our personnel attorneys to help with gathering the facts to come up with a result so rest assured that if an employee has a written complaint, it is not taken lightly and is handled with all matter of process to protect you as an employee and the City as an employer. One particular concern I want to share is that I have heard it said on many occasions that we as elected officials have the staff afraid. In response to this statement, I would say to you, do not be afraid but put your grievance or concern in writing and let the process work for the staff and the city. I also want to say that there should not be any bullying, or disrespectful or demeaning behavior toward any staff members because of a perceived 3 vote majority of the Council.

Our City Manager is in charge and should be respected in that manner. I know that recently, Dr. Cooper sent us a message reiterating his role and the level of disrespect that he believes is escalating towards the CM office as well as city staff. While I do not know the details or specifics, I would hope that if specifics are shared with us in future, then we as a council will address it and honor the Charter and the people that have been placed in charge. We need to hold each other accountable.

So that there is no misunderstanding, this is what I will say to the staff if anyone of us, except for Dr. Cooper, interferes with an employee's job duties and directs the employee to do something. You do not have to do it unless it has been cleared with your department head and the City Manager and this is especially true if you have already been given a directive by your superiors that contradicts the instructions that you are given by an elected official. If this is a problem, then I encourage you as staff to submit an official complaint to try and resolve the problem and then, if necessary, file an ethics charge.

I believe that council interference with personnel has got to stop. We were elected to govern the city, to set policy, and address concerns of our constituents, among other things. The governing body does not run the day-to-day operations of the city. It is our responsibility to appoint and/or confirm qualified people, such as the City Manager and department heads to handle the day-to-day operations for the city and we need to allow them to do their jobs without interference from us. And we should refer employees who come to us with concerns to follow the proper chain of command that is in place to address their concerns. As provided by Charter, we do not give orders.

Comments/Questions from Council:

Mayor Butler: Everything on here I agree with. I believe that they were spot on with their findings.

Councilmember Gutierrez: What do you mean when you say leadership oppression? I do not understand what you mean.

Councilmember James: Anyone can feel free to chime in but if I am a leader and I have someone under me that has an idea and I do not allow that idea to come out or overlook that idea or take that idea as my own and belittle the employee, you just belittle the staff to a certain extent.

Mayor Butler: I just looked up the definition of oppression to ensure we were on the right track and it's just prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control from leadership. That could be from elected officials, directors, or other employees doing it to themselves.

Councilmember Mears: I think you have two parts here. People are not trusting the leadership or the directors. They have suggestions and I think they're scared to make any suggestions because of being done the old way so long. I think we need to get a little more trust up between the directors and the employees and put out some of the *inaudible*. People scared that they are going to be unemployed because they speak their piece. This is America. We all do have opinions. It doesn't mean you have to listen to it. It just means that a person has a right to voice their opinion. Hopefully they are making stuff better for everyone else. I know we see a lot of intimidation. People are confident in doing their job

Councilmember Gutierrez: I agree with that. I appreciate you for bringing this out to the public. I'm glad we can show this to the public. The mayor always says it is a new day. The accountability aspect is here. Dr. Cooper is here. We now have a City Manager in place that I trust, and I feel like the leadership oppression, if you are an employee. People will eventually show their true colors. Accountability is for everybody, even for us.

Councilmember Mears: I believe Dr. Cooper is the man for the job. The things that are coming up are council members getting involved in day-to-day operations and are superseding the city manager. That's everywhere you go. The council at our level does not need to get involved in the day-to-day problems until it goes through the proper authority and then if Dr. Cooper has a problem, then he comes to us and then it becomes our problem and then the gloves are on. But I think a lot of the problems we have with our city employees deal with them not going through the chain of command without them being scared of being prosecuted and try to work it at that level and work it with Dr. Cooper administration. But we don't have that. I've been here five years and there has always been an undertow of I don't know skepticism that people are scared to reach out and really get comfortable in their job. I hope we can eliminate that section and get everyone on board. We have to stop going around his position.

Councilmember Gutierrez: I would like to hear from Dr. Cooper on what he doing to fix these things or address the recommendations.

Councilmember Antoine: I'm one of the longest here. Of course, nobody wants to come to work and feel like their wasting their time and not being heard. I heard Oprah say that everyone wants to be heard. But I also would like to say a lot of the things we are listening to is not going to be solved overnight. This man has been here two months. We can't ask him to wave a wand and fix everything. We also trust Dr. Cooper. He is statesmen and he listens, and he likes to learn while solving his problems. Dr. Cooper you have my support and I do not expect you to solve this problem by midnight.

Dr. Cooper: One of the things that I am adamant about is employee morale. Of course, with the directors, manager, chiefs, and deputy chiefs you are never going to please everyone 100% of the time. We always talk about fairness and equity. My job is to make sure the playing field is fair. My job is to make sure the playing field is even and fair. I want to hear from the staff. I want to hear from the people who are doing the day-to-day things. I love our directors and think they are brilliant. However, some of us are very removed from the operational standpoint. I am not encouraging any staff member to go out of the chain of command.

Follow your chain of command that is how problems get resolved. The employee advisory committee is a place for the employees to voice their issues and opinions. I do get every exit interview now and I read every single one to see what I could have done to make it better for them. Some of the things are general consensus items that we, as a city have to fix. It will take time. I have faith that we will get there.

4. **Council Discussion to Scrap Fire Equipment** - Deputy Fire Chief Clemons

Background and Summary:

The Fire Department is seeking council approval to scrap (1) Fire Scene Investigation Unit, (1) mobile water horse, (1) Squad and (1) Public Safety House. These items have been out of service and are no longer serviceable to the community or the City of Forest Park. These items are deemed non-valued as the repair cost has exceeded the value through the Fire Department's Fleet Replacement Plan. Public Works has approved with the details of these items to be scrapped.

Vehicle/Equipment Year/Make/Model

1. (Squad) S6-1FDXK84A7JVA21938 - YEAR MODEL 1988 FORD, 3399 miles unknown if accurate.
2. (Water buffalo) 400 GWB – 07101790
3. (Fire Safety Trailer) FST – 1PY1526
4. (Fire Scene Investigation UNIT) FSIU – 1FDXE45F7YHA20744 - YEAR MODEL 1999 FORD

Comments/Questions from Council:

5. **Council Discussion on Donating Decommission Fire Equipment to Sister Cities** - Deputy Fire Chief Clemons

Background and Summary:

The Fire Department is seeking approval to donate (1) Fire Scene Investigation Unit, and (1) mobile water horse to our sister cities for use. These items have been out of service and are no longer serviceable to the community or the City of Forest Park. The Water Buffalo can be used as an extinguishing agent to any Fire Incident and the Investigation Unit can be used as a medical transport or equipment storage for any significant incident. These items are deemed non-valued as the repair cost has exceeded the value through the Fire Department's Fleet Replacement Plan. The Water Buffalo was a donated item and has no title or value to the Fire Department. Public Works has approved with the details of these items.

Vehicle/Equipment Year/Make/Model

1. (Water buffalo) 400 GWB – 07101790
2. (Fire Scene Investigation UNIT) FSIU – 1FDXE45F7YHA20744 - YEAR MODEL 1999 FORD

Comments/Questions from Council:

Councilmember Mears: I think we are doing the right thing by giving this stuff up to people who need it. Once we donate or give it away, I don't feel like it's the City's responsibility to ship, haul, etc. to who it is supposed to go to. That is my recommendation.

Councilmember Antoine: If this gets passed would we order the hose that connects to the water buffalo? It's inoperable without the hose.

Dr. Cooper: I think that was something that was discussed.

Councilmember James: If we agree to donate it, are we saying we are on the hook for the costs of it?

Dr. Cooper: Because we've been talking about the shipping of this, we've been looking at alternative option with getting it there. You have a lot of organizations that donate and do things in our Sister City and in other places. If there are any financial costs, that will come back to the Council, but we have not heard back from the ones that donate their services for that and those are the people we are looking to get in touch with right now.

Councilmember Antione: I would say we jump on top of this. I would say it wise that we really check out who is delivering this. Because there are some organizations that say they are delivering it, but the items never get to the Sister City. The government takes it and doesn't give it to the people. It is wise that we get on top of who we get to send it.

Dr. Cooper: Shipping costs has us looking at almost \$30,000 for these items. It is expensive because they must go by boat, and it cannot go by plane. Councilman Antoine and I have been looking and organizations because we are aware that sometimes the resources are diverted to other places. However, it gets there, it has to come back before Council for approval.

Councilmember Mears: How many people are actually involved in this Sister City plan? Is it just Forest Park? Are we just the biggest?

Mayor Butler: No.

Councilmember Antoine: It is the whole nation. There are thousands of cities that are partnered up with countries everywhere.

Mears: I just want to make sure because this is really a burden on our taxpayer's money.

6. **Council Discussion on 2021 Municipal Elections Provider** - City Manager, Dr. Cooper

Background and Summary:

Due to the recent passage of new Georgia Election Laws, the City of Forest Park expressed an interest in outsourcing its local elections. The city has been in contact with Clayton County Board of Elections, who will not be deciding until July 1, 2021, and Intact Consulting Services to engage in the rendering election consultation and program management services for the local elections; as well as contact Dominion Voting for the equipment required to have an election. Due to the complexity in the new law the City of Forest Park is looking to engage with these services sooner than later to ensure proper processes are in place. It is recommended to the council that the City of Forest Park move forward with engaging Intact Consulting Services and Dominion Voting for the November 2, 2021, Municipal General Elections Cycle.

Comments/Questions from Council:

Councilmember James: The cost associated, we talked about it before, Dr. Cooper for this one is about \$23,000. What was the cost for the last election?

Dr. Cooper: The cost for this election is about \$26,000. For the 19/20 election the cost was about \$46,918.

Councilmember James: I just want to say that I feel like that is a great savings for the city.

Councilmember Gutierrez: I have a question about the questions you answered for Ms. Kemp on the establishment of the company. So, is it a company? Is it not established?

Dr. Cooper: It is a company. Mrs. Ridley is the Spalding County elections person. She is leaving there and has started her own company. She's very familiar with everything that we need to have done and her consulting has been established. I spoke with the City Attorney. We can legally enter into agreement with her to consult on our elections. Our City Clerk will be the person in charge of the election. She is the consultant that will work with the Clerk to ensure that everything is in place and in compliance.

Councilmember Gutierrez: Our City Clerk is still doing the election?

Dr. Cooper: Our City Clerk always oversees it. But the actual work will be done by the consulting group.

Councilmember Gutierrez: Did we do the procurement process? How did we find this individual?

Dr. Cooper: This is a special service. Under our charter we can move forward with this person. If you want to do procurement that would take about 3-4 months which would put you behind in the election cycle.

Councilmember James: One of the reasons why we had to move in this light is because of the resignation of our City Clerk, Ms. Steed

Councilmember Gutierrez: I have always wanted to outsource. I did not want this to fall on our City Clerk. My question is how we got to Ms. Ridley, but you said you used to run the Spalding County elections.

Mayor Butler: Yes

7. **Council Discussion on Adopting a Credit Card Use Policy** - Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director

There is not a credit card policy in place to govern the use of the city's credit card, therefore the Interim Finance Director is presenting the attached credit card policy to Council for discussion and possible consideration of approval.

Comments/Questions from Council:

None

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was motioned by Councilmember Mears and seconded by Councilmember James to adjourn the June 7, 2021, Work Session at 7:04pm.



CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL
City Council Regular Session

Monday, June 07, 2021, at 7:00 PM
 Council Chambers, Virtual Meeting Via Zoom and YouTube Livestream

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

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

DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James The Honorable Dabouze Antoine
 The Honorable Hector Gutierrez The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells
 The Honorable Allan Mears

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager
 S. Diane White, Interim City Clerk
 Mike Williams, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:04pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The invocation and pledge of allegiance was led by Rev. Wanda Miller-Curry.

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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4	✓	
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, Latosha Clemons, Deputy Fire Chief, Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director, James Shelby, Director of Planning & Zoning, Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Director of Parks and Recreation and A. Girard Geeter, Procurement Manager.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Councilmember Hector Gutierrez would like to present a Proclamation in honor of Immigrant Heritage Month

Councilmember Gutierrez read the proclamation of the City of Forest Park recognizing June 2021 at Immigrant Heritage Month.

2. Councilmember Latresa Akins-Wells would like to present a Proclamation to Willie and Annie Finch in celebration of the 67th Wedding Anniversary – *Item was removed from Agenda at the request of CM Akins-Wells*

Councilmember James – stated that an email was sent to all regarding the proclamation and wants to make sure that everyone is clear about presenting proclamations, it is something that represents the entire city, and it represents the governing body and the will of the governing body. So, I am in opposition of presenting the proclamation with just one councilmember's name. I do want to proceed with presenting the proclamation to the Finch's and want to see what the council's consensus on proclamations; want to ensure that we are clear moving forward. Dr. Cooper has educated me on some things that we have done in the past that were misaligned, so, I think we need to ensure that we get it right moving forward.

Councilmember Antoine – Point of order, I think this should discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Butler and Attorney Williams – It is not an Executive Session item and should be discussed now.

Councilmember Mears – Proclamations are good for the people that get them and should be given by the whole council, the mayor, the city. It is something that the city is wanting to award or give to somebody that has done something outstanding and it should be done as a body and not done as an individual. Everybody should be involved, because it takes the sting out of it if it not complete and everyone is on board and Dr. Cooper is on top of it and I think that is the way we need to go to make sure the whole council and mayor is involved.

Councilmember James – Attorney Williams, since this item is tabled can it be reinstated for the next council meeting if the entire council decides we want to move forward with the proclamation?

Attorney Williams – You can always add it back to your council meeting.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Dr. Cooper you are going to work on something if an individual councilmember wants to give something like a recognition from their Ward.

Dr. Cooper – Yes, the City Attorney and I discussed this earlier and one of the things that we stated was because a proclamation should come from the entire governing body, that we would bring forth a policy and procedure to council to basically that. And any recognitions with a letter of congratulations or commenting anything else that would be something we would like at.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

Diane Lunsford – Chief Clark presented the mayor and council with a free award four-year advancement, saying this is historic time and then it is the first award we have achieved at this caliber, well I am sorry to tell you, Mr. Clark that we have been receiving awards now for a good long time, so he is just trying to take all the kudos for that. Do you realize that there were five police officers that left in the month of May, five, do you know that Councilmember Antoine; (Mayor stated, to please direct all comments to the chair, please). There are 3 police officers on the streets today, just three. I been told that we have a toxic environment here at the police department. We going to lose, I understand a captain of the CID, who is going to feel that position? Also, I would like to know he get off getting to keep his vehicle our other important officer of fire and those that are on call (inaudible). We do not need a public safety director, nor do we need a public safety department or building. Leave our building over there at Gillem to (inaudible) get rid of that position completely and on the use of purchasing card, these guidelines and policies should have already been done under no circumstances as a card holder permitted to use the p-card for personal purchases that defined as personal goods or services, if a violation is determined be (inaudible).

Zack Parker – I am coming to these meeting out of fear for my safety, I have withdrawn from the community to the lies and mistreatment of the community and its leaders, I will no longer withdraw. I will meet with the head on, and I will speak out against them, I was shocked to see the rental inspection program tonight, when I brought this idea to the previous mayor, the current mayor, and this council years ago along with providing live feed of the meetings. I have never wanted anything more in this community than to be listened to and for community leaders to address my concerns. In all the years that I have lived here that is the opposite of what I have experienced. I have expressed my concerns and have been ignored, when officials are pressed, I have been harassed, intimidated, and stalled from accessing truth. When trying to get answers from previous officials regarding code enforcement tickets, I showed up to a public meeting which no officers were present and I was the only citizen there, but when a police officer was called to this meeting to intimidate me, when I had done nothing at all wrong, even the members of the board were left wondering why this was occurring. When an officer you have had words with, to show up for no official business to your house at 9:45pm at night, spotlights the entire street in front of your home, sits in the police vehicle for 10 minutes and then gets out of his police vehicle, goes directly in front of your home, and then uses his flashlight again to spotlight your home, it goes beyond harassment and that is intimidation. The officer had no business being there for doing that, it would have been within my rights to go out and walk directly in front of him and ask him what he was doing. But I did not further escalate the situation as I already feared for my safety, these are bad people that we have as leaders in this community, they think that the police force and badge is their own source of intimidation and justice do dole out to those that question them or share different opinions from them to that I say I will not back down. Code enforcement ignores tickets on certain properties, and I proof, proof that the city attempted to delay and deny me, there is much more to this that I will share. If you would like to see video of the encounter, I mentioned above with documents prove the city has ignored certain properties, email 30297ga@gmail.com. You will get immediate response with the video and documents, 30297ga@gmail.com, I will no longer hide, but I fully expect the police force to even further intimidate me now that I have publicly spoken out against them, I would like to note that I have never been previously called upon or been accused of doing anything here in Forest Park, but I am no longer safe in my own home. Congratulation's mayor, I hope you are happy and it indeed a day in Forest Park.

Maria Garcia – I am an owner of a business in Forest Park for 20 years and I spoke to someone in Planning about the opening of so many hair salons in the same spot and I am concerned because they are less than one mile from my business. Within the international mall on Jonesboro, they can open any salon they want, even though the building is near all the salons. I have a list of salons in the area, and they are affecting me as a business owner. We were affected last with COVID and with opening new salons in the same vicinity is affecting my business. What can be done about this?

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to adopt the Council Agenda as printed by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was motioned to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

2. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2021** - S. Diane White, Interim City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

NEW BUSINESS:

3. **Council Approval to Scrap Fire Equipment** - Deputy Fire Chief Clemons

It was motioned to approved to scrap the Fire Department Equipment as listed.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

5. **Council Approval on Donating Decommission Fire Equipment to Sister Cities** - Deputy Fire Chief Clemons

It was motioned to donate the listed decommissioned Fire Equipment.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Councilmembers Mears – I would like to get information on shipping the equipment before we jump right into it.

City Manager – We will bring it back before council to get approval for the shipping.

6. Council Approval to Enter into a Contract with Intact Consulting and Dominion Voting to Conduct the 2021 Municipal Elections - City Manager, Dr. Cooper

It was motioned to enter to a contract with Intact Consulting and Dominion Voting to Conduct the 2021 Municipal Elections.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

7. Council Approval to Adopt a Credit Card Use Policy - Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director

It was motion to approve the City's Credit Card Use Policy.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Councilmember James – I apologize for not mentioning this during the Work Session, but I would like to know some of the highlights of the policy.

Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director – Some of the main highlights are who is responsible, accountable, following of the procurement policy by ensuring that no one is using the credit card policy to bypass the procurement policy; reconciliation and a section on violations. A starting point in establishing rules and controls over the credit cards to make sure that everyone is abiding by the rules and there are set guidelines for the credit cards.

Councilmember James – Will each department head be given a credit card?

Ms. Williams – Yes

City Manager – Every department head will have to sign-off that they have read the policy and that they understand that they will be held responsible for each purchase. And each department will have a set limit.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James - Please note the May's Neighborhood Meeting that I host once a month on the 3rd Thursday is now available online and will soon be available on the City's website under Ward1. The information shared includes...

- City Manager, Dr. Cooper, give highlights and updating public on Tax assessment issues,
- Director of Public Works, Director Jinks gives update on Grass and beautification of City and information on Misuse of Recycling Center,
- Fire Department, Captain Baker, gives update on EMT school,
- Police Department, Sgt Zachery, gives update on crime and cadets academy
- Economic Development, Ms. Bundridge gives update on ground-breaking,
- Recreation and Leisure, Director Maxwell give updates on events happening in the park,
- Marta's Government Affairs Manager, Ms. Holloman give update on new fleet of rail cars

I invite you to join us live for June's neighborhood meeting to hear from our professional experts. I will continue to host these meetings virtually because it is more convenient for our leaders. I may have a hybrid version of the meeting in July for those that want to meet in person. I want to again congratulate the Class of 2021 and thanks to Mr. Rashmir for his donation to the PTSA which allowed us to have an Ice Cream Truck at rehearsal and we also were able to give out several hundreds of dollars in gift cards to graduating seniors. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Finch on your 67 years of marriage. Thank you for being a valuable member of the Forest Park Community for over 65 years. It was an honor to participate in your drive by celebration along with members of the governing body, police and fire and a host of family and friends. I also want to acknowledge the life of service of Parent Liaison & Commissioner Sonna Gregory, I was able to attend the viewing which was a powerful service. Congratulations to CM Gutierrez on the Food Truck Friday event which truly shows our diversity and intergenerational city. Thanks for coming out.

Councilmember Antoine – I want to give a major shout out to the City of Forest Park, Mayor and Council, Ms. Williams, city manager and Ms. Steed. For those not aware the city sent me to Haiti to do a mission technology trip, it was amazing, and I have pictures. We chose two schools, one in the bushes, schools were awful. We gave out tablets and the children were so amazed they passed out. These are the kids who will be our doctors, mayors, counselors, nurses, firefighter, and policemen, because now they can google and see the world of those not living in the bush. I thank everyone for the opportunity for me to pass out these technical supplies rather than money, because they have no where to spend the money. I also visited the Catholic Church that was burnt down, where it took two hours for another country to put out the fire, because of lack of firefighters, fire equipment and training the church burned down and lives were lost. This is why it is so important for us not to think of how money it is to ship things, I know we have to be wise, but there are lives are being saved with the equipment that we do not need or use any longer; I will even go as far as saying I will match whatever the city does, so we send these items and I will go look for other donations, so we could get send there, again I will match the cost. Shout out to David Rasmir for the book bags that was donated, and I hope we can go again, and more people can go, like firefighters, mayor, so they can see firsthand and when you change other people's world your life is also changed. On next Sunday, the 13th I am having a drive-in movie where families can come to Starr Park pool and watch the "Tom & Jerry" movie. CM Antoine presented the Mayor and Council a certificate from the city of Mirebalais from the school to recognize us for the work that we did. Sister Cities is a partnership, like a church partnering with another church. Thank you and God Bless.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Thank you for coming out tonight. It is hard for me to celebrate Memorial Day and to talk about, but I would like to shout out to the Veterans and to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice of losing their lives; as a veteran that goes to war and loses someone and then come home, there is always some guilt of why not me or whatever. We had two events since our last meeting, Food Truck Friday at the Fountain where we celebrated our father's and had a lot of giveaways. Thanks to all the businesses that donated items for the giveaways, I will be going out with Ms. Dixon and saying a personal thank you to you. Our next Food Truck Friday will be July 2nd and will be celebrating the 4th of July and maybe we can get some fireworks for the event. We had our cleanup the next day, thanks to the Boy Scouts Troop 919 from Morrow. Remember we do have "Adopt A Road" program, where your group can clean up once a month. Good meeting today, and I was getting all the videos from Haiti, there were beautiful, and I agree with you when you said, changing someone's life changes you. I am excited about a potential game night with Parks and Recreation on July 1st, more information to come.

Councilmember Mears – Thanks to everyone for attending the meeting tonight, I am fortunate to have wonderful men and women in Ward 5 who walk the streets and collecting trash and care about their community, and I say thank you for your service. Dr. Cooper, I do not know what the problem is with the police department, but I would like for you to follow-up. I know that studies have shown that the wages are in line for a city our size, we gave the police department a decent wage increase last year. Dr. Cooper please come back to us with some suggestions or ideas on what we need to do; because we need to retain the seasoned employees that are leaving the best we can. Again, I appreciate everyone coming out.

Mayor Butler – I do want to echo a lot of the comments my colleagues shared today, and I do want to make one distinction about the CALEA award, I think the difference is that this was an actual four-year advancement which is different from what was received in the past. This is no way taking anything away from what was done with Chief Hobbs, but it is just acknowledging what is done currently under Chief Clark. This weekend, it truly was a celebration of live and love, literally all in one day, from the services for Commissioner Gregory, to the parade for Deacon Finch and wife, it was an amazing day, and I was honored to be a part of both. Councilmember Antoine, I know you said that this certificate was for me, but as mayor you take the praises and criticisms that come along with this role and even though my name may be etched on an award or a certificate be given to me, it really is indicative, and it is for all of us. I will read the certificate –

Certificate of Thanks – Mirebalais Communal Eben Ezer School thanks the City of Forest Park, Georgia for the distribution of the technological equipments done to our children/pupils in that school, according the agreement of the Sister City Relationship and cooperation between the City of Forest Park, Georgia and the City of Mirebalais Haiti for Supporting the latter in various fields. Thanks!

This should be hung in the front office of City Hall, and I look forward to more Sister City relationships in the future. Thank you.

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

It was motioned to recess from the Regular meeting into Executive Session at 7:37pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to reconvene to Regular Meeting at 8:34pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

ADJOURNMENT:

It was motioned to adjourn the Council Regular Meeting of June 7, 2021, at 8:34pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

File Attachments for Item:

9. Council Approval of Resolution 2021-91 for Bulletproof Vests Partnership Program - Police Department and Grants Management

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CLAYTON

RESOLUTION NO.: 2021-19

A RESOLUTION BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF FOREST PARK, GEORGIA TO ACCEPT REIMBURSEMENT FUNDING FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) FY 2021 PATRICK LEAHY BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP IF SELECTED BY THE BJA TO PURCHASE TWENTY-FIVE (25) BULLETPROOF VESTS IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$18,625.00. TO BE REIMBURSED AT 50% (\$9,312.50) OF THE COST OF THE VESTS OVER THE 2-YEAR PROGRAM PERFORMANCE PERIOD. TO REPEAL ALL RESOLUTIONS AND PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HERewith; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced the Fiscal Year 2021 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) application funding period; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Park Police Department has a history of participating in this program since the year 2000, most recently in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the BJA selects program participants based on certain criteria and required documentation submitted by the potential program participant; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Park Police Department has indicated it needs 25 vests at an estimated cost of \$955.00 each for replacement due to damage, replacement life cycle, new hires, and the loss of officers due to retirement or other circumstances; and

WHEREAS, if selected, the BJA will reimburse the FPPD 50% of the cost of each vest purchased; and

WHEREAS, all necessary departments have verified that funding is available to apply to participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, a bulletproof vest is a critical piece of equipment that aids in protecting officers in life-threatening situations and the city will be reimbursed for half of the cost of each vest purchased.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The Mayor and City Council of Forest Park, Georgia hereby accept reimbursement funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 2021 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership if selected by the BJA to purchase 25 bulletproof vests in the total amount of \$18,625.00 over the 2-year program performance period to be reimbursed at 50% of the cost of each vest.

Section 2. The Mayor or Mayor Pro Tempore is hereby authorized to execute, in the name of the City of Forest Park, all necessary applications, documents, contracts, payment requests, agreements, and amendments thereto, for the purpose of applying for the FY 2021 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program from the BJA for purposes to purchase bulletproof vests.

Section 3. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of the court of competent jurisdiction, such decision

shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution, and such remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon and after its final passage.

SO RESOLVED, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

CITY OF FOREST PARK

Angelyne Butler, Mayor

Kimberly James, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1)

Antoine Dabouze, (Ward 2)

Hector Gutierrez, (Ward 3)

Latresa Akins-Wells, (Ward 4)

Alan Mears, (Ward 5)

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

(THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF FOREST PARK,
GEORGIA)

Approved as to form:

CITY ATTORNEY