

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF FOREST PARK, GEORGIA WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC COMMENTS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WITNESSETH:

Be it ordained by the Governing Body of the City of Forest Park, Georgia as follows:

SECTION 1. That Section 2-1-7(5) the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(a) Public comments will be allowed only during the "public comments" period of each regular meeting of the governing body at the time shown on the agenda. Members of the public are not allowed to participate in any debate or discussion being conducted by the members of the governing body.

(b) Public comments will be limited in time to a total of 3 minutes per speaker, and a total time limit at any one meeting of 21 minutes. If more than 7 potential speakers sign up to make public comments, then the total amount of time permitted for each individual speaker will be reduced by an announcement of the presiding officer, so as to limit the total time to 21 minutes. The governing body, by majority vote, may allow extensions of time for individuals in order to allow such individuals to finish their comments.

(c) No person may sign up more than once in an effort to gain more time for a public comment.

(d) Public comments during a meeting of the city governing body will only be allowed to residents of the City of Forest Park or to owners of businesses maintaining a business site physically situated within the corporate limits of the City of Forest Park.

(e) Persons not residing within the City of Forest Park who do not own a business as specified in subsection (d) above who wish to address the governing body during any regular meeting must first request that they be placed on the agenda for the upcoming regular meeting, such request to be made in writing by close of business at city hall on the Wednesday immediately preceding the regular meeting at which they wish to speak.

(f) All public comments must be limited to matters on the agenda or over which the governing body has jurisdiction.

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(g) Nonresidents who do not own a business as specified in subsection (d) above will also be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, and a total of fifteen (15) minutes for an entire group of speakers at any single meeting, whether they are speaking on the same topic or not. If more than five (5) potential nonresident speakers are placed on the agenda in order to address the governing body, the time permitted for each individual speaker shall be reduced so as to limit the total time for speaking for such nonresidents to fifteen (15) minutes at any one (1) meeting.”

SECTION 2. Intention of the Governing Body. It is the intention of the governing body, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia, and the sections of the ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention.

SECTION 3. Approval of Execution. The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. Attestation. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any documents which may be necessary to effectuate this ordinance, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SECTION 5. Codification and Severability.

(a) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are and were upon their enactment believed by the City Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

(b) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that to the greatest extent allowed by law each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the City Council that to the greatest extent allowed by law no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

(c) In the event that any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the City Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the ordinance and that to the greatest extent allowed by law all remaining Sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

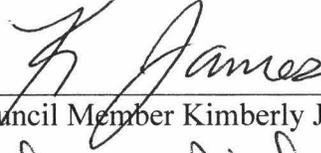
SECTION 6. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Forest Park as provided in the City Charter.

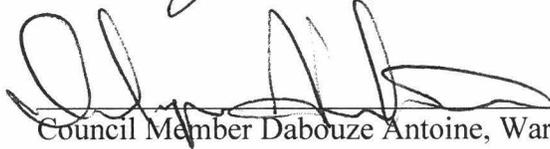
SO ORDAINED this 7 day of May, 2018.



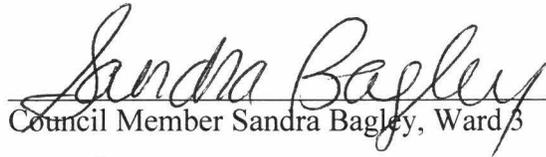
Mayor Angelyne Butler



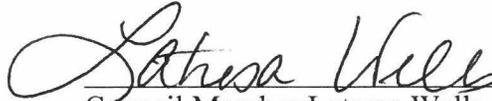
Council Member Kimberly James, Ward 1



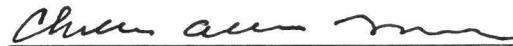
Council Member Dabouze Antoine, Ward 2



Council Member Sandra Bagley, Ward 3

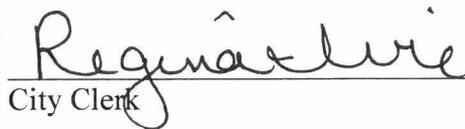


Council Member Latresa Wells, Ward 4



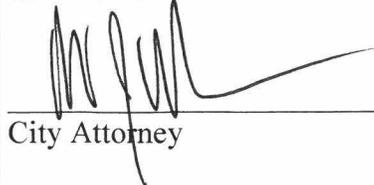
Council Member Allan Mears, Ward 5

ATTEST:

 (SEAL)

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney