



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)  
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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  
S. Diane White, City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

### DRAFT MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Mayor Butler,

**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 <i>via zoom</i>		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5 <i>via telephone</i>		✓

Javon Lloyd, PIO Officer, Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; Arthur Geeter, Purchasing; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Wattley, Deputy Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Police Chief; Brandon Criss; Tarik Maxwell, Parks and Recreation, James Shelby, Project Manager and Joshua Cox, IT Director.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT** – Mr. Clark started off by recognizing the new employees. In the Planning & Community Development Department we have Maria De La Cruz, the permit technician. In the police department we have Sgt. McDonald, Sgt Pitts, Office Israel, Recruit Jones, and Recruit King.

Under the efforts of Chief Criss, with the Forest Park Police Department, we have taken the number of vacancies in the department from 20 plus to around 4 to 5 vacancies. One of the commitments of Chief Criss was to get the police department fully staffed, not with any officer but the best officers we could find. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to working for the greatest organization in the world.

Additionally, as it relates to our employee recognition, I will ask Chief Criss to come up. One of the ways to continue to build momentum and morale within the police department, Chief Criss has instituted an officer of the month, which he will present later.

One thing mayor and council within this 100-day road map that I have laid out for the city, and you will continue to hear me talk about even in this agenda is revenue recovery, thanks to the efforts of our finance department. In the last week we were able to collect approximately \$18,000.00 in delinquent property taxes.

We are also excited about the opportunities to streamline some additional processes as they relate to our finances. Also, we are excited to report for all our employees that the audit work for Empower is underway. We have made great progress and look forward to hosting an employee town hall meeting to address the thing that everyone has been wondering about, within the next 30 to 60 days.

Due to the length of this agenda mayor and council if you will. I will defer to distributing my city manager's report via email, so that we can get down to the business of the city. Finally, I would like to recognize Ms. Diane. She has been a city clerk for the City of Forest Park for quite some time. Ms. Diane has served local government across this state in small and large communities. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with Ms. Diane, and we wish her well as she retires within the next two week. This is her final council meeting with us.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Council Discussion on Government Tax Solutions – Executive Offices**

#### **Background/History:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to request authorization for the City Manager to execute an agreement with Government Tax Solutions (GTS) to assist with the collection of delinquent property taxes. These services include but are not limited to list preparation, file preparation, title examinations, levy notifications & legal advertisement preparation, and submittal.

**City Manager** – We have Chris Laney here tonight to go over this. In looking at revenue and recovery we went back to 1977, just to look at some of the delinquent accounts that we have here in the city of Forest Park

**Mr. Chris A, Laney, President, Government Tax Solutions** – Just to let you I am not completely prepared, as I thought I was answering questions. Let me give you a background on our company. I have been helping communities collect delinquent property taxes for 22 years. I am a Jonesborough graduate and a Clayton County kid. My parents both graduated from Forest Park High School in 1968, that is why he said from the community. My grandfather ran the maintenance division of George Power up here and my other grandfather

ran local businesses. We come in and help cities and counties throughout the state of Georgia collect their delinquent property tax. We send a series of letters; we help administrate the tax sell process and can collect 95 percent of your delinquencies that are collectible. As he said there is 1.7 million dollars out there from 1977 through now, by law we can collect the previous seven years, that is 1.2 million. Ricky asked me to put some numbers together from what you all had and give you some estimates on what we could collect and estimated to collect. From when we start and get ramped up and going which can happen quickly. The first estimate we could collect is close to well over two hundred thousand dollars in the first two weeks to a month.

Now the hard work starts, and over a four to six months period, I estimate we could collect as much as a million dollars, more like nine hundred thousand. We use tax sale as the leverage to get collection. Our company has always prided itself on the fact that we do not want to sell anyone's property. Our job is to get them in the door to communicate with the city to get their taxes paid. We specialize in the legal research and the legal notification, which is required by Georgia law to get these things done and to make sure the city manages everything in accordance with Georgia law.

There probably is property, as Ricky said since 1977 with delinquency. There are properties out there with absentee landlords or basically, no one cares about the property anymore. Some of those properties might need to go through the tax sale process. Sometimes that could be good for the local community, get those properties in either the neighbors' hands or you could have an area that is no good to anybody else; but the neighbor next door might be able to expand parking. Our job is to do the correct legal research and give the city that information. Ricky correctly claimed that it does not cost the city anything. By Georgia law, any delinquent collections are charged back to the delinquent taxpayer, and we follow those laws stringently. The number one thing is it is always the cities under the city's control. This is not like a typical collection where if you have water bills and they are turned over to a collection company, then once the collection company receives those things then they are in control. We are always still under the advisement of what the city wants us to do with every property we are working on.

## 2. Council Discussion on Land Bank Contribution Update – Planning & Community Dev.

### Background/History:

Last year to be equitable regarding the member cities and county of the Clayton County Land Bank, the land bank board agreed that each member's share should be based on population as presented and recommended to the board by then President Mr. James Shelby. As the largest city of the County, the City of Forest Park's share equates to \$41, 250.00. The city's portion is from a total of \$125,000.00. The County's member contribution is \$250,000.00.

**LaShawn Gardiner** - I would respectfully request that this be tabled until the July meeting, that way it will give an opportunity for the Land Bank Authorities representative to be able to explain more.

**City Manager** – Yes, if there are no questions from the mayor and council relative to respective properties, because we do not have the list staff is ready to move forward with this contribution. The contribution will not change based upon the properties that are on the list. The methodology they used to determine the cost for each member city was based upon population shares, as Mayor Butler previously stated. So, if there are no specific questions as to what is on the list we would like to move forward. I think this has been vetted through our legal team, our director's, and Allie Jett, the attorney for the Clayton County Land Bank Authority, and she was not able to be here. What we could do Mayor Butler is bring her in July for an update, but we are ready to ratify this item tonight.

**3. Council Discussion on City Hall Master Plan – Planning & Community Dev.**

**Background/History:**

Execute Task Order PPI 2023-02 for On-Call Services. Precision Planning will develop a master plan for a new City Hall and Recreation Center Complex at the site of the existing City Hall, Planning Community Development/HR Building, and the Recreation Center. PPI will develop a conceptual design, plan and budget based on an approved program by the city.

**James Shelby, Project Manager** - I want to mention this plan would incorporate all the buildings, the city hall H.R., the rec center, and the new Rite Aid. They would create a master plan for us, and you all will approve it and then we will move forward.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** - Question about the property that I do not think we own yet. The vacant lot that is in between us, can we have a conversation about that, or can that be included?

**Mike Williams** –Yes, it could be a more in-depth session.

**4. Council Discussion and Approval of Resolution & IGA with Clayton County Board of Elections – Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

Clayton County Board of Elections has agreed to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Forest Park for election equipment for the November 7, 2023, Municipal Elections. There is no financial impact to the City of Forest Park. The request is for the Council to approve the Resolution and IGA with Clayton County Board of Elections.

**City Manager** - This is just for the election equipment that we use for the election cycle upon adoption of this IGA. The county has ratified the same IGA, the County elections board, and we are seeking your approval to move forward with procuring the election equipment in an effort to get ahead of the election cycle starting in August of this year.

No Comments/Discussion from Council

**5. Council Discussion/Approval of Cancellation of July 3, 2023, Council Meeting – Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

July 3, 2023, meeting of the City Council will occur on the Monday before the Fourth of July. It is proposed that this Council meeting be cancelled in order to reduce any potential disruption in the city employees' holiday and vacation plans centered around July 4th.

**City Manager** - This is purely something we wanted to get ahead of. At the pleasure of the mayor and council, to cancel that meeting, and have only one in the month of July with a work session and regular meeting, on its normal recurring schedule, the meetings will potentially be a little long.

**6. Council Discussion on Lighting Services Agreement – Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

As per citizen request, staff is requesting the addition of three (3) new 120-watt LED light fixtures along Elam Church Rd to aide in complaints of the area being too dark. Staff recommendation for this request is for approval; however, we also seek to implement a streetlight district policy for all subsequent requests.

**City Manager** - Our first request is for approval of the streetlights as requested for Elam Church Road. However, we would like to take this moment to try to streamline the process by which streetlights are provided within the city. Historically governments propose street lighting districts in which a certain percentage of the residents or property owners on that street contribute to the cost of any new lighting enhancements.

At current, the City of Forest Park pays for every street like within the city and as you can imagine there is no budgetary way for us to manage what that cost looks like. So, what we are proposing is discussion surrounded around implementing the street lighting district. We have put into place some simple language for you all to consider as it relates to how this will flesh out the resident would not be billed every month for it. It would fall on their tax bill, and it would be amortized over a period.

If a resident on a particular street in the city wants a streetlight, the only thing they would have to do is get 51 or more percentage of individual property owners on that street to attest to it or the rental. If the property owner agrees we would then move forward to petitioning the mayor and council to add said streetlights, however that cost would not solely be on the city of forest park. Right now, we are averaging close to \$200 thousand dollars for just streetlights in residential neighborhoods. This is just one of those housekeeping measures, it is not something new it is new for the City of Forest Park, but it is just one of the things we want to do to streamline what our processes are.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** - Does that mean the streetlights that are currently there? Will we look to separate that bill now or are we talking about new lighting?

**City Manager** - It would be my recommendation that we do not go retroactive. If it is this board's pleasure, we could at least make the ask, but those streetlights have been approved. One of the things that we are starting to do for these recurring contracts throughout my administration is place them on the agenda. They will be in the minutes, so that everybody is aware of the contracts that we have executed. We have not anticipated going retroactive and would start this policy at said date upon adoption.

**7. Council Discussion on Implementation of Adopt a Cop - Police Department**

**Background/History:**

The Forest Park Police Department is currently authorized to have 95 sworn officers, 63 of which are police officers. Approximately 85% of the police department has less than 3 years of law enforcement experience.

As a department with a young department, the implementation of this program will allow for senior officers to provide mentorship and guidance drawing upon their years of experience.

**Chief Criss, Police Chief** - Just one small piece of information relating to this program's implementation. As I have said it is an extremely young department, and I want to be able to have the best officers in the City of Forest Park. With a young agency, we have several senior officers coming into our department. This

program will allow mentorship within the agency to help our officers progress. I just wanted to bring this before the mayor and council for discussion if there are any questions.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Antoine** – Great job chief, no questions.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I love the initiative chief. I am taking a class now on hiring procedures, and just for the retention of employees. That is a huge percentage of the amount of turnover there is when people do not feel supported. I am glad you are standing in front of it now and not later assessing it. Thank you.

**Councilmember Wells** - I second that, thank you chief.

**8. Council Discussion/Approval to Amend the Simplified Noise Ordinance – Police and Legal**

**Background/History:**

It is proposed that the City's noise ordinance be significantly simplified. The ordinance was last amended on October 5, 2020. Under the current ordinance, a decibel meter is required to be utilized to determine whether a person is in violation of the ordinance. It is proposed that the city move toward a "plainly audible" standard under which a violation is noted where a noise is plainly audible more than 100 feet from the source of the noise. This standard is more consistent with the State's noise enforcement standards and easier to enforce.

**Chief Criss, Police Chief** - Current Georgia law requires officers to use the training of their ears as well as visual as it relates to distance, as it relates to enforcing noise violation from moving cars and things of that nature. The current city ordinance is difficult to enforce because there are many different stipulations inside of the current ordinance. This current ordinance has been pushed through legal and allows the officers to use their eyes and ears as it relates to enforcement of the city ordinance.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – What would you use, is there an actual tool?

**Chief Criss** - Yes, they would use a decibel meter and they would have to go to the department to get the decibel reader and then return to the location, by that time the noise is gone. Now when the officers arrive, they will exit the vehicle and they would take a guess or estimation on how far they are from the location where they are hearing this noise pollution. If it is outside of one hundred feet and they hear it, they will be able to enforce it.

**9. SeeClickFix – Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

As part of our One Forest Park Initiative, we continue to find ways to better interact with our residents. From tree branches to street issues, SeeClickFix will allow residents to report quality of life issues to the City of Forest Park. SeeClickFix, the place-based reporting platform allows residents to document neighborhood concerns and improvements alike, ranging from litter and flooding to damaged sidewalks and malfunctioning traffic signals. The application will geo-locate the issue, which allows City staff or other



relevant agencies the ability to see the specific concern and know its location. The application allows residents to receive updates from the City as the issue is resolved.

**City Manager** - Our director of Information technology and myself, we are going to tackle this. We are excited to present this item as we step our first foot inside for modernization and digitization of the City of Forest Park. One of the things that I have noticed since I have been here is that our council members and our mayor are busy within their respective wards. This will just aid in some of the phone calls. It will aid in some calls to you, your constituents and to your city manager. However, it allows for accountability on all sides.

We will be able to provide you with monthly reports as to when the infraction occurred regardless of what it was. In addition to that, you would be able to see in a heat map format, where the different violations are going on. Whether it is code violations, whether it is public works and one of the things that I shared with SeeClickFix is that we want to be the first entity that integrated all their departments under one app. The beauty of it is both I and our Information Technology Director, Mr. Cox, have utilized this system. Our aggressive plan is to implement this app and release it before the end of summer with full Forest Park branding. Not only just with our new city logo and our seal and pictures of our elected officials, but we will be able to push notifications. It may be weather alerts, special events within our recreation and leisure department, and the police department simply with a BOLA or missing person.

We will be able to use one comprehensive application to push this information out to everyone. Councilman Gutierrez sent this information to us based upon a call that he had. It was two years ago and so we took the ball and ran with it just to try to get it over with. Anything further as it relates to the technological infrastructure, our own Director of Information Technology Mr. Cox,

**Josh Cox** – I will be happy to answer any questions.

#### **Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – So, I do remember this presentation at one of our conferences. How much is this going to cost, I know it say that it is budgeted for?

**City Manager** - The complete cost of SeeClickFix is tethering around twenty thousand dollars one of the things that we are going to identify, since this is a way for us to continue to communicate and enhance our technological infrastructure, we are going to look at the feasibility of using already designated ARPA Funding for this cause. In addition, if we are not able to use ARPA Funding, which we know that we will be, we have some additional funds left within our technological budget that we can use to offset the cost of this expense, just based upon us being at year end.

**Councilmember Mears** - I agree.

#### **10. Council Discussion on City Edge Project Quarterly Update – Executive Offices**

##### **Background/History:**

On September 7, 2021, the City Council approved to set aside \$400,000 of the American Rescue Funds allotment to aid with rental assistance specifically for residents of the City of Forest Park. The city received a proposal from the City Edge Project based in Forest Park to help administer the city's rental assistance

program. This is the Quarterly update for the Mayor and City Council on the City of Forest Park's Fast Track Rental Assistance Program. This program is administered by the City Edge Initiative on behalf of the city.

**Ashely Beeler, City Edge** - I want to give you an update on the numbers since we started the second quarter with \$300,000. The numbers have been extremely low for the third quarter from October, November, December. We had one to three people and that was only \$21,000. Moving forward January to March we only spent \$45,000, but the numbers were between four to six. It is the same for the next two months, April and May. The numbers are consistent, but they are low, and I do not know what you all want to do to move forward, since we are not spending much.

I was invited to a community fair that is coming up on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> to sit with some other programs that are doing rental assistance. I hope this will help to increase the number so that we can go ahead and move this money, because we still have a good bit left. The total is around \$148,000 left to spend for rental assistance. The numbers are consistent, they are just low. Income is still an issue, we had about 63 percent that have income, but it is low. They are still not able to pay their rent and need more. The numbers are still increasing as far as denied people, because they do not qualify for Covid, which is the main issue.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - Thank you so much for the presentation. The need is there like you said. It is because of the qualifications of what it needs to be for Covid. I do not know as a council if we can change it in any way. I have been to a few events that our school district has had at Extended Stay Motel, and we have a few here in Forest Park. We have a lot of our children in the community that could use that help. So, I hope that we can reconsider, if possible, allocating that money.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – That is what I was going to say. We need to change the qualifications because we know there is a need for the funds. We just need to figure out how to get them to the community. How are we as a city pushing out the information so that residents know about it? It is not that they are not applying because they are.

**Ashley Beeler** – Lots of people are coming from other cities after hearing about us, and I had to reject them because they are not City of Forest Park residents. Some are applying that are residents of Forest Park, but they do not meet the qualifications. At the last meeting we talked about the treasury saying it had to be covid related, we cannot change it which is another issue. As far as the Extended Stay we had a few people to apply, but I knew that was not a requirement, so I had to reject them. I think we should change it if we can.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Is there something that can be done, or does it have to be covid related? Can we not change that?

**Ashley Beeler** – Can we change the time frame for it?

**Mayor Butler** – What do you mean?

**Ashley Beeler** - I know that is something that we talked about before. They may say they had Covid in January, but you are only behind for this current month. It does not justify that it was behind due to covid. I know we talked about it before, should it matter when they had Covid. Can we help them just to go ahead and use the money?



**Mayor Butler** – If the State of Emergency surrounding Covid has ended, can we still use these funds for Covid related purposes or can we reallocate it as the council seems to be directing?

**City Manager** - One of the reasons why we wanted to have this presentation is I have spoken to Ms. Beeler and her team. My recommendation is for us to bring this funding in-house, reevaluate the program, issue new guidance relative to how we spend the dollars and then reissue it. My thought process is individuals experiencing evictions at this point. Some of it could be based upon the fact that during the pandemic, they got so far behind and even with the assistance that we have provided them they are only able based upon the requirements of this program to receive said funds one time.

Some of the individuals have requested it twice, but my thought process is to let us bring this funding in-house, let us reevaluate the program, let us look at the needs of our community let us get with our PIO to issue a new marketing campaign. Then we can decide how we wish to move forward with expending said dollars because we only have a little bit more time to spend down these dollars. So, if it is the pleasure of the board, it is an action item just for direction from the mayor and council to see if we can reevaluate how we handle this program.

**Mayor Butler** - Is that something that the council would be amendable to?

**Councilmember James** – Yes, I agree we can reevaluate. I also want to ensure that we are following the guidelines in place. There were certain requirements or restrictions that were in place for us to receive the funds, so we need to make sure that we are going back to that as we re-evaluate.

**City Manager** – Yes, and the final rule that the Department of Treasury issued, as I am sure you know, has changed several times. So, the intent of said funds speaks to the corpse of us helping or improving a community that was distressed throughout the pandemic, I think we will be fine, because what happened your allocation of funding was based upon your population size. You, as a local governing body, can choose within certain standards what you want to allocate said funds for. Bringing it back in allows us to do a clean sweep. We can bring it back in, re-evaluate the program, issue new guidance and then re-push the program as to how mayor and council want to see it happen. I spoke with Ms. Beeler about this.

**Mayor Butler** - Any other questions or comments?

**Ashley Beeler** - Should I go ahead and move forward with the event on the 24<sup>th</sup>, until you all ask for the money back to reallocate it.

**Mayor Butler** – Mr. Clark, will be back in touch. We are going to vote on this in the seven o'clock hour.

**Ashley Beeler** - Okay.

## 11. Discussion of a Home Repair Grant Program and Guidelines - Executive Offices & Procurement

### Background/History:

The Final Treasury Rules around the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds which took effect April 2022 appropriated funds that local municipalities could use to aid Disproportionately Impacted Households and Communities. Per the direction of the City Council, the City Manager reviewed several programs to determine the proper criteria and use and submits for council review and prerogative the attached

guidelines. Such improvements will increase the lifespan of the City's housing stock, work to address systemic housing inequities, and stabilize home values for the neighborhood and the residents.

In February 2023, the city issued an RFP for Home Repair and associated guidelines. The RFP was advertised on 02-21-2023, and 3 proposals were received. The fees for the services came in well over \$300,000 per year. After extensive conversation, the City Manager is requesting to save the money for the consultant and to bring the process in-house.

**City Manager** - Mayor and Council again, my apologies; we have been looking at how we do business as a city. Mr. Geeter worked hard to push out this RFP for these dollars that have been appropriated for this home repair program. However, there is no way that I can look at you in your face and tell you that we paid three hundred thousand dollars to a consultant to do work that you pay administrative administrators to do every day. For this type of program, it is a simple grant application. We will make it easy to where they can either fill it out digitally or electronically, submit it through the office of grants method within my office, and we will move forward with it that way.

I do not think it is a good use of our funds to pay a consultant three hundred thousand dollars, when those funds can be pushed out to the community to begin repairing some of the houses that are here. The other thing that we are looking to do, this program was limited to only residential units, but when we travel up and down some of our busy commercial districts, we see things such as abandoned signs and buildings that need to be painted. We just do not get the feel of what I know you all envision for this community. A portion of these funds we want to appropriate to businesses for beautification. Those beautification efforts do not include dollars inside the store, it simply includes you ensuring that the aesthetics of your building resemble what it is that I know you all want to see.

So, my request here tonight is to not move forward with the RFP not expending three hundred thousand dollars, but to move forward with allowing our residents our seniors especially, to receive said funds and reevaluating the program criteria that we have and hope to release this program sometime by mid-summer. Mr. Geeter is here to add more regarding the RFP process that he issued out.

**Mr. Geeter, Procurement Manager** - What we are requesting is that we cancel this RFP, follow the city manager's lead, and bring it in-house.

**Councilmember James**- The RFP was to determine the funds that we were going to use to fix up the homes in the community, and not necessarily the business community or the city facilities, but the actual homes, correct me if I am wrong. If we are moving it in-house, are we now saying that we will have an opportunity for our seniors or our people that are our Legacy Residents to apply for some type of home improvement through us?

**City Manager** – Correct, because the RFP was for a consulting firm to help distribute the money, like City Edge. So, what we are saying based upon the cost that we received back we would rather appropriate that three hundred thousand dollars to help even more of the Legacy Residents that we have in this community.

**Mr. Geeter** – Incidentally, it was three hundred thousand dollars per year.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I am excited about this. Thank you for bringing it back in. I like the business aspect of adding this to it. Let us make sure we keep a balance of like 70 percent people. I like this idea, I was more for our people, and I am all about beautification, but I want to make sure most of this money

goes to our people. What is the process and, Mr. Geeter, who is going to do the job? I know different contracting companies that are smaller within the city. I think it would be an opportunity to give them the chance to come up. It is not a huge contract but could be a smaller thing to keep it local.

**Mr. Geeter** – Originally, it was tens of thousands of dollars per homeowner. We still need to address but it is over a hundred different homes. We could address it and since it is only about ten thousand you will only have small contractors who would even be eligible or even want to participate in this. We will make sure that the homeowners are aware of small contractors, but it is up to the homeowner to contract those contractors for the work.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - We do not have a recommended list; they choose whoever they want?

**Mr. Geeter** - I am not sure if we want to get into it.

**City Manager** - My recommendation would not be for us to have a list. However, the contractor would have to be bonded, have insurance, and have a valid state license, that way we are not getting involved or endorsing a company that goes out and does unpleasant work. We are totally off the hook and the funding would go to the contractor, correct?

**Mr. Geeter** – That is correct.

**City Manager - One of the other things we must address is what one of the council members asked.** If the resident could pay? I remember going to the senior center, one of our Legacy Residents asked about replacing their HVAC, because their home has never had HVAC. Well, if they could pay for it, they would have already had it done, but we are relying on them to pay for it and we reimburse them. This is something we must look at. If that is the situation, we will work with our legal team to produce some type of agreement to pay the contractor half, because we know the seniors do not have the money to do the work. I am not sure how Attorney Williams will feel about that, but we will consider if the individual seniors could do the work themselves, they would not need our grant dollars.

**Mike Williams, City Attorney** – One of the things we talked about was requiring residents to get three bids to submit. Then the staff would review and confirm the value that we want to have. We do not want them to get ripped off or pay too much. Similarly, to the rental program we can insist that we pay the contractor directly. That would resolve some of the situations the city manager is talking about.

**Councilmember Mears** – I agree.

**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 recess into Executive Session at 6:51pm for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Council Work Session at 7:07pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

Wells, Councilmember Mears

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the June 20, 2023, Council Work Session at 7:07pm

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

Wells, Councilmember Mears

DRAFT