



# CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, November 07, 2022, at 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Forest Park to enhance, strengthen, and grow our city by collaborating with our community to provide the highest level of service. Striving to be recognized as a diverse community that values and respects all members. We will strive to provide fair, professional, and courteous service through transparency and open communication. As we work to achieve this mission, we will have integrity beyond reproach while employing fiscal discipline and innovation. In this work there are no praises and raises for mediocrity.

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

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

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez  
The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

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

## DRAFT MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

### ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:

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

Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Joshua Cox, IT Director, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development, Shalonda Brown, HR Director, Fire Chief Latosha Clemons, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Police Chief, Nathaniel Clark, and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

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

**COVID-19 / MONKEY POX UPDATE:** EMS Coordinator, Andrew Gelmini

**PRESENTATION(S):**

**1. PRESENTATION - BlueStar Studio's – Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

BlueStar Studio's is a \$180 million dollars investment in the City of Forest Park with construction and development continuing in phases through 2024. The Studio will preserve the charm and history of the surrounding area while also bringing new production capabilities and boosting our local economy.

**Mr. Goldberg** – Excited to be able to finally talk about this and thanked everyone for respecting the NDA. Formally announced this two weeks ago and got great coverage thanks to Javon. It was picked up by national media even by Hollywood Reporter, so Hollywood knows a bit more about Forest Park.

He moved here from Los Angeles about a year ago and looked at 8 or 9 different properties in different parts of the city. When they landed on this property and began working with the Mayor, Bruce Abraham, and Mike Williams it accelerated very quickly. He is here today with his business Mark Parkman and could not be happier to be here to talk about it.

They have bought over fifty-three acres at the corner of Anvil Block and Moreland. This includes the former headquarters building and about 45,000 square feet of motor pool wood working and historical army buildings. We are maintaining and restoring those historical buildings per the Historic Preservation Group here in Georgia. We are doing this in phases.

Phase one, coming off Anvil Block where you will enter the studio in front of the former headquarters building. We will hopefully be ready for business by the end of the third quarter, which is September 2023 and hopefully more great people like Louis Gossett Jr., will be visiting Forest Park. We had a drone go down there and had an illustrator draw this up for us.

He showed different views of how the property would look at dusk and dawn and it includes a water tower. This will be one of the biggest studios built in the state of Georgia, with state-of-the-art connections running through the property.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Mayor Butler** – What about the history of the water tower in relations to all the other studios?

**Mr. Goldberg** – We are not going to forget about the water tower, we are talking about it now and how we can get it cleaned up and designed in the next few months before we open.

**Mayor Butler** – The history of the water tower in relations to all the other studios.

**Mr. Goldberg** – Warner's Brothers and Paramount, a water tower is a classic corporate ID for them. So, we here in Forest Park can have a similar branding opportunity and it is cool and we could not be happier.

**Councilmember James** – Is very excited about this coming to the city and asked him to talk a little bit about the technology, which is going to be huge opposed to the green screen and things that were mentioned.

**Mr. Goldberg** – His background is in media and technology. He invited them all to look at a technology called Virtual Production, which is a wall of LED screens woven together into a seamless wall of video. This technology is just beginning to populate sound stages around the world. This is the one thing that will differentiate us, and all our stages are going to be compatible for virtual production.

**Councilmember James** – In layman's term you can be filming in Italy and be right here is Forest Park.

**Mr. Goldberg** – Well said.

**Councilmember Antione** – Congratulations and thanks for investing here.

**Mr. Goldberg** – Thank you.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - Is extremely happy to have this come to the city and would like to hopefully see some partnership with some of the schools. We have Forest Park here and some of the students would be interested in this. There is also a School of Arts in the county, and you could potentially bring in some potential superstars to help you all out. Thank you for investing in our city and thanks for bringing your business here. You had many choices, and you chose us. If there is anything we can do to extend the partnership, we are here to help.

**Mr. Goldberg** – Thank you very much.

**Councilmember Akins- Wells** – Thank you so much for choosing Forest Park and welcome to the city. I am excited, and the residents are excited. That was my thing too, I wanted to see how the community was going to be involved. How you would include the community in what is going on, and certain jobs being available for the community.

**Mr. Goldberg** – We are in the construction stage, but Bruce set us up and we have had one meeting with the Clayton Count Public Schools. In the new year we can rekindle those conversations. Training and education are going to be part of what we do and there are going to be opportunities to work together.

**Councilmember Mears** – I too would like to thank you for being here and choosing our wonderful city. I speak on behalf of the council, let us know if there is anything we can do to help make your stay pleasant, let us know.

**Mr. Goldberg** – Thanks.

**Mayor Butler** – Thank you very much.

## 2. **PRESENTATION – High-Capacity Transit** – Executive Offices

### **Background/History:**

Discussion and request for Mayor and City Council to endorse setting aside commuter rail and advancing a Bus Rapid Transit Alternative along the State Route 54 corridor specifically for planned for High-Capacity Transit connecting the existing MARTA Rail connecting East Point, Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International

Airport, Forest Park, Gillem Logistics Center, Lake City, Clayton State University, Morrow, Southlake Mall, Jonesboro, and Lovejoy.

**Michael Hightower, Collaborative Firm** – We are joined by Marta Senior Director of Extreme Affairs Collen Kierman, who has been out here on several occasions and is one of the biggest supporters and ensuring that the funding is there. She follows the money and has been on the case for Forest Park.

There was a commitment for Commuter Rail to parallel and go down Highway 54. For the past couple of years Marta has re-examined that local project agreement and has determined a different mode for that artery. We are asking the council to join the Clayton County Board of Commissioners, who has already approved this resolution, the City of Jonesboro has approved it and we expect the other cities to do likewise, to change the initial project agreement from commuter rail along 54 to Bus Rapid Transit, which is a more relevant transit for services in this part of Clayton County. Grady Smith will give a brief presentation on this.

**Grady Smith** – I would like to give a refresher to the council of all the things in the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Rapid Transit Agreement, between the county and Marta. The O.M Facility in Clayton County Is one of the major investments in this. The high-capacity transit option for the state route is what we will spend more time on. Hwy 54 comes right through the middle of your city and the Norfolk Southern Rail line. One of the commitments that Marta has made is to make the amenities along our corridors here in Clayton County better and safer. They are committed to making changes to the shutter program all over, not just in Clayton County.

Marta is also committed to a Justice Center Transit Hub, where buses come together and transfer people from bus to bus safely and efficiently. Instead of having to go to a rail station at the airport we now have the breeze machines in the center of Clayton County, where people can buy those passes and not have to go to the Marta Rail to do that.

Looking beyond what is out there today, Marta has made a huge commitment to expanding that facility to state of the art. We are looking to make a bus transit hub at the Justice Center, where you have shelters you have real time bus information, you have the breeze information you also have the ability to transfer not just from bus to bus, but from uber to bus or other transit happening in the middle of the facility. Marta is committed to delivering this facility in 2026.

Marta does not own the rail line Norfolk Southern does and they made it very clear to Marta that if you are going to operate in our right-of-way, adjacent to our track you will need to be 26 ft away from our track, which creates an issue from an engineering perspective. This will require us to acquire right away and realign existing roadways and there is a cost associated with this. This creates a problem when it comes to competing for federal funds. Clayton County is a younger county in terms of where we are going to be in the future. Therefore, we are looking to pivot from a commuter rail investment to a bus Rapid Transit investment. We are here to ask along with Clayton County for the city's support, a resolution and letter to the Marta board transitioning from the commuter rail to a bus Rapid Transit investment.

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

**Councilmember Antione** -This is a no brainer and I want to thank you for allowing me and the community to be a part of your vision that you are bringing here.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - Thank you so much for the presentation. This is phenomenal and it is the future. I am thankful that you all chose us. It means a lot to me that you took these trips to show the elected officials what the vision is and what it looks like in other cities. How can you incorporate our youth in the

workforce development, which is an important piece to us? I know you will have a lot of logistic opportunities, so I want to hole your feet to the fire on that. I do not want anymore businesses coming into our city and saying we are bringing jobs, but are we getting these jobs or not? I really would like to have the process where we incorporate our schools into the system, where the jobs stay here, and the money stays here in our city. Thank you for this and you have my full support.

**Councilmember Wells** – Thank you for the presentation, this is just what the residents need as well as us as council members to be informed on what it is that we are voting on.

**Councilmember Mears** – I would like to thank you for the presentation. I was well informed, and you all have my full support, along with the rest of the board.

**Mayor Butler** – I think one of the best takeaways is that Indigo already did the groundwork for it and so all we must do is take the pieces that work for us and make sure it ports well into our municipality and county.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 3. Council Consideration of Certificate Allocating Local Option Sales Tax Proceeds - Legal

#### Background/History:

This year, Clayton County and each of the Clayton County municipalities are due to renew the allocation of the proceeds of the local option sales tax (L.O.S.T.) proceeds. After several meetings, it has been agreed that the allocation of the proceeds shall remain the same as it has been previously.

Attached is a copy of the proposed tax allocation certificate which is to be submitted to the State Commissioner of Revenue.

It is anticipated that the County will approve the certificate at its first meeting in November. Some of the other cities have already agreed to it.

**City Manager** – This is the allocation we would get from the local option sales taxes for all the products and services purchased and taxes within the county.

**Mayor Butler** – Our portion will remain the same, which is 11.28 percent, and the county gets 66 percent then it is broken down from there.

### 4. Information Technology Hardware Surplus - Information Technology Department

#### Background/History:

As the technology department continues to complete our budgeted IT refresh projects, we will continue to accumulate hardware that is end of life or no longer provides any value to the city. We currently have an inventory of hardware ready to be approved as surplus. If this request is approved, I am recommending that the contents of this inventory be recycled. The reason for this request is that the hardware is very old and does not have any usable value left to donate. I have found a third-party organization that will recycle the hardware free of cost to the City. Should recyclable contain enough value to be profitable for the company, it could result in a small portion of the proceeds being refunded back to the city.

### 5. Council Discussion on Accepting the BJA FY 2022 Bullet Proof Vest Reimbursement Program Funding – Grants/Police

**Background/History:**

A resolution to accept reimbursement funding in the amount of \$7,450.00 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 2022 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership for twenty (20) bulletproof vests. The reimbursement covers the 2-year program performance period.

**6. Council Discussion on Purchasing Additional Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – Fire & EMS Department****Background/History:**

Fire & EMS is requesting to purchase twelve new SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) air packs/units. One unit consists of SCBA, spare cylinder, mask, and protective bag for the mask. The cost of this purchase is \$116,844.00. This purchase is due to the complete inventory of outdated SCBAs.

Per the NFPA 1981 (National Fire Protection Association) and NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health), it requires that all SCBA cylinders be hydrostatic tested every 5 years throughout the service life of 15 years.

We currently have a total of 59 SCBA cylinders. Approximately forty-five were manufactured in 2010 which will reach its end of life in 2024 and the remainder manufactured in 2011 which will reach its end of life in 2025. We would like to purchase the twelve air packs this year and budget for twelve air packs for 2024 and 12 for 2025. This purchase (and the next 2 years purchases) will ensure compliance per NFPA and NIOSH standards for the next 15 years. Any new trucks we procure will not come with air packs. This will allow the Fire Department to pass down 12 SCBAs to the Training Division and to prepare to outfit the new apparatus that will be received next year.

We are requesting to transfer funds from the Fire Hose line (100-61-3520-53-1133) to the Breathing Apparatus line (100-61-3520-53-1135) in the amount of \$116,844.00 to make this purchase.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Mears** – Thinks that it is a good idea. They have a new fire station, and it is bad if you cannot leave because you cannot breathe.

**Chief Clemmons** – As we continue to evaluate the infrastructure which includes the vehicles, the facilities, tools, and equipment these are a vital part of our life and safety and how we operate. When we are going into situations this is what we use to breathe.

**7. Update from Urban Redevelopment Agency - Economic Development****Background/History:**

The URA Chair and Department of Economic Development would like to provide an update to the City Council on its activities in the past several months to include the following:

An overview of recent sales of property at the Gillam Logistics Center

A report on the financial status of the URA

The URA's remaining financial obligation to the United States Army

**Bruce Abraham, Economic Development Director** – CM James wanted me to give an update on URA and Gillem Logistics. Bluestar Studio's will invest 180 million dollars, in our city for a 55-acre project, which will bring about 1000 jobs. It is very important that we try and get the kids into the movie production business, and we are working on a strategy to do that. My department is also working on a film friendly economic development plan that we will be bringing to you, and we will have an ordinance to enable some of these things.

Fort Gillem was closed in 2005 and the army had 257 acres that are still operating as a forensic unit for the army. 1165 acres were sold to Forest Park through the URA, which was set up as a vehicle to accept the property to sale and pay off the debt to the army. The property was sold for thirty million dollars in 2014.

Kroger's brought 250 acres for fifteen million dollars, then the URA went in debt for fifteen million to the army and has been making those payments. Then the URA issued some bonds for fifteen million plus dollars for infrastructure to build Anvil Block Rd, and others to get the project started. The URA partnered with Robinson Weeks, an industrial developer, to buy sites for industrial buildings. We have seventeen companies out there and we are expecting a ten million build out. There are 150 acres left too sale.

There are several amenities to be coming. The old fire station is closing and the new one is opening in the spring, and we are talking about bringing three restaurants and a brewery to the old fire station so people will have a place to eat. The POA will build walking trails to Stevens Lake and around the sidewalks so that the employees can walk around. The Property Owners Association puts money into a general fund where they maintain the property, roads, and infrastructure with a budget of about a half million dollars.

Blue Star Studio sales will pay off the debt in 2023, we owe the army 3.2 million, the money is in the bank and that will be paid off. Kroger's tax abatement that was made early on the property is paying off the eighteen million with interest, which was originally fifteen million for the infrastructure for Anvil Block Road and the infrastructure. The total investment is estimated to be over a billion dollars in this development.

The property tax digest of Forest Park is 850 million, which is more than the existing property values of Forest Park. We used to sell property for twenty thousand and acre now we sell it for one hundred thousand an acre. At Fort Gillem. At the end of the project in a couple of years five thousand new jobs will be created there are about three thousand jobs out there now. No general fund money, or property tax money has been spent in Gillem. They will more than double the city's property tax digest, the Property Owners Association will maintain the development at no cost to the city, the Gillem has enabled seventeen big companies in a major movie studio to locate to Forest Park, which would not happen without Fort Gillem. I would like to thank the mayor the president of the URA and CM. James, who is currently the steward of the URA.

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

**Councilmember James** – Is excited about this and mentioned one of the that council had mentioned is they wanted to be informed on the things that are happening, and part of the intergovernmental agreement that was signed allows us to come in and give you all updates. I would like to do this on a regular basis so that you all know what is happening.

**Councilmember Antione** – For me it is just transparency and that is what got me. I thank you for how detailed and transparent you are. I was not aware of this, so thank you.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you, I really appreciate that update this is the route that we need to go. Even though we have minutes for these meetings, I think that having quarterly or monthly updates for

the public with images is essential for transparency, and I will see if I can do something for the D.A. since I am a representative. I would also like to thank the elected officials before us for making this happen.

**Councilmember Wells** – Thank you so much for the transparency. You know we did mention to Councilwoman James that we wanted to be in the know. It is embarrassing to be councilmembers and not know what is going on. The people deserve to know what is going on in their city, I appreciate it and I am sure they do as well. This project has been going on way before any of our time, and to see it come to fruition means a lot, and I am excited and so are the residents.

**Councilmember Mears** – I too would like to thank you for the good work. I had several sleepless nights about buying the property before we got the wheels turning. I am well relieved with the information that you have brought to us, so thank you.

**Mayor Butler** - In speaking about those that were before us, it is unfortunate that Frank Brandon is not here to relish in the progress that is Fort Gillem. He and I are opposite in a lot of areas, but one thing we always agreed on was what we wanted for Fort Gillem. He passed away last year, but I know he would be exceptionally proud of all that we have been able to accomplish thus far.

**Councilmember Wells**- Years and years ago our City Manager, John Parker had a big role in what was going on at Fort Gillem, so I just wanted to put that out there too, so thank you to John Parker, who did an amazing job with this project.

#### 8. **Discussion on Email Addresses for City Boards-** Legislative

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

It is proposed that the members of the various City boards be provided with email addresses for which they can conduct official business.

The IT Department has explored options for this purpose to present to the City Council.

**Councilmember James** – I reached out to Josh for some options. At our last URA meeting, we explored the idea of getting business cards and we talked about what would be on the business cards and not having our personal information, email addresses etc. One of the members of the floor stated the county has an email address for the board, that the board could use, and I wanted to see what the options were for our boards.

**Josh Cox** – There are three options, the easiest and my least favorite would to be issue City of Forest Park email addresses to the board. It is not ideal because they are separate entities from the city and could get into some other issues from a security perspective. Another option would be to set up another domain like cityoforestparkga.gov, but specifically for the boards and have that being another domain in our hosting tenant. The last option would be to totally separate them from our attendant and work with a hosting partner and have an email environment separate from the city. This may not be a good idea because if there are issues with password resets, we would not be able to help. So those are the three options.

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

**Councilmember James** – I am not in favor of option one, because I do not want the people on the board to look as though they are employees of the City of Forest Park. As it relates to option two, is there an



associated cost or something that the board can get together and pay the city to do that, or how would that work?

**Josh Cox** – The email domain will depend on what you select. There is a different cost depending on the popularity of the domain. If you want it to be a .gov domain which I believe the board qualify there is an application process to go through and is an annual renewal of 400.00. Currently, that is not being charged by .gov, it has been suspended, but could come back so I would recommend a plan for it. If you went with a non.gov there is an annual cost anywhere from \$3-\$50 dollars, depending on what domain you select. Outside the domain cost is a monthly per user email hosting cost of eight dollars per user per month, which is standard.

**Councilmember Antione** – I feel the same way that if they are not city employees, they should not have the city email address. I am on the safety and security side.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I agree with my colleague it is a volunteer position. If the board wants to take on the cost of the emails, if, it does not fall on the city or puts more work on you or any security issues.

**Councilmember Wells** – I agree also, it is a volunteer board. I agree with three, not option one. It is a volunteer board and I do not want the city to have to do any more than what they are doing. I am not against it but why not use your own email.

**Councilmember Mears** – I agree with council. Whatever is pleasing and agreeable by the council is ok by me.

**Mayor Butler** – It has been my experience on these boards, while there are mass communications that goes out for agenda purposes and just general communication. At the heart of it, it is usually the chair that has the communication with perspective businesses and people in general. It is up in the air either way but thank you.

**Councilmember James** – Initially I wanted it not to be on the agenda for voting, but it is on the agenda for voting. I would like to get clarity on what the members of the board are saying. Are we saying we should go ahead and get our own hosting or look at the option of hosting through the city?

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – If we all agree on not going with option one, would that come to us Dr. Cooper? Would we have to take charge of the host, or can the board take that?

**City Manager** – The board would take the cost to set up and host that, but that would come with the fact that we would have to add another individual to IT moving forward, depending on how much hosting the board would need. If we set up a different domain the boards actually paid for, the only thing Josh and his team would be concerned with is the setting up of email and passwords and doing password resets. The biggest issue would come with any of the board members would have with their computers or anything else and then going to our IT department to get those things resolved, because it is their personal computer.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – If you get the host and you pay for it, they do not have their customer service to do all those things.

**Josh Cox** – They do if you set up in your own hosting entity, they usually have self-service password resets.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Do we need to approve that, or can the boards move and get that by themselves?

**City Manager** – The board can move to approve that if they are going to do it themselves. Councilmember James and Josh will bring it forward if you are going to have one domain that was associated with the city. There would have to be an agreement made with that to extend information technology to IT.

**Josh Cox** – Or if you wanted your own domain hosted in our system.

**Mayor Butler** – Councilmember James can you repeat your question.

**Councilmember James** – I wanted to know if the board was ok with our board purchasing but having it hosted by the city or should we go out on our own.

**Councilmember Antione** – I must think about this.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I do not know enough about this, Councilwoman James can we table it.

**Councilmember James** – Absolutely.

**Councilmember Wells**- This is self-explanatory, if you are going to do it, do it and host your own domain. Like Dr. Cooper said, you do not want something to go wrong with it and we must take care of it. It is easier for the boards to do their own things with that.

**Councilmember Mears** – I agree with tabling it because it needs some more discussion on it.

**City Manager** – Will there be specific questions the council will need answered coming back.

**Councilmember James** – No I think we can move to not approve this and move on. I was thinking in terms of all the boards we have in the city and all the different people we have that volunteer to be on our boards. We can as the URA board because we only have five members and we can go out on our own, but I was thinking generally. If you prefer every board does its own thing, then that is fine. I do not know if there is anything else to discuss, but he gave us the three options.

We all agree option number 1 is something that we do not want, because of the email addressed being the same. The other two options were to have a domain created and it be on the city server or whatever you want to call it or go out and do our own thing. If we do not agree to use the city for all the boards then there is no other discussion, we can just move on.

## 9. **Council Discussion on Good 360 Event for June 21-24, 2023 - Legislative**

### **Background/History:**

Councilmember James would like to discuss with the mayor and council the Good 360 Event for June 21-24, 2023.

**Councilmember James** – Mark your calendar for June 21-24. This is an event that was hosted in Riverdale called Miracle on Garden Walk. We are going to have a Miracle in Fort Gillem, next year in June. We were able to talk with Rich Goldberg from Blue Star Studios. The president of good 360 and for those of you who may not know, Good 360 gets goods that you return, like if you order something from Amazon and return it, it does not go back on the shelf, it goes into a warehouse. Good 360 is going to bring those goods to Forest Park. We have partnered with Carla Hardwood, with Helping Hands Ending Hunger and we partnered with Rich Goldberg to give us 2,000 square feet of space.

He is going to use part of the studio space they are building out for next year we will host this event. Arvis Walker for the Clayton County PTA's will get it together to be the volunteers and things of that nature. We are going to bring this to our city and have Christmas in June for people to shop. I do not know what the title will be, but families can choose a few items to take with them. This is going to be huge for our city and I am excited about it.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Are the items free or discounted?

**Councilmember James** – both

**Councilmember Wells** -Yes, it is a great thing. I was going to ask if they had to pay or was it free. It is a great thing, and I would like to volunteer to be part of it.

**Councilmember Mears** – I agree with this.

**Mayor Butler** – Will this be annual? We are going to try and make this annual. This is great.

**10. Council Discussion of a Home Repair Grant Program and Guidelines** – Executive Office

**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.

The approved guidelines will be used to develop the Request for Proposal for an organization that could serve as the administrator of this program on behalf of the city. The City Manager is seeking direction and approval to move forward with the RFP, based on the criteria set by the council and to have the program start obtaining applications by first quarter 2023.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Antione** – Dr. Cooper went over this with me and was very detailed. It is a great idea the vision that he has for this is right to the point. So, I am in support of this.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you Dr. Cooper for listening to us. I do often get complaints from my senior community. They need help with certain things and are aware of the OPRA funds that we have. I am glad we can address the little things like blowing leaves off the roof or cleaning gutters and things like that. Those are small things that we can do and have been doing, but a repair can sometimes get expensive, so I am glad we are investing in our homeowners.

**When you are on a fixed income it is hard to get things done.** I partnered up with a few builders that fix things, so let us know because we have a lot of resources. We will roll this out in January, but if it is something detrimental like your heater, or whatever we have a large community that is willing to help and a lot of business owners that want to give back.

**Councilmember Wells** – Thank you Dr. Cooper for pushing this because it is about the residents. Like Councilmember Gutierrez said, they need help and they have reached out for help. I am glad the city is pushing this, thank you so much.

**Councilmember Mears** – I to agree with Dr. Cooper, but we will have to be careful with the guidelines and outlay and the quality of repairment of people and companies that we get. In construction there are so many ways to hoodwink something, and people do not get their money worth for the repairs for which they are charged. We should have guidelines and stipulations, so people can get their money's worth.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**It was moved to adjourn the Council Work Session at 7:28pm**

Motion made by Councilmember Wells Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

DRAFT