



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, January 06, 2025 at 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

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 Latresa Akins-Wells  
The Honorable Allan Mears

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager  
Randi Rainey, City Clerk  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

## AGENDA

### VIRTUAL NOTICE

To watch the meeting via YouTube - <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>

The Council Meetings will be live-streamed and available on the City's

YouTube page - "**City of Forest Park GA**"

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:**

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**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. **Council Discussion to Surplus Vehicles:** Fire and EMS Department

***Background and History:***

The Fire and EMS Department requests Council's approval to surplus vehicles. The vehicles will be placed on public surplus for auction. The vehicles' year, make, and model range from 1988 to 2015, exceeding the average 7-year vehicle replacement schedule. Please see the attached vehicle listing we are requesting Councils' approval on, so we can move forward with the auction. Additionally, four vehicles previously approved by Council on 6/21/2021 are included in the attached list.

**OLD BUSINESS:****NEW BUSINESS:**

2. **Council Discussion of a Resolution to Become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency and Participate in one or more of GIRMA Funds- Human Resources**

**Background/History:**

The Ashley Wilson Act (HB 451) mandates that all public entities in Georgia provide a supplemental benefit program for first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of exposure to traumatic events encountered in the line of duty. This legislation establishes a one-time financial safety net designed to help first responders cover uninsured costs associated with PTSD treatment and recovery.

The program ensures that first responders can access benefits quickly and confidentially, mitigating concerns about stigma or potential job loss. Importantly, this Act does not affect employer health plans, which are already required to cover PTSD and other mental health conditions.

This new program, referred to as the PTSD Program, becomes effective on January 1, 2025. Local government participation is required under this legislation, which includes completing an application and signing a participation agreement to implement the program. Approval of this agenda item will authorize the City to comply with the requirements of HB 451 and provide this critical benefit to its first responders.

3. **Council Discussion of Case # CUP-2024-04, Conditional Use Permit to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC).** Planning and Community Development (public hearing in regular session)

**Background/History:**

The applicant is requesting a Conditional Use permit to open and operate a place of worship at 528 Forest Pkwy Ste. G. This property is found within a commercial strip plaza that has nine additional business suites on site. The square footage of the suite is approximately 1,270 square feet, and the applicant proposes to utilize this space to host worship services, gatherings, and church events. The hours of operation will be Monday to Friday, 10 am -5 pm, for administration, planning, and ministry functions; Friday and Saturday, 7 pm – 10 pm; and Sunday services will be held at 10:30 am. The proposed capacity would be about twenty (20) to thirty (30) members in attendance for Sunday service and on Friday and Saturday, the applicant advised that there would be approximately fifty (50) to sixty (60) or more members in attendance.

Staff have reviewed the criteria for a conditional use permit, and the applicant does not meet the necessary criteria for approval and will have a significant impact on traffic and neighboring businesses based on the size of parking availability, the size of lot, and influx of members in attendance. During the evening events on Friday and Saturday, if there are 50-60+ vehicles at one time, there would also be an increase in traffic flow on Forest Parkway and entering and exiting the parking lot. On Thursday,

December 19, 2024, The City of Forest Park Planning Commission voted to deny the conditional use permit request. If the Mayor and Council deny the proposed Conditional Use Permit Request, The applicant will not be able to move forward with their request to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC).

4. **Council Discussion to approve Case # TA-2024-06 and TA-2024-07 Text Amendments for Article B. – Zoning Districts, and Design Guidelines Established, Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances.**- Planning and Community Development (public hearing in regular session)

**Background/History:**

The Planning & Community Development Department has discovered some areas of the Code of Ordinances that need to be amended to allow **tiny homes and cottage dwellings as additional housing types within the city.** The proposed text amendments will be added to **Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances.** On Thursday, December 19, 2024, the City of Forest Park Planning Commission voted to approve the amendment to the ordinance. If the Mayor and Council approves the proposed text amendments, The City of Forest Park will be able to move forward with allowing developments of tiny homes and cottage dwellings within the City of Forest Park's Gillem District and Urban Village District.

5. **Council Discussion to approve Case # TA-2024-09 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article G. – Fees, Section 8-7-81 Fee Schedule, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update fee schedule text.** - Planning and Community Development

**Background/History:**

The Planning & Community Development Department has discovered some areas of the Code of Ordinances that need to be amended for clarity and formal processes. **Planning & Community Development fees have not been updated since 1959. For purposes of ensuring that fees cover the cost of service while remaining competitive with neighboring cities, the fees have been updated. Additionally, the text has been updated to reflect current practice in determining fees. This text update has also received approval on Thursday December 19, 2024, by The city of forest park Planning Commission.** If the Mayor and Council approves the proposed text amendment to update fee schedule, The city of Forest Park will continue to move forward and remain competitive with neighboring cities.

6. **Council Discussion to approve Case # TA-2024-10 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article B. – Procedure, Article C. Plats and Data of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, and update plat instructions.**- Planning and Community Development (public hearing in regular session)

**Background/History:**

The Planning & Community Development Department has discovered some areas of the Code of Ordinances that need to be amended for clarity and formal processes. **Planning & Community Development plat procedures have not been updated since 1959. For purposes of clarity and transparency the plat procedures must be updated to reflect the current review and approval**

**process. This text update has also received approval on Thursday December 19, 2024, by the city of forest park Planning Commission.**

If the Mayor and Council approves the proposed text amendment to update Plat Procedures and Data, The city of Forest Park Planning & Community Development department will be able to move forward with procedures and data that currently reflect our current review and approval process.

7. **Council Discussion to approve Case # TA-2024-11 Text Amendments for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article E. – Tree Protection, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-142 Tree Bank Ordinance.-** Planning and Community Development (public hearing in regular session)

**Background/History:**

The Planning & Community Development Department has discovered some areas of the Code of Ordinances that need to be amended for clarity and formal processes. **This update promotes environmental sustainability, enhances urban greenery, and mitigates the loss of trees due to development. A tree bank allows developers to offset tree removal by contributing to a fund dedicated to tree planting and maintenance in other areas, ensuring that the community continues to benefit from tree cover. This approach helps improve air quality, manage stormwater, and preserve biodiversity, while also fostering compliance with environmental regulations.**

**On Thursday, December 19, 2024, the City of Forest Park Planning Commission voted to approve the amendment to the ordinance. If the Mayor and Council approve the proposed text amendment, the City of Forest Park will be able to move forward with establishing a tree bank ordinance.**

8. **Council Discussion to Adopt the City of Forest Park Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study-** Planning and Community Development

**Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park Planning & Community Development Department is requesting approval for the adoption of the City of Forest Park Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study. The City of Forest Park received funding from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to perform a feasibility study and develop a concept plan for a potential pedestrian bridge connecting the City Center-City Hall Complex to Downtown Main Street. The City of Forest Park retained Kimley-Horn to perform the feasibility study, prepare a Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) concept report, and engage key stakeholders and the public.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the feasibility of constructing a pedestrian bridge over the Norfolk-Southern Railroad and SR 331/Forest Parkway. This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the project's viability, and addresses key factors such as safety, accessibility, and community benefits. It outlines the potential for improved pedestrian connectivity, to Starr park, reduced traffic congestion due to the train, and enhances public health through walking. The study also identifies cost, environmental impact, and funding options, helping to make an informed decision on whether the bridge is a worthwhile investment for the community. If the Mayor and Council approve to adopt the pedestrian bridge feasibility study, the approval will assist the project with moving forward to the next stages and potentially securing funding, conducting detailed design work, and beginning the planning and construction phases of the pedestrian bridge. The approval will also signify that the project is deemed viable and aligns with the community's goals and allows for further exploration of the planning, costs, and environmental impacts necessary to implement the bridge.

**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 meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at 404-366-4720 at least 24 hours before the meeting.