



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, August 19, 2024 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 Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

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 of Economic Development Surplused Office Furniture**-Economic Development Department

**Background/History:**

The Economic Development Staff Assistant & Project Manager worked in the same office. The Project Manager is now the Main Street Manager and needs an individual office with a meeting area. The desks & chairs they use now need to be surplused. The Staff Assistant will move, and a new office will be created for them.

2. **Council Discussion to Install Dash Cameras**-Police Department

**Background/History:**

The Forest Park Police Department remains steadfast in its commitment to transparency and accountability, recognizing these values as fundamental to building trust with our community and stakeholders. To further this commitment, we have integrated the use of body cameras and dash cameras across our fleet. These tools are instrumental in documenting interactions, ensuring adherence to protocols, and providing objective evidence in various scenarios.

In previous years, the Forest Park Police Department procured a set of dash cameras. However, it has come to our attention that a portion of this order—specifically 25 dash cameras—was not received at that time. We have since resolved this issue and received the outstanding 25 cameras.

This request to council is to have them installed by Prologic ITS which is on Statewide Contract with a SWC#99999-SPD-SPD0000210-0014. This will be funded from the DEA Justice Account.

**3. Council Discussion to Condemn Real Property Located at 765 Forest Pkwy- Executive Offices****Background/History:**

As a part of the City of Forest Park's City Center initiative, staff have been working on finalizing the preliminary plans for the City Center to house the City Hall, Municipal Court, Police Headquarters, Recreation Facility, and Senior Center. The current plans incorporate the adjacent, undeveloped lot physically situated between City Hall and the Annex Building 765 and 785 Forest Parkway. City Staff deems it in the City's best interests to adopt the attached Resolution, which would authorize the acquisition of 765 Forest Parkway by way of negotiated purchase or by eminent domain if necessary.

The City Council previously adopted Resolution 2024-15 to condemn the site. However, the addresses listed for the multiple owners in the title report were unfortunately outdated. The City Attorney's Office had to retain a private investigator to find the current addresses for the owners. Now that additional notice has been provided, the City Council needs to adopt this updated resolution to condemn the property.

**NEW BUSINESS:****4. Council Discussion on the Rollover of 457(b) Plan Funds – Executive Offices****Background/History:**

Recent discussions and feedback have emphasized the need to provide flexibility for employees in managing their retirement funds. Currently, unvested employees are not permitted to roll over their 401(a) plan funds into the new GMA pension plan. Given the guidance from the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) regarding future opportunities to buy back years of service, there is an opportunity to address this.

**5. Council Discussion on Rental Assistance for Forest Station—Executive Offices****Background/History:**

Forest Station, a community with a significant population of senior residents, has recently implemented rental increases due to inflationary pressures and rising maintenance costs. Many of these seniors live on fixed incomes and are particularly vulnerable to these cost increases, risking displacement or financial hardship.

It is proposed that the City Council approve the allocation of ARPA funds to establish a rental assistance program specifically for seniors at Forest Station. The program will provide temporary financial support to cover the difference between the current rent and the increased rent amount for eligible seniors.

**6. Council Discussion to enter into a contract with A Better Sign to construct and install five (5) monument signs in City Parks- Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park received sealed bids from prospective contractors for the City's Park Monument Signs project on July 11, 2024. The City received five (5) Bids and A Better Sign was the lowest bidder at \$176,000.00. The work consists of furnishing and installing all materials, labor, tools, equipment, and related services required for a complete project. This project includes but is not limited to providing the construction of a complete installation of five (5) "Monument Signs" at park locations within the City.

Work is to include all traffic control, demolition, erosion and sediment control, clearing/trimming, grading, signage, landscaping and all other activities and appurtenances to provide a complete "Forest Park – Monument Signs" project in Forest Park, Georgia.

**7. Council Discussion of a Budget Amendment and Policy for Donations and Contributions-Finance Department**

**Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park's FY24-25 Operating Budget was unanimously adopted by the city council on June 17th, 2024. Prior to the budget's adoption, city staff advised that funding and revenues would be continuously monitored for accuracy and reporting purposes.

Staff now recommends adding the understated funds to the Events Donations revenue line, increasing the previously adopted amount from \$2,000.00 to \$10,500.00. Additionally, it is recommended that the expenditure line for City Events-Ward 4 be increased from \$45,000.00 to \$53,500.00.

**8. Council Discussion on the Municipal Court Solicitor's Contract (Rene Marierose)-Municipal Court Department**

**Background/History:**

Attorney Rene Marierose is the Solicitor for the City of Forest Park Municipal and Environmental Courts. Solicitor Rene Marierose has been contracted with the City for two (2) years. The contract expired in May of 2024, and he is seeking renewal of his contract. The term of this agreement shall be renewed for a subsequent one (1) calendar year term for a period not to exceed four (4) calendar renewal years in total. The City or the Solicitor may terminate prior to the end of the term year for good cause only. "Good Cause" is defined in Exhibit A, which is attached. The City is proposing an 8.33% increase to his yearly salary.

**9. Council Discussion for renovation/expansion of the "old" jail area within the Police Department. Two quotes were received. Recommend award to lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder: Accurate Property Services for an amount not to exceed \$15,800.70-Police Department**

**Background/History:**

The Forest Park Police Department continues to experience growth, with nearly all positions filled at its current location. However, the building continues to age, and space is becoming increasingly limited. To address this challenge, the department has identified a potential office space that can be utilized. This space requires minor renovations, including new carpeting, paint, lighting, and ceiling tiles. Once the renovations are complete, the office will be able to accommodate three of our employees.

**10. Council Discussion for a Partnership with Change Center Mentoring Group – Recreation and Leisure Services Department**

**Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park (Recreation and Leisure Services Department), along with the Change Center Mentoring Group, are in collaboration to provide mentorship and guidance to at-risk youth within the Forest Park Community through a mentoring program. The mentoring program is designed to provide a safe and supportive environment while encouraging personal and academic growth, community involvement, and service among mentees. Within this partnership, The City of Forest Park will provide the use of the facilities at 696 Main St. at no charge to host mentoring sessions and activities. If approved, this partnership will go into effect on August 12, 2024, and remain in effect for a period of one year, unless terminated with a 30-day written notice.

**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 least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 404-366-4720.