



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, February 07, 2022, at 7:00 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) 366.1555

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

### APPROVED MINUTES

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

The Honorable Allan Mears

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

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Butler.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Dr. Kenneth Paden gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

**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		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3 – Mayor Pro-Tem	✓	
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Diane Lewis, Human Resources Deputy Director, Lashawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Tarik Maxell, Director of Recreation & Leisure, Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works, Joshua Cox, IT Director, James Shelby, Planning & Community Development Director, Michael Brunson, Deputy Chief of Police and Javon Lloyd, PIO Director.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)**

There were two (2) speakers:

**Clifford Pellegrine** – Good evening governing body members, citizens and of Forest Park. I have two questions: 1) I am going to ask the city council governing body if you ever utilized the services of a mediator, during any of your retreats for team building; 2) did anyone on the governing body, reach out to the absent councilmember with concerns of her whereabouts filing an ethics complaint, if not that seems to me to reflect on the character of the governing body and not of the individual missing the meetings.

**Samuel Ibanez** – Good evening, I guess he stole my thoughts. He said something that touched me very deeply and I cannot put it any better than he did. There is a lot of things that we have been working to trying to get this government together, but how are we going to get it together if we do not get actually the steps. Thank you, Ms. Latresa, because of the effort, kindness the strength that you have been putting for that goal that you have been pursuing. When you asked me to help you to become a councilmember, I did not doubt, but I asked you many questions, and your position is here. The other thing is about bicycle roads that I have been asking for a while, because a lot of my people use bicycles to go to work have been getting a lot of tickets, why do we have to go through a long process to get something done? You do not have the money, I have the money, we got plenty of people, we can do this.

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

It was motioned to adopt the agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2022 -**  
S. Diane White, City Clerk

It was motioned that the minutes from the January 18, 2022, Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes be adopted.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2. **Request Council Approve Resolution to Transfer Previous Year CDBG Funds to Current Year –**  
Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the Resolution to Transfer Previous Year CDBG Funds to Current Year.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**3. Request Council Approval for "The Leaf" Monthly Newsletter – Public Information Office**

It was motioned to approve the publication of the monthly newsletter "The Leaf".

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**4. Council Discussion to Reduce the Speed Limit on East Bound and West Bound Pineridge Drive – Chief Executive Offices**

It was motioned to remove this item from the agenda and requested stop signs to be installed in the area.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**5. Request Council Approval of the Main Street Streetscape Phase IIA – Relocation Agreement Between Georgia Power and City of Forest Park – Department of Planning and Community Development**

It was motioned to approve the relocation agreement with GA Power for Phase IIA of the Main Street Streetscape.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**6. Request Council Approval to Purchase New City Street Light Banners – Chief Executive Office**

It was motioned to move forward with purchasing of the new streetlight banners.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**7. Request Council to Vote on a Councilmember's Missed Meetings and Pay Reduction – Chief Executive Office**

There was no action on this agenda item.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I have a question for the City Attorney, this goes back to the work session discussion, it was just for the records, so with the reasoning, it is just the only thing they are supposed to vote on it being justified, the reason being justified right?

City Attorney – Yes, madam

### CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

**Councilmember James** – Good evening and welcome to February. Before I make my comments, I will say, that regarding a professional mediator, we do have a professional that comes to our sessions, and I will say that everyone has to be willing to come together, it cannot be one-sided and I would like to say, if I am not welcomed to call someone, if I have been directed not to call someone, then I am not going to go out of my way to call. Every now and then I may try to reach out, but I am not going out of my way to do so. The Ward meeting for January is on the city's website under Ward 1, you can go and listen to that you will hear some information about out Starr Park Master Plan Phase I.

This month is Black Heritage Month / Black History Month. The month of February has long been recognized as Black History Month across the country and continues to be a significant time to bring awareness of the culture to everyone. Black History Month is an annual celebration that started in the US in 1926. It was conceived by historian Carter G Woodson who proposed marking a time to honor African Americans and raise awareness of Black history. Carter G. Woodson, also known as the "Father of Black History," was the first scholar to designate a time to promote and educate people about Black history and culture during the month of February. In 1976, Negro History Week became Black History Month. Since this time, ALL Presidents officially recognize February as Black History Month. Here in the city of Forest Park, we have our own black history, which I would like to recognize, and council please assist me if I have something wrong. On the first black city management team was Angela Redding; first black directors, in our planning and zoning department was Al Wiggins; recreation and leisure, Tariq Maxwell, who is serving now; human resources is Shalonda Brown, who is also currently serving; finance department is our new incoming Finance Director Chiquita Barkley; public safety department we have our police chief, Nathaniel Clark; as our fire chief, we have our first black female Chief Latosha Clemons; as our first black city manager was Al Wiggins; first city solicitor Leslie Miller Terry, who is serving now and Robert Mack our first black city attorney; I do not know who the first black judge was, so I do not have that; the first elected black councilmember was Sparkle Adams and the first elected black mayor is our very own Angelyne Butler. So that is the black history for Forest Park.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Good evening, everybody, to those that are new welcome along with those listening online. To piggyback off black history month, for those that do not know, I am from Haiti, it is the first black country to gain its independence, when Toussaint Louverture led a successful slave revolt, and since we are talking about black history, I think that is one of the histories that is not mentioned really in books, and that is why some of our students do not even know that this was the first black successful slave revolt in the world that happened in 1804. The city is moving in the right direction, we have employment opportunities at [www.jobkroger.com](http://www.jobkroger.com) on that website you will find information on jobs that hiring in our community. We still have the rental assistance program. We are in good hands, and we are here to serve everyone, and we are not here to mislead you, we are here to do the right thing.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Thanks to everyone for tuning in online, those that here. In other news, on tomorrow, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, I met with the manager and owners of Zestos, which has been in our community since the 1940s. They wanted to do something to help give back to the community, and I wanted to do something to give back to the community and I never worked at a fast food facility, so if you stop by Zestos tomorrow between 12noon and 2:00pm, you will see CM Wells in a Zestos' uniform and working on the main register and Jonathan and Rumors Nightclub for being sponsors of this and continuously giving back to our community. So, the first 20 people that come in between 12noon and 2:00pm will have lunch on CM Wells, Jonathan Rushmere and Rumors nightclub. Thank you so much for everything that you do and helping to give back to the Forest Park community. Thank you Mr. Ibanez for your comments and yes we do have a mediator but some people you just cannot change, some want to work together for the betterment of the community and actually serve the people and not worry about people and their personal lives;

I do not focus on what other people have going on because I am too focused on the residents of Forest Park and doing things like Zestos to give back to the community that I grew up in. So, thank you so much for your comments and Mr. Pellegrine for your comments.

**Councilmember Mears** – I also would like to thank everyone for being here tonight, we had a retreat and in my personal opinion we covered a lot of ground and got a lot of information. We did some bonding and learned a lot about each other and what we got to do to move the city forward as for as a budget. We got a lot of outstanding things we want to do that cost a lot of money, so we to tighten our belts in some area and we got loosen them in others. We have got to take care of our fire and police department to make sure that we are protected, and we can get fire and emergency medicine when we need it, which is most important. Then we will build from that to make sure that all the people in the city protected. Thank you again for coming and see you next time.

**Mayor Butler** – Thank you and I would like to thank everyone for being present tonight, thank you councilmembers for your input in tonight's meeting and just as another little fun interesting fact than Toussaint Louverture who led the Haitian revolution, he is my seventh great, great uncle. I want to watch this video, within the summer of this year there will be dirt turning for new Forest Park Middle Stem School which will be coming to the area, so I want to show you, just a taste, of what is coming. A video of the new Forest Park Middle Stem School was shown. Thank you, that was just amazing. That in addition to the new senior active living complex that is coming on College Street, this is Ward 2 and CM Antoine you have a lot to be proud of. If this is not part of the manifestation of progress, I do not know what is, but that is direct result from the residents who voted on the SPLOST money, so you can see where some of your funds are going, so thank you to the residents for making that happen.

Received a message from CM Gutierrez, who had a death in the family, but wanted to remind everyone that Food Truck Friday will be held on Friday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at the Fountain and there will be a movie and the theme is Black History Celebration.

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

There was no Executive Session

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was motioned to adjourn the Regular meeting at 7:31pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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