



**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Monday, October 18, 2021, at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

**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 REGULAR 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  
Stephanie Tigner, Deputy City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Mayor Angelyne Butler called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge was provided by Minister Cook.

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director, Bruce Robinson, Deputy Director Public Works, James Shelby, PB&Z Director, Tarik Maxell, Director of Recreation &

Leisure, Joshua Cox, IT Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police and Latosha Clemmons, Fire Chief.

Mayor Butler called for a brief moment of silence to honor former United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

## PRESENTATIONS:

### 1. Proclamation – Mary Ann Connelly

Mayor Butler read the proclamation into the record.

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

**Dr. Beeler - Forest Park Ministers Association** I just wanted to comment on the political forum that we had. I want to thank the people that participated. I think you guys did a great job. You made your points quite clear, and I think the people who came asked were very good questions. Thank you for coming and participating. We will have a community wellness Fall Festival on October 23, 2021, at our church on Phillips Dr. The event will begin at 10:00 am to 2:00pm. There will be a lot of sponsors there such as Humana, WellStar, WellCare, American Heart Association, and a number of others. One of our main concerns is that Forest Park be a healthy community. We moved into the community in 1994. We have been praying the community ever since. Our church prays for Forest Park on the first and third Monday of every month. Because our whole mission that God has given to us; and the reason why we stay in Forest Park is because we are committed to Forest Park. We just wanted to let you know what we are doing this not to let people know what we are doing, we are doing this because we want people to be healthy, we want the people to be well and we want the people to be blessed. So, we believe that is what will happen. Forest Park is blessed; thank you.

### 2. PUBLIC HEARING - Council Approval on the Ordinance 2021-12 to Establish the Final Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for the City of Forest Park – Interim Finance Director

It was motioned to recess the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing on the Ordinance 2021-12 to Establish the Final Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for the City of Forest Park.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

It was motioned to open the Public Hearing on the Ordinance 2021-12 to Establish the Final Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for the City of Forest Park

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

Mayor Butler called for speakers in favor. *There were no speakers.*

Mayor Butler called for speaker in opposition. *There were speakers.*

It was motioned to close and reconvene the Public Hearing the Ordinance 2021-12 to Establish the Final Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for the City of Forest Park.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

It was motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-12 to Establish the Final Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate for the City of Forest Park.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

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

It was motioned to adopt the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

It was motioned to approve the Work Session Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

- 3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from October 4, 2021 - S. Diane White, City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the Work Session Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 4. Council to Approve the Appointment of Fire Chief Latosha Clemons as the City of Forest Park's Emergency Management Director – Executive Offices**

It was motioned to approve the Appointment of Fire Chief Latosha Clemons as the City of Forest Park's Emergency Management Director.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

5. **Council Approval for Twenty (20) Surplus City iPhones for Sister Cities (Haiti) Initiative** – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve twenty (20) Surplus City iPhones for Sister Cities (Haiti) Initiative.

Councilmember Antoine good job executive office.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Councilmember Akins-Wells I have a question, for all of the stuff the city has as far as surplus, we have two other Sister Cities, are we just focused on Haiti or are we focused on the other two as well. I am not opposed to it; I just want to ask a question.

Councilmember Gutierrez I think the other ones we do not have advocates for?

Councilmember Akins-Wells who is our advocate for Haiti?

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears. Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Akins-Wells. The motion carried.

6. **Council Approval to Amend Maintenance List of Abandoned Cemeteries** – Executive Offices

It was motioned to Amend Maintenance List of Abandoned Cemeteries.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

7. **Council Allocating Funds to City Edge Project to Administer Rental Assistance for the City** – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve Allocating Funds to City Edge Project to Administer Rental Assistance for the City.

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

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - I would like to hear from them and how the community can access them, where they are located and what the application process is. I know that it is a religious organization I just want to make sure, I just want people to understand that anyone can apply.

**Bryan Beeler, CEO City Edge Projects (Nonprofit Program/Gateway Restoration National Network)**, - this program in particular is a rental assistance program for the residents of Forest Park impacted by COVID either through being sick or laid off by their job. This is a chance to assist them, we are trying to keep the residents here instead of being displaced and going elsewhere. The funds received will be paid to the landlord directly. We will also require them not to evict the people after they received their money. We will make sure we do everything that we can to keep the residents here in Forest Park and help them get back on their feet; those that have been impacted. We will have a process to vet them and to make sure

they are qualified. Initially, we will get recommendation from the City Manager, I will be under the direction of Dr. Cooper as far as advertising.

**Mayor Butler** - is there a maximum per resident?

Bryan Beeler - the program is providing (3) months of rent; It is a (3) three month rent program.

**Councilmember Antoine** - I can give you an idea on how to spread the word maybe do a flyer or a mailer.

**Councilmember James** - we can reach out to owners and apartment managers and see who is delinquent.

**Shalonda Schoonmaker** - I want to suggest soliciting the funding. I know if we partner with educators and schools in Forest Park out of mouths of babes comes a lot. We do have children that unfortunately come to school and tell their teachers that they are about to be living out of their cars, I think we should partner with social workers or someone in the school system for special needs. That is where we are hearing a lot of cases. So, we need to consider that as well. I know that they are an intricate part of the education system here in Forest Park.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - I just want to thank you all for stepping up. A lot of times we hear you all are sending this money to all these places, but no one is coming with proposals for our city and our people. I want to thank you for doing that.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

**8. Council Approval of Resolution 2021-33 Authorizing the Assignment of 890 Conley Road Liens to Land Bank – PBZ**

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-33 Authorizing the Assignment of 890 Conley Road Liens to Land Bank.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

**9. Council Approval of Resolution 2021-34 to Support the Submission of Application for State of Georgia Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds –City Manager's Office**

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-34 to Support the Submission of Application for State of Georgia Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

**10. Council Approval of Selecting Three On- Call Managing General Contractor Services – Public Works/ Procurement Department**

It was motioned to approve the Three On- Call Managing General Contractor Services.

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

**Councilmember Mears** - are we going to use them in emergency type situation? We are not going to take away any hours that our city employees can use?

**City Manager** - they will be used for some of the overlay that we have; So, they will be helping us with that. It should not, it will not take any hours away.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** - so that means the streets that need paved and the sidewalks that need done, we will be able to make a call and they can just come get it done.

**City Manager** - it is not that they just can come get it done. They are having labor issues as we are. But we are trying to expand and basically help each other. But yes, that is pretty much we will be using them for. When Public Works is overwhelmed in one place, we will be able to call on them to do a specific task order for a sidewalk or speed bump. We will be able to call on them for that.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** - thank you for coming out, we really appreciate you being here this evening. I want to remind you about the Ward Meeting Thursday at 5:00pm. It is a hybrid meeting, so if you would like to meet in person, we will be at Leonard Hartsfield Community Center located at 696 Main Street or you can watch us online via Zoom. We will have our special guest Madam Mayor that will be giving us a mini-State of the City Address for those that may have missed the live State of the City Address. We will also have our subject matter experts, those directors that are available on that day to share information on things that are going on in the city. I would also like to highlight; tomorrow is Ms. Martha Stills birthday. She is 93 years old. She has been in the City of Forest Park for over 58 years. We are planning a surprise drive by at noon. She lives off West Street. If you could make flyers or posters that would be great. She is 93 years old; I do not know if she is the oldest person in Forest Park, but it is pretty substantial. If you could help us celebrate her that would be awesome. Thank you.

**Councilmember Antoine** - thank you to everyone that made it out today. Good prayer Brother Justin. I will help you Dr. Beeler to get the word out. Thank you to all that came. I see some new faces; keep on coming. God bless you all.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - thank you everyone for coming out. It is nice to see a lot of people here not just our directors. You all are some good-looking people. It is nice to see a variety of people. That is amazing, the resident that is 93 years old. But I will find someone older in my Ward because I do not like to lose at anything; that is beautiful. I wish I could attend, but I have to work. So, I want to thank our staff we have had some very amazing, successful events for Hispanic Heritage Month; we finished with a bang. I am touched by the lost about Colin Powell; I really just been thinking about it. One of the big things that stick out for me is that he is the son of immigrants from Jamaica. I am immigrant myself and coming here to a new land and doing all of the things that he did for our country, just a true patriot. If you do not know much about him; just read up on him. I had a vision board night I met a middle schooler that wants to be a fire fighter Chief Clemmons. I told him that I would bring him to meet you. The mom wanted to

know if there was a youth program. If you could send it to Tenisha. It is good to see a middle schooler that already knows what he wants to do. Thank you all for being here tonight. Be safe, COVID is still out here. Tell someone that you love them, you never know when it is going to be your last day. We are a city, and we are going to disagree on things, but we are still here. We wake up every day like everyone else. So, anything you may have, if you have any ideas, anything you want change on, speak up and hold us accountable. Have a safe one, thank you.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** - thanks everyone for coming out. The last Fun Friday was last Friday and it was a huge success. Thank you to all the directors and residents that have supported since June; I appreciate you guys so much. Thanks to Director Tarik Maxwell; you are so amazing; thank you so much. On October 29, 2021, we will have a Family Movie night it will begin at 7:00pm. We will have goodie bags for the kids and we will watch the Haunted Mansion starring Eddie Murphy in the park. Gather your neighbors and friends and come out and have fun and enjoy the Halloween Weekend. On, December 18, 2021, the Douglas Brothers Foundation reached out to me. These are some guys that went to school in Jonesboro and are very successful. Harry Douglas is a former Atlanta Falcons football player and Tony Douglas and former New York Nicks player; they see what I am doing in the community, and they wanted to bring the Christmas Giveaway right here to Forest Park. So, I will not give out the registration because I have to give it to my ward first. But as soon as I send out that blast, then I will send it out to the rest of Forest Park. We will have bikes, coats, shoes, and toys. It will be held at the recreation center. Thank you to the Douglas Brother Foundation. They could have done it anywhere else, but they choose to do it here and give back to the kids of Forest Park. I will still do the Turkey Giveaway for Thanksgiving this year. We will be giving out turkeys and hams. People were complaining about just getting turkeys, so we will throw some hams in there. If you know a family in need that may need that for Thanksgiving; please let me know. It is for everyone, not just for Ward 4. Thank you.

**Councilmember Mears** - I too want to thank everyone for coming out here tonight. I just want to encourage you to use the testing facilities that we have here for COVID. They do a wonderful job. It is all free; you can go in a get your test and in an hour or two you will get your results. If it is something free to ease your mind, even though you can still catch like Mr. Powell did. Maybe with all of your shots but do try to use the free service that we have here in the city. Thank you.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** - my son J. Akins one of the #1 sought after kids in Clayton County Athletics. He went from #17 to #14 in the state for baseball and is one of the #1 prospects for Major League Baseball and #12 in the state for basketball. I just the information this past weekend after his tournament. We are from Forest Park, grew up in Forest Park, raising my kids in Forest Park and he is making a name for himself right here in Forest Park. So, I just want to shout out my son Mr. J. Akins.

**Mayor Butler** - I want to thank the Police Department for the Breast Cancer Walk that we had this past Saturday. It was pretty amazing. I heard a lot of great feedback from it. I look forward to it getting bigger and better every year. I share the same sentiments with Councilmember Gutierrez it is something about hearing about someone passing just really put things into perspective the items that you may have been upset about still can be annoying and bothersome but in that moment can be a little trivial; when you know someone has passed on especially someone with any significance or just people in general. So, hug someone tonight, tell someone that you love and miss them. So, for the next 4 ½ hours just try to be kind to someone and let's end today on a real positive note. I look forward to Thursday Councilmember James thank you for the invitation. Thank you to all those that attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual State of the City Address it was epic! I look forward to doing it again. Thank you.

**ADJOURNMENT:** It was motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:30pm.

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

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

Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

APPROVED