



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, February 21, 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 Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez                  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 7:06pm by Mayor Butler.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge were led by Chaplain Joseph Durham, Clayton County Police Department

**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; Shalonda Brown, Human Resources 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, Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Director, James Shelby, Planning & Community Development Director, Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police and Javon Lloyd, PIO Director

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

1. **#ISHOWEDUP Presentation for GRASP Summit** – Forest Park High School / Executive Office

### **Background/History:**

We would like to share our Outstanding Attendance Initiative with all stakeholders to begin a community, business and faith community conversation centered around attendance. We hope to get their support and help be a voice to promote outstanding attendance for the scholars of Forest Park High School. As stated, we will be talking with the business and faith communities as well. We want to create a buzz in Forest Park that school matters as we prepare students for post-secondary and the world of work.

Ms. Sharon Austin Edwards, GRASP Counselor, Ms. Chandra Graham and Mr. Xavier Ross for Forest Park High School gave a presentation on #ISHOWEDUP.

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

There were no Public Comments

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

It was moved to adopt the Council Agenda with adding Item #8 Condemnation Resolution to Authorize Proceedings Against 5265 Old Dixie Rd.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

2. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from February 7, 2022** - S. Diane White, City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from Feb. 7, 2022.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

3. **Council Approval of a Telecommunications and Right of Way Management agreement (TRM)** – Chief Executive Offices

It was moved to approve the Telecommunication and Right of Way Management Agreement with GMA.

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

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

**4. Council Approval of the Homeland Security Grant Program SHSP FY2020 Grant from GEMA - Fire Department**

It was moved to approve the Homeland Security & SHSP Grant from GEMA

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

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

**5. Council Approval of the Appointments to Urban Design Review Board and Planning Commission – Department of Planning & Community Development**

It was moved to appoint Rodney Givens, Ron Dobson and Yahya Hassan to the Urban Design Review Board as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was moved to appoint Mary Colvin, Michael Clinkscales, Azfar Haque, Andy Porter and Roderick Jackson to the Planning Commission Board as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**6. Council Approval of the Reappointment of James Shelby, Director of Planning and Community Development to the Land Bank Authority – Executive Offices**

It was moved to reappoint James Shelby to the Land Bank Authority

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**7. Council Approval on a City-Wide Salary Increase Proposal – Executive Office**

It was moved to approve the City-Wide Salary Increase

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

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

Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

#### ADDENDUMS:

#### 8. Approval of Condemnation Resolution to Authorize Proceedings Against 5265 Old Dixie Road

It was moved to approve the Condemnation Resolution to Authorize Proceedings against 5265 Old Dixie Road as discussed in Executive Session.

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

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

#### CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

**Councilmember James** – Thanks to everyone for coming out on this rainy day. I want to notify that our girls basketball team will be playing their first state playoff game tomorrow at six o'clock at Forest Park High School, if you would like to get tickets you can go online at [www.gofan.co](http://www.gofan.co), search for Forest Park High School, they will be playing some other team, so hopefully we can continue and make it through the first round of the state playoffs. Want to remind that the Ward meeting for February is on the city's website under government, then Ward 1 and you will be able to see that information; there is powerful information that shared from our directors. Thank you again for coming out.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Happy President's day and Black history month. I would like to keep us in prayer because of the Russia and Ukraine issues. We all know that Russia controls the gas and the prices for gas might go up. Often, mayor, council, distinguished guests, city manager and residents, the importance of us always having a positive mind is important; an example I always share with my students, imagine an intruder coming into your house, the first thing you would do is get your gun or call the police. So, how much more do you need to have positive images in your mind, because your mind is more valuable than your house. In this community we need to continue to encourage each other, talk positively with each other; as an educator, throughout the whole school every day, I always call my students leaders, what I am doing is planting seeds and I have been doing this for 26 years, and when I do this, it is not for them to come back and fine me. We as a community, we need to plant seeds with each other, talk positive with each other. We want to be a championship team, every team must work together and as a family, the staff, mayor, and council we all must start speaking positive to each other, because we are all that we have. Thank you and God Bless.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I want to thank everyone for the positive texts and the moment of silence here for my family; I lost my aunt early this month and that is why I was not at the Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. We had a great Food Truck Friday at the fountain, celebrating Black history, which all month, be sure to celebrate your greatness and do not forget your history. I had a meeting today and they were discussing critical race theory and people now wanting to know, but histories are there and needs to taught to our youths so that know everything, the past, present and what the future holds; know the greatness and know what our nation has done as well as honoring our ancestors, grandparents anyone from another generation be sure that you cherish them, because they may not be here tomorrow. Great cleanup, the boy scouts showed up and brought some cub scouts, thank you for your help. Food Truck Friday will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at the fountain. I do not know how long we will be at the fountain but will work Mr. Maxwell on a new location. Another cleanup just must find a location. Very good meeting, I am excited, I really enjoyed the presentation for the #ISHOWEDUP; school attendance is extremely important, and teachers like yourselves and educators in the building, like Councilmember Antoine, calling people leaders, those are seeds and those are the

things that children remember. Sometimes children do not even hear anything positive throughout the day or have a positive remark, so make sure that you know we are doing that in our community, thank you.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Thank you to everyone for coming out and taking the time on this rainy day, you could be anywhere else, but you are here finding out about the business of the city. I just want to inform the residents that do not know about the stop signs on Pine Ridge, because some residents wanted them, some did not, but we want to make sure everyone aware of them so, that we do not have any accidents and catch anyone off guard, thank you Dr. Cooper for making that happen. To piggyback off what Councilmember Antoine said, I agree with what he said tonight as far as working together and planting seeds. With regard to the planting seeds part, I am going to go back and keep going back to these events that we have in the city, because I know it is being talked about removing events and that is planting seeds in our communities, these are some of the things that bring our community together, that should be bringing us together, and it is what the people need. We are known as a dry city and yes, we have some great things going on and kudos to the new theater that just opened up and everything that is going on in the city right now, we have some great things, but our community needs these events. Council Gutierrez, I know you just mentioned Food Truck Friday, we just gave raises across the board to everybody, we take care of our employees, we need to take care of our residents, so think twice when thinking to remove the events from our budget, when this is something that brings our community together and it is something that could bring us together, if that is what you are willing to do. Congratulations to all the employees, I feel that you all deserve it so much and I know we have been discussing it for a long time, so, hope you can take this and have a better way of living and do not look at your employer as bad people, because you have had to struggle and get second jobs to take care of your families so, hopefully this will help a lot of people, so congratulations and thank you all so much and have a blessed night.

**Councilmember Mears** – I want to thank everyone for being here. I am excited to work with our friends with MARTA, we are moving the city forward, we got a lot of good things coming to community with the people at Forest Park High; I want to let you all know everybody graduated in the 60s is not dead and we are still here and I appreciate the effort you all are trying to make to get everyone back in school and to stay in school and do the best they can and hopefully go to college, that a smart move is helping the city move forward. I do want to amplify on Councilmember Akins-Wells about the money that we are going to be able to give to the city employees to try to bring them up and hopefully in time we can do more and do not give up on us, we are trying to do trying to do the right thing and move forward. Good to see the crowd and come back next meeting and I want you to know that I appreciate your attendance, attention and caring for your city.

**Mayor Butler** – So let me piggyback on the sentiments of my colleagues here as it pertains to the pay increases for the employees. I have done countless interviews and I brag on the city a lot, on all of our hard work, all the investments that are pouring into the city and when I learned that there is just one employee that was struggling, all of that conversation was just mute, it was truly pointless to know that we are bringing in all these investments and we still have employees who really carry out our desires and that was struggling, it really hurt my soul so, I am really that the council did pass this resolution. Of course, I wish we could give more, but like Councilmember Mears said it is going to be baby steps here, but just know that is just a small token of our appreciation for everything that you do for our city. I also want to say that we have had three amazing, phenomenal ribbon cuttings just this month, and that may be a record three in one month, the Kroger Fulfillment center is fully operational so, if you have not signed up for their deliveries, please go to Kroger.com and do so. Councilmember Akins-Wells mentioned the Trey Floyd Production Theater on West Street, have started, they sold out their first weekend, which was last weekend so, they have a second showing coming up this weekend, and I am so excited the play, but also in the summer they are going to have a dinner murder mystery theatre, so I am just so excited for that. Then we had JenCare, and I have heard a lot of amazing things about JenCare and just seeing their facility and really from the patients about all the great things that they bring. I am excited, and I have said there are often people have challenges to quality health care but, that will no longer be the case in Forest Park, and I think a lot of other municipalities will come to Forest Park to take advantage of the quality health care that is now in our city. I do want to give a shout out to our public information officer, Mr.

Javon Lloyd for all the amazing publicity that you are putting out and giving us, and you know how excited I am to have you on board, so thank you for what you are doing. Ms. Diane White, our city clerk, you might know we had an election a few months ago and Ms. White received a lot of praise from candidates as well as other municipalities who were kind of watching what was going on here, and the way she conducted the election received so much praise that other municipalities have reached out to her for her guidance on how they can run a successful election and so I want to make sure we give her, her flowers right now and thank you. As you can tell we have a lot of amazing things going on in Forest Park and we are going to continue the momentum that was generated over these last four years. So, if you have not noticed on our agendas is our mission statement and again our mission statement is going to make sure that we have true organization alignment with all the departments, and it sets the expectation and tone and will not leave any questions on the expectations that we all have amongst each other. Mayor Butler stated that she will continue to read it until we all have it embedded in us and Dr. Cooper is all of his meetings he is enforcing it with the directors and he has given the charge to the directors that when they meet with their individual staff that they are also sharing the mission statement and it is our desire to have every employee be able to recite our mission and vision statements and be able to articulate our values, because again it speaks to us as a larger community with a shared goal. Mayor Butler read the mission statement.

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

It was moved to recess into Executive Session at 7:39pm for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Meeting at 7:56pm

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Feb. 21, 2022, Regular Council Meeting at 7:58pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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