



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

Monday, August 16, 2021, at 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers

**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 WORK SESSION 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 by Mayor Butler at 6:00pm.

**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; Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Director of Parks and Recreation, Diane

Lewis, Deputy Director of HR, Major Sandra Johnson, Police Department and Latosha Clemons, Deputy Fire Chief

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager

Clayton County Rental Assistance Program has been extended to October 3, 2021. This is for Clayton County residents needing help with rental assistance can apply for funding now. For more information contact 404-858-6147 or email – [erap@claytoncountyga.gov](mailto:erap@claytoncountyga.gov)

The City of Forest Park still would like to hear from our residents and stakeholders on ideas for utilizing the American Rescue Plan Funds most effectively for our community. Please visit [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov) and click on the banner at the top of the page titled “American Rescue Fund Survey – let your voice be heard”. The survey is formatted to be accessible from all cell phones, tablets, and computers. As of 08/12/2021 we have received a total of 33 responses. This is only 3 more than last reported at our 08/02/2021 City Council Meeting.

Ethics Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 @ 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public.

**CITY OPERATIONS:**

All city employees received a Wellness Pack from the HR Department that included items to help us all start our fitness journey. This is part of the City's Health Initiatives/Challenge, and we will have fitness challenges to help engage staff and encourage us all to get fit. Thank you to our Human Resources Director Ms. Shalonda Brown and her staff for organizing this campaign.

Staff is reviewing options for a pension plan (defined benefit) and discussing the same with several professional organizations. While pensions can serve as a benefit employee, they must be financially sustainable to the employer even with employee contributions. It is my hope to provide some recommendations for council to consider by October or November 2021.

No city-wide pay increases were proposed nor approved in the FY2022 budget. Therefore, the Employee Premium Payment was requested and approved, and those checks were distributed to our hard-working staff last week. We are in the process of working with consultants Mauldin and Jenkins and implementing recommendations proposed by the operational audit. As part of that working scope, I have asked that our HR implementation includes a merit pay structure. We are looking to restructure and evolve areas which include finance and human resources by improve efficiencies, ensuring we are hiring the most qualified individuals and working to capture missed revenue opportunities with the hopes of providing funds for a merit pay structure.

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:**

**Introduction of Newly Hired Staff to Council**

City Council seems to hear about those leaving our city for other opportunities. However, I feel it is important that council understands that we are working tirelessly to fill much needed positions. During each city manager's report moving forward I will ask the hiring manager and/or director to provide a summary of qualification as they introduce new hires or promoted individuals to council. I believe this to be important to

further build confidence that we are looking and hiring who we know are the best of the best to serve our residents.

**Police Department:**

Police Officer, Elis Rosario  
Office Assistant, Anprella Orr

**Finance Department:**

Business License Technician, Dawna Hill-Topps

**City Clerk Office:**

Deputy City Clerk, Stephanie S. Tigner

**Forest Park Police Department**

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Forest Park Police Departments own Sgt. Brittney Sparks of the Recruiting/Community Affairs Division has received the African American Woman in Leadership Organization Award. Another outstanding accomplishment for our Police Chaplin, Sergeant, and superstar within the Forest Park PD. Congratulations Sgt. Sparks.

And for those looking for a rewarding career consider applying for the City of Forest Park, our Police and/or Forest Park Fire Department. We have several on-going recruitments for talented, highly qualified individuals to join our team. For more information or to apply for any positions please visit [www.forestparkga.gov/hr](http://www.forestparkga.gov/hr)

**Executive Offices**

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager announced the qualifying period for the November 2, 2021, Municipal Election will begin on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, through August 19, 2021, beginning at 8:30 am to 4:30pm, closed from 12:00 to 1:00pm for lunch. Come to City of Forest Park City Hall located at 745 Forest Parkway, Forest Park GA. 30297.

I am proud to announce to council and our residents that I have been upgraded by the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) to the designation of Credential Manager. Currently, there are only 49 individuals in the State of Georgia that have achieved this distinguished honor and I am extremely proud to stand among them.

The designation indicates that a member is highly qualified by a combination of education and experience, adherence to high standards of integrity, and an assessed commitment to continuous learning and professional development. To maintain these credentials, members must submit an annual report describing 40 hours of professional development during the previous year.

**PRESENTATION(S):**

1. **Waste Management Presentation** – Executive Offices

**Background/History:**

Waste Management has been operating a solid waste transfer facility in the City of Forest Park for over 30 years. Mr. Allan Owen, Public Sector Manager for Waste Management will be providing updated information regarding steps taken to mitigate resident issues at or near the transfer facility.

**Mr. Allan Owen, Public Sector Manager for Waste Management** provided Mayor and Council with an overview of the Waste Management program. The transfer station benefits the residents and businesses in the City of Forest because of the lower cost for sanitation services versus neighboring cities due to the distance traveled to dispose of the waste. Safety is a key element when operating the transfer station. We ask that all visitors that enter the transfer station to log in, register and as well ensure they are wearing the proper protective gear. All drivers to include city workers must stop at the scale attendant window and identify the material that they would like to unload. (inaudible) As the City Manager stated, I am here today to address community related concerns. As I stated since 2019 had to respond to the last City Managers and Public Works Directors through phone, zoom, email and in person communications addressing any concerns with residents around odor, rodents and or noise. In this discussion we will try to mitigate first our response to community concerns around odor, rodents and noise. We have partnered a vendor by the name of Chem Station for our odor control. They manage our odor control system. It is a non-toxic industrial deodorizing mist and fogger that is sprayed down on all the waste in the transfer station. The transfer stations are sprayed 24 hours 7 days per week. Just in case we have a situation where other stations must divert their waste. Our goal is to ensure the floor is clear of trash every night. But the change in hours has made the logistics challenging to our halls. After an evaluation, we plan to add more sprayers in our buildings. The sprayers are located inside of the building to spray down on the on the trash. To address the rodent concerns, we have hired Ehrlich Pest Specialist in June 2021. Ehrlich provided us with an evaluation letter that is attached in your packets. In that letter, rodent activity was present, but no rodent infestation was found. This is a transfer station and trucks will bring rodents into the transfer station. We have increased the number of bait stations around the building. There is a new technology we are going to invest in. This is a liquid solution bait station that will be placed outside the perimeter, and as soon as rodents eat this liquid they will die instantly. In effort to be the best possible partner, Waste Management will incorporate more proactive efforts to reduce noise and its impact. As I mentioned one of the issues is from Lamar Dr. and Cash Memorial is zoned industrial along the other transportation companies. We modified our transportation time which has affected our logistics and transportation cost. Waste Management absorbed that increase in cost and did not pass that increase on. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> party haulers are not leaving the staging area until 7:00 a.m. as of 2019. No equipment operates within the transfer station prior to 6:00 am and we are investing an average of \$50,000 to plant Cypress Trees. Unfortunately, you cannot plant cypress trees in the summer, or they will die. When the weather permits this will add an additional noise buffer. In September 2019, we changed the operating hours from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. and now 7:00 a.m. September 2020, we had email communication about mitigating topics about what we were doing in 2020. December 2020 Waste Management responded to (3) properties in Clayton County where the City was possible thinking about relocating the transfer station and they were all in flood zones.

#### **Comments from government body:**

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** the odor control system is not working. As far as the noise, it can take a long time before the trees grow. What about a noise barrier like the walls on the highway? You said that you all own the land, but the City is benefiting from it because they are paying a lower cost because we are right here, but the community is hurting. What can be done right now to fix these issues because it has been a long time and the residents are really complaining and fed up.

**Mr. Allan Owen** we have been proactive. If I am at the transfer station in the summertime, I personally have been at the front of the transfer station I cannot smell any trash unless a truck pass by me filled with

trash. If you are inside of the building where the trash is dumped and there is a smell the deodorizer does not take all the smell out, but it works. We are going to add more sprayers as far the odor in the station we hired them for over 20 years. They supply that same product to other companies. From an odor aspect, every time that we hear, we reach out.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** what about the barriers the trees may take forever. Have you all thought about putting the walls up?

**Mr. Allan Owen** we have but initially we wanted to show we are and have been working with the city. The trees we want to go up to 15ft we want to go higher, and the foliage drops in the winter. From a visibility standpoint the residents will not see the transfer station and the noise will be reduced.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** Cash Memorial, Lamar Drive and Brooksdale I know there is a lot of smell coming from the transfer station but most of it comes from the trucks going back and forth. I know at one point I thought you said you all were cleaning the streets. What are you all doing about that? This has not been done.

**Mr. Allan Owen** we have a water truck that clean the streets every day. Our trucks come in with other trucks.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** what are we doing to offer an alternative space and compensate the citizens. How do we move forward?

**City Attorney** last year we did look at the scenario of if a suitable location could be found and relocated, what would the cost be and how would that work and bring to Council for something for you to consider. The facility would have to be a reasonable logistical footprint of the existing one to keep the cost down. We were looking at industrial areas in Clayton County within a reasonable distance that is not around residential area. The only land we found was in a flood zone.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** could we survey the people?

**City Manager** - we can follow up with you. We would have to look at how far we would want to take it. You can look at the surrounding areas, you will also have to look further in. This will increase the cost, but we can look into it.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** at one point we did have our own sanitation department. We can look into that. It is not easy to say move them out. It is more than one street.

## OLD BUSINESS:

2. Council Approval Resolution 2021-29 of Cemetery Initiative – City Attorney

### **Background/History:**

The City Manager is seeking direction from the City Council regarding certain abandoned cemeteries and burial grounds in the city and the maintenance of these sites.

The attached resolution would declare certain cemetery sites as abandoned and authorize the city manager to direct staff to maintain by cutting grass at the entrance ways of said sites and take steps to acquire them by eminent domain pursuant to the authority established in O.C.G.A. 36-72-3.

There were no comments.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

#### 3. Discussion and Approval of Resolution 2021-27 LCI -Transportation Grant - Economic Development

##### Background/History:

The Atlanta Regional Commission announced a call for funding for Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)-Transportation projects for Preliminary Engineering (PE) proposals only. The LCI grant program exists to empower communities across metro Atlanta to become more livable, walkable, and sustainable through federal transportation dollars for planning in local communities. LCI funds are designed to help communities by offering more walkable places and mobility options. LCI grants require a local 20% match.

There were no comments.

#### 4. Discussion Regarding Homelessness in Forest Park – Legislative

##### Background/History:

Councilman Gutierrez would like to discuss the issue of homelessness in the City of Forest Park.

##### Comments from government body:

**Councilman Gutierrez** would like to know if there is anything the city can do to partner with an agency to combat homelessness in the City of Forest Park.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** wanted Officer Sparks to address concerns with the facility housing the homeless in the city.

**Officer Sparks** addressed her concerns with the facility housing the homeless. There is a building located at the church that is not being utilized due to COVID. There are individuals with families that cannot produce identification and without identification they are not able to gain entry to the facility.

**Councilmember Mears** I agree we must do something. In order to do something, you will have to build a dormitory. When churches were funding the program, and everything was rolling good, but it began to perpetuate. Every night you would see someone new. Well, eventually, you would run out of room. It got to the point the churches could not handle it anymore and had to be discontinued. I am favor or doing something.

**Mayor Butler** is this the only facility in the county.

**Officer Sparks** there is a facility for men in Clayton County that provides job, workforce program assistance, and assistance with obtaining birth certificate and social security card documents.

**Councilmember Antoine** every city has this issue. It is a topic that has so many levels it is hard to solve. You are dealing with so many dynamics. Homelessness does not mean that you live in bushes. If you live with someone, you are considered homeless. If you are in the hotel or motel that is considered homeless. The issues that come with homelessness is so complex.

**Mayor Butler** it is worth continuing the conversation with Calvary.

**Councilmember James** I do not want to make this conversation about Calvary. Calvary is supplying a need that people need. I do not want to make it seem as though the city is attacking Calvary. We need to address the concerns as a city.

**City Manager** I do agree with you Councilmember James. I personally know someone that is going through this. I have started to reach out to look at options we have to partner with organizations to their expand services. I will try to bring other entities such as United Way and all the different organizations in Clayton County.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** the city gave money a few years back to help build the building.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** there are organizations that are already doing the work. We need to have empathy and be appreciate what Calvary is doing. If we can just try to do what we can, it will go a long way.

**5. Discussion and Approval of Budget Amendment - Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director**

**Background/History:**

In the August 2, 2021, Regular Council Meeting, the governing body approved a payment of \$14,000 to the Clayton County Water Authority for a custom logo on one of the three Forest Avenue Water Tanks. An additional approval is needed to amend the budget for this expense. \$14,000 will be removed from the Reserve for Contingency and added to the Capital Outlay for Public Works.

There were no comments.

**6. Discussion and Approval of Budget Amendment - Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director**

**Background/History:**

The Approved FY22 budget contains a typographical error. The Federal Contribution Act line states \$94,000. The correct amount for this line item should be \$9,400. A budget amendment is needed to correct this error. The difference of \$84,600 will be transferred to the Reserve for Contingency.

There were no comments.

**7. Discussion and Approval of Resolution 2021-28 & IGA - S. Diane White, City Clerk**

**Background/History:**

Clayton County Board of Elections has agreed to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Forest Park for election equipment for the November 2, 2021, Municipal Elections. By entering in to an IGA with Clayton County Board of Elections the City of Forest Park will save \$16,000.00.

There were no comments.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was motioned to adjourn the Council Work Session of August 16, 2021, at 6:59pm.

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

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