



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, October 16, 2023, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: 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
Mike Williams, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Butler.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Minister Justin 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		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director of Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; and Major Jones of the Polic Department.

PRESENTATIONS:**1. Proclamation In Recognition of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month – Executive Offices****Background/History:**

Sickle Cell Disease is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that affect hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen through the body. Approximately 100,000 Americans have Sickle Cell Disease that can cause acute, chronic pain and serious health complications, including infections, strokes, organ damage, vision problems, and serious fatigue. In recognition of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, which is held annually during the month of September, the City of Forest Park would like to acknowledge all those living with Sickle Cell Disease and the many health and medical professionals working to find possible new effective treatments.

Mayor Butler read the proclamation to be presented, recognizing National Sickle Cell Awareness Month and she and the council took pictures.

2. Maulding and Jenkins Presentation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022- Finance

Ryan Jones – stated he is a director and has been with the firm for about 3 years. This is his first year working on the city audit and they took the approach that it is good to have a different set of eyes on statements and audits. He gave an overview of the auditor's discussion and analysis of the financial statements, books, and records and issued their opinion.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – thanked him for the information. She stated the deficiency is not new they have had them in the past. She noted they the Finance Department is working on new leadership, and she is excited about that. She wants the recommendations to be taken to heart. She wanted the council to look at the URA funds.

Councilmember Antione- thanked him for the report.

Councilmember Gutierrez – thanked him for the update.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- thanked him.

Councilmember Mears- thanked him for the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were three (3) Public Speakers:

John Randle – wanted to inform the council of his complaint about a big crack in the sidewalk on New Burkes Roads. He states that he had damaged his property on this sidewalk and that an elderly lady tripped, fell, and was transported to the hospital. John would like his issue addressed. He also, wants the council to know that the disrespect from the police officer he receives is unacceptable. John states the officers do not know the Constitution and would like to know how the citizens are supposed to trust law enforcement to protect and serve when they cannot tell you what the Constitution is. He states on April 15th his rights were violated in Starr Park. He wants the city to step up and get the training for the officers that are needed.

Mrs. Hornes – wanted the council to know that she purchased a home about 9 months ago and has had to pull permits because there have been several issues with the home. She has not been able to locate the builder. Mrs. Hornes would like to know how a licensed plumber can have a company pull a permit and say they are going to build the property, but the company hired did not build it, the plumber did. She states the house is falling apart, and contractors came out and said they would probably have to move to get it fixed. She states they did their due diligence before purchasing the property and is confused as to why it is falling apart and why she cannot get anyone's help.

Mayor Butler – asked Mrs. Hornes to have a conversation with speak with Director Gardiner, of Planning and Community Development, who can take the full report.

Councilmember James – wanted to apologize to Mrs. Horne as this is her first-time hearing about it and will see what they can do.

Councilmember Akins-Wells -wanted to apologize also. She does not think it is appropriate to cut residents off in moments like this because they can extend their time. She stated she wanted to hear more about the issues.

Lawanda Falomi – agrees that sometimes you must let the citizens speak out because sometimes they go back without a solution. She thanked Mayor Butler for directing her to Mrs. Gardiner. On behalf of the MTS Sickle Cell Foundation, she thanked the governing body for the proclamation. She wanted to send a shoutout on behalf of Breast Cancer Awareness and Mental Health this month. Ms. Falomi would like her council person to look at Theater Park and talk to the constituents for ideas. She thanked Judge Freeman for being transparent with people who have to come before him. She thanked the City Manager for addressing the audit that came before him. Ms. Falomi told Mr. Jinks; that they would not overload him with work. She thanked Council Aide Tenisha Dixon for doing an amazing job with the duties she is given and thinks she should get a raise. They will be playing softball with the police department and hope they are ready to have some fun. She also gave Director Tarik of Parks and Recreation a shoutout.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to amend the Council Agenda for October 16, 2023, and add the amending of the Municipal Court Organizational Chart.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from October 2, 2023 -**
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from October 2, 2023.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Council Approval of Final Subdivision Plat – Legal & Planning/Community Development

It was motioned to approve the Final Subdivision Plat.

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 GEMA Grant Award in the amount of \$49,500 for one project under the "HazMat" Category- Forest Park Fire & EMS

It was motioned to approve the GEMA Grant Award in the amount of \$49,500 for one project under the "HazMat" Category.

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

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

6. Council Approval of IT Hardware Surplus – IT Department

It was motioned to approve the IT Hardware Surplus.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

7. Council Approval of Surplus items – Public Works Department

It was motioned to approve the Approval of Surplus items.

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

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember Akins-Wells- wanted to know if they would add what was discussed in the work session.

City Manager Clark – noted they would, but from a staff level. The direction of the council was the vehicles would get a Kelly bluebook value and if there were any under \$500.00, they would be paired up with the cell phones for first grasp by the employees.

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

8. Council Approval of a Resolution Cancelling November 20th and December 18th Council meetings- Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the Resolution Cancelling the November 20th Council meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

Councilmember Mears
Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Antoine

It was motioned to approve the Resolution Cancelling the December 18th Council meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears
Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Antoine,

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

There was a point of order by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

City Attorney Williams- noted she sounded like she wanted to cancel her previous vote.

Councilmember Akins Wells – stated yes.

City Attorney – noted they were in the middle of a vote that should be finished first, then anyone could reconsider either vote if they choose.

It was motioned by Councilmember Akins-Wells to reconsider the vote for Cancellation of the December 18th Council Meeting.

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

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – stated she is in favor of canceling it.

Councilmember Antione – stated it does not matter.

Councilmember Gutierrez – will not be in attendance because it is his 15-year wedding anniversary.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- was confused and asked if the November 20th meeting was the one, they initially wanted to cancel and still have the December 18th meeting because they did not want to cancel 2 in a row.

Mayor Butler- stated some.

Councilmember James – noted the November meeting they discussed is the week of Thanksgiving, and it made sense to cancel that meeting. The December meeting is one week before Christmas, but we do not have to have that meeting. She stated she is good with not having the meeting.

Councilmember Akin-Wells- noted she would not support having the meeting.

Councilmember Mears- stated he agreed with not having the meeting in December.

Councilmember Akins Wells asked if they were canceling both meetings just so she understood.

Mayor Butler – stated they are doing them 1 by 1. She noted Councilmember Wells did a recall for the December 18th meeting.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- stated that everyone has changed their mind, basically.

Mayor Butler- stated not everybody, you.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Akins-Wells

Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

9. **It was motioned to Approve a Budget Amendment for the Municipal Court consisting of the creation of a Deputy Court Clerk 3 position and increasing the salary range for the Court Administrator to that of a Department Head.**

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

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – thanked everyone for coming out. She thanked Mayor Butler for hosting her September ward meeting, which is on the website. She reminded everyone she hosts her meeting every 3rd Thursday of the month, at 5 p.m., which will be at 696 Main Street. Tuesday, October 24th, is the night the Zoning Department will host their Block Party in Ward 1 at the corner of Kennesaw Dr. and Rushmore Place. She states she has someone interested in the Adopt-A-Road program. She congratulated the police department and those recognized for the month. She congratulated the Fire Department and the employees who made it through the recruitment process. On Friday, November 3rd she will be having a major food giveaway at the high school, and she is looking for volunteers.

Councilmember Antione – thanked everyone who is a part of the city and welcomed them to the family.

Councilmember Gutierrez- thanked everyone for coming out. He is disturbed by the public comment and feels emotional at this moment for the citizen. He stated he was going to do everything he could to help her and hoped that the city would also. He wanted to apologize to her for being cut off and stated it is not that the Mayor does not care, she is just trying to get through the agenda.

This Friday the Seniors Panthers in Action will be having a Soup and Cornbread lunch, to support the senior activities. He thanked everyone for coming out to Hispanic Heritage Month and thanked the council, and the City Manager for giving out the Proclamations. Saturday will be the Vet Fest at the park, and he shouted out Councilmember Antione for his Sickle Cell Partnership. He agrees with Ms. Falomi about having input from the citizens about the parks. He noted Flacon Designs already have some plans drawn up.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – stated nothing is consistent with the votes, and she believes in doing their job and not canceling meetings just to cancel them, which is what the council decided to do at the last minute. She wanted to say happy anniversary to employees that have been here for 27 years all the way down to 1 year. She stated that the issues the homeowner was having bothered her and she does not think they are involved enough with what goes on in the community.

There are people that come here make their money and go home. When you go to these establishments, they are nice, but the same people come here in the community and build these types of homes for our community. I do not like it and I think we need to do something as a city and be careful about who we allow to do business in our city. She stated that she thought it was a bit too much for her to be cut off when she was pouring her heart out about her living conditions, and we had no idea. She thinks they should be a bit more empathetic to how the residents feel because they can allow them more time. She stated the Vet Fest is October 21 and they were able to help sponsor it. The last Fun Friday will be Friday from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mrs. Wells stated she would be cooking for the Fire Department on Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to show appreciation. Lastly, she thanked Mr. Clark for doing such a great job with the City Manager's Report.

Councilmember Mears – agrees with Councilwoman Wells. He thanked everyone for being there.

Mayor Butler – thanked everyone for their comments. She noted that some may feel that her actions were not empathetic, but that is not the case. She is listening from a different perspective and looking for culpability and liability. She would not want anyone standing before the governing body making disparaging comments about the employees, she takes that stance across the board. She stated she totally empathized with Mrs. Hornes and her family and what she was going through. Mayor Butler felt Mrs. Horne needed to speak with staff to help her navigate this situation. She stated that the ordinance allows a certain amount of time, but given the nature of the comment, and should continue the conversation in private. She stated it would be her desire to help her, but it may be a civil matter, in which the city is not involved.

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 8:17 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Session at 8:48 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

It was motioned to confirm John Wiggins as the Finance Director.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Session at 8:48 p.m.

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

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

Approved