



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

Monday, August 02, 2021, at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: 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 at 6:00pm by Mayor Butler.

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:

- 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 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.
- During these times things can get hard or maybe even unbearable for some. COVID-19 has affected all of us differently, but just know if you need emotional support or help there are options available. You can check with your employer regarding Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) for you or a loved one or contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255), which is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

CITY OPERATIONS:

- It's a great day in the City of Forest Park – the Atlanta Business Chronicle for July 16-22, 2021, Southside Market Report shined a spotlight on our city and highlighted many of the great things happening. It speaks of the hundreds of millions of dollars in investment flowing into the southside and how the City of Forest Park is playing a predominate roll in this investment.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Forest Park Public Safety Building at Gillem Logistics:

- On Monday July 26, the City of Forest Park held a groundbreaking ceremony for our new Public Safety Building at Gillem Logistics. This was an outstanding event that truly shows the significant progress of our city. I would like to thank Mayor Angelyne Butler and the City Council for supporting this endeavor. The Dynamic Duo of Director James Shelby of Planning and Zoning and Director Bruce Abraham, Economic Development for organizing and bring this to fruition. The Public Works team for doing the impossible and making this happen out of thin air, you all are awesome. Director Bobby Jinks, Mr. Vincent Hicks, and his crew. The Collaborative Firm, Mr. Michael Hightower and Ms. Kathy Warren and Mr. Kenneth Brown for the positive public engagement and marketing around this event. It's a great day in Forest Park with many more great days ahead.

Forest Park Police Department

- KUDOS Officer Morgan for his extreme professionalism in handling a traffic stop. The resident admitted to being apprehensive whenever they are stopped by the police. Although they admitted to the infraction and the stop was justified the resident stated that the interaction was refreshing and their interaction with Office Morgan was a game changer for them. So much so they called the watch commander to give praise to the officer. Thank you, Officer Morgan, for your professionalism and pride in serving the Forest Park Community.
- And for those looking for a rewarding career consider applying for the Forest Park Police Department or Forest Park Fire Department. For more information or to apply for any positions please visit www.forestparkga.gov/hr

Executive Offices

- KUDOS to Council Aide Ms. Tenisha Dixon, she has been phenomenal in helping with the Council Member's events, since we are down one council aide – She worked some miracles with the Back School and Teen Night

events. Ms. Dixon pick-up where some things were left and did an outstanding job coordinating these events to ensure their success. GREAT JOB TENISHA!

COVID-19 UPDATE: Deputy Fire Chief Clemons

The Delta Variant and what we know:

1. Delta Variant is 51.7% more transmissible and, currently, the most dominant strain of the Covid 19 variants.
2. It has rapidly overtaken the Alpha Variant or B.1.1.7, which had been dominant in the U.S. since March and dropped to 28.7% of Covid-19 infections during the same period.
3. Covid-19 vaccines available in the U.S. protect against the Delta variant, but the virus is of great risk to people who aren't vaccinated, according to public-health and infectious-disease experts. It is estimated to be at least 50% more transmissible than the Alpha variant and in unvaccinated people it is more likely to cause severe disease requiring hospitalization.
4. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates the Delta variant accounts for 78% of new COVID cases in Georgia, making vaccination more urgent than ever. The Delta variant spreads more than twice as easily from one person to another, compared with earlier strains. The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes are happening in places with low vaccination rates, and virtually all hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among the unvaccinated.
5. If you receive either Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, you must get your second dose to ensure you are fully protected. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their final dose of vaccine.
6. People who are unvaccinated or skip their second dose of vaccine are targets for infection

As of August 1, 2021, Clayton County has 25,637 cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) and 498 confirmed deaths. There were 426 new positive Covid-19 tests reported in Clayton County between July 24 and July 30th. Clayton County continues to account for 2.7% of the total cases in Georgia, and Forest Park representing 9.3% of cumulative cases. Between July 26th and August 1st there have been at least 24 new cases in Forest Park.

- In Clayton County 104,667 residents (37%) have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and 91,359 (32%) have been fully vaccinated.
- 5.9% of the positive cases in Clayton County have been hospitalized and 2.0% of positive cases in Clayton County have died.
- The average percent of Positive PCR tests in Clayton County over the last 7 days is 10.4%.
- The total number of cases (PCR and Antigen) per 100,000 people in Clayton County is 9,226. Blacks still represents the highest number of Covid cases varying roughly 57.4%
- Overall, in Georgia ages 18-29 have tested positive for Covid
- Ages 80 and older have died
- Ages 60-69 have been hospitalized
- The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is urging Georgians to get vaccinated as the number of new COVID-19 cases increases daily and the Delta variant spreads.

Continue wearing masks, social distancing, washing your hands and seriously considered being vaccinated.

The Clayton County Health District continues to encourage and make available opportunities for the public to receive the vaccine at a location in Jonesboro. They also have a program for providing homebound individuals with the vaccine in their own homes. Both are available through pre-registration with the Health District. More information available on the [CCHD website](#).

Questions from Governing Body:

Mayor Butler – With the increase and variance and everything of that nature, I know you and Dr. Cooper are monitoring the data, but just let us know at any time if we need to revise our practices.

Deputy Chief Clemons – Yes, will do. With the Fire Department, I have talked with Division Chief Turner, who is over the tracking of data, from employees and things of that nature so, he and I are working on a process and a selection to keep everyone informed.

PRESENTATION(S):

1. **Façade Grant Program** – Economic Development Department

Background/History:

The Development Authority of the City of Forest Park recently approved a Façade Grant program to assist local businesses in improving the exteriors of their buildings. The Development Authority is utilizing its own funds for the program. No action by the City Council is necessary.

Bruce Abraham, Economic Development Director – Explained the Façade Grant Program and the application process on the city's website. If you receive calls about this, please refer them to me. This will cover the Main Street area from West Street to College Street and this is the first phase, and the Development Authority has allocated \$200,000.00 for this area, which is \$25,000 in grants, which would give us eight grants. There are approximately 12 properties that are probably eligible for this money on Main Street to fix up their properties for painting, structural stabilization, canopies, awnings, gutters, downspouts, exterior doors and windows and landscaping. We are remodeling some of the buildings on Main Street and will send out invitations to Council for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Comments from Governing Body: There were no comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. **Discussion to approve a Sister Cities Program Budget** – Department

Background/History:

On September 8, 2020, the City Council Approved resolution no. 20-21 giving the city authorization to participate in Sister Cities International with 3 cities in Haiti, Ghana, and Senegal. In the initial request the budgeted dollar amount approved was \$15,000.

Comments from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine – This is going to be the same as before, tablets, iPhones and book bags and laptops. I am asking the mayor and council, so we do not have to come back each year, that we put in the budget so, we will not have to do this each year.

Councilmember Mears – I can understand the need for the help for this program, but I think we need to make it a moderate amount so that we can use more money that we have or will have and resources to help the people in the City of Forest Park. We have a lot of needy people living in homes they should not be living in and a lot of things, I know it is bad over there, but if you ride around here, just a mile from here you will see a lot of places that are atrocious so, I would like the council to take that in consideration if and when we come up with an amount for this program.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I agree with Councilmember Mears, I am all for the Sister City, but I am also for taking care of home first. I would like to know, who is making sure that the funds are being distributed the way they should be and that the items are getting to the proper places? Who is in control of that?

Councilmember Antoine – The two schools that we chose, there are two principals, both have responsibility of their schools; there is 250 kids in one school and 300 kids in the other school.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – No, my question is who from the city making sure that the funds are being distributed the way they should be and that the items are getting to the proper places? So, we are just approving this and do not know what is going on with it? Who else beside you, Councilmember Antoine is making sure things are being distributed?

Councilmember Antoine – We've seen the pictures I sent, I sent videos to most of the councilmembers. I was in contact with the principal while he made sure each kid is still using the tablets and they are functioning; they have internet access.

Mayor Butler – Attorney Williams, can you elaborate on the process you went through to verify who these items were being sent to?

Attorney Williams – The local government there does not have an internet presence, so, it was hard to sort of identify specifically our counterpart; their city manager or what have you. So, Mr. Francois Iverson is one of the primary contacts along with the principals, that we have relied on, their efforts to confirm that the items have been received at the right place. As the Councilmember has indicated, he has seen that but beyond that, it is very difficult for us here to confirm exactly what is happening on the ground there.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I think it should be difficult for us to be so quick to send stuff until we know what is doing on.

Councilmember Mears – Rumors are like noses, everybody got one, I would like some confirmation on the authenticity on the point that we are in the Sister City management group. I do not know, rumor has it that investigations have shown that they have no proof that we are in that group. Can somebody explain to us why we are not on their roster or register to the point where they cannot give some information.

City Manager – I can respond to that, we did get that information, but we did get confirmation from Sister Cities International, that the City of Forest Park is a partner with them. We have to send the letters to them, which was not done when the initial request was done, we must send the letters to them, stating that we have approved being a part of their organization. So, we are in the process of correcting that now, but we are a part of Sister Cities International.

Councilmember Mears – I know the children and these countries need help, but I heard the latest on what congress did this afternoon about evicting people from their homes. I am not opposed to giving some type of relief fund to this group on a basis, but we are about to get in a crisis here in Forest Park, so, we got to keep that in mind, we need to take care of home first and I agree we need to assist Sister City.

Councilmember James – I am not opposed to this, initially I thought when we first signed up for the Sister Cities, that it was an annual budget amount, but one thing that is not clear to me now is, are we focused on one of the cities as opposed to all three of the cities that we initially signed up for. I want to make sure, even if we approve the budget amount, I don't think it should be the exact same thing as far as the allocation is concerned what we did the last time; I think we had an actual line-item of what was going to be spent and

what funds were going to be used for so, I think that's important to make sure that we identify first of all which city we are going to be supporting in the next year and also to identify what specific needs those that specific city is in need of. I am not for a blanket \$15,000 for what we did last time I would rather be \$15,000 set aside in the budget for sister cities, but make sure that we are spreading the love to all the cities that we signed up for.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - I agree with what Councilman Mears said about city of Forest Park, because that's my main focus I'm not completely opposed to it but I wish we put some of the same effort into our own people and like Councilmember Mears was saying we are getting ready to have a disaster here so, is there some type of program that we can come up so we can make sure that these families right here, the people who we work for are taken care of.

City Manager - Madam Mayor and Council, I apologize but I need to bring up Major Johnson from the Forest Park Police Department to introduce some new recruits to the City Council as we do with the fire recruits.

Major Johnson - I am here on behalf of Chief Clark, who's on vacation he will return on tomorrow. I have the pleasure of introducing the police department's five new employees three of them are civilians and two of them are police officers and they are all here with us tonight. Ms. Yalanda Green was hired on July the 21st as the records supervisor. She has an extensive background in law enforcement, has worked with numerous law enforcement entities in her career. She has worked with Georgia Bureau of Investigations as a secretary with GC IC and she's an experienced crime analyst and an ex-employee of the Forest Park Police Department where she worked in the records division; she was blessed enough to get the opportunity to apply for records supervisor and is now our records supervisor. Ms. Lena Adams who was hired on July 14th. Ms. Adams is our police analyst, she's a retired police officer from the Miami Dade Police Department in Florida where she held numerous positions there, including police analyst. Ms. Adams is also a certified schoolteacher and is fluent not only in English but also Spanish and Creole. Ms. Lakeya Payton was hired July 14th as well, she is now under the supervision of Ms. Green as an office assistant. She came to the state of Georgia from Michigan; when she was in Michigan she worked as a clerk with the Kent County Sheriff's Department. Now we have our mandated officers; we have senior police officer, Das Sager who was hired in December of 2020 he came to Forest Park from the Clayton County Sheriff's Office where he was a correctional sergeant; he has successfully completed the requirements at the Fulton County public safety training center on July 9, 2021 and graduated with the distinction of class corporal and he is assigned to Charlie Team. And finally, we have senior police officer Joshua Cruzleon, who was hired in April of this year he is an active member of the Georgia Army National Guard. He also successfully completed the requirements for the Fulton County public safety training center on July 9th and he is assigned to the Delta Team, if you would please welcome our new employees.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Discussion to Approve Rezoning at 4914 West Street from Commercial to Residential– PBZ

Background/History:

The Planning Commission held a public meeting on July 15, 2021, to discuss rezoning the property at 4914 West Street from Commercial to Residential to build 18 multi-family units. The Planning Commission Board approved the rezoning at 4914 West Street. The property is currently zoned C-1, due to a rezoning several years ago. Prior to this rezoning, it was zoned RM-85. The property currently houses a daycare and several offices. The owners would like to develop the land behind the existing building. They would like to build multi-family units on the property and eventually rehabilitate the building.

James Shelby, Director of PB&Z – The applicant is requesting a rezoning from Commercial to Residential and are here for any questions you may have. There will be a Public Hearing during the Regular Council meeting.

Comments from Governing Body:

Councilmember Mears – The size and type houses, the remodeling updates they have made on the apartments at the end of Moore are spectacular; is the housing that they are planning to put on that property, would be somewhere in the area or close to the houses.

Randy Pemsler, Pemsler Haas Architects – I am not familiar with the project that you are speaking of. These units are proposed to be approximately 600 sq. ft in area, one-bedroom flats, fully accessible ground floor and two units above accessed via stairway. We are not seeking supportive housing or any kind of funding, these will be market rate units. Not sure that I can compare this project to that project that you are referencing because I am not familiar with that development.

Councilmember Mears – (comments were inaudible)

Randy Pemsler, Pemsler Haas Architects – They would wrap round the existing commercial building and would have their own separate curb cuts and dumpster and open space that would be in the rear of the building.

Councilmember Mears when we have different people coming in with different building strategies, it would be a shame to downgrade what they have spent over there with a substandard building over here that just my concern, that it would be somewhere in line, value wise with both places so they would simultaneously somewhat be the same.

James Shelby – I am familiar with both projects that you are speaking of, and we worked very hard to get them to that point so, we will not let that good work go to waste. I am familiar with this project, it would be similar or better than the other project and not only will we pay attention to the landscaping, but also to the elevations will look like. We have had good discussion with the applicant so, I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the outcome.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I have a question about the existing building, what will that be once the apartments are built?

James Shelby – It will be two phases; first phase will be the construction of the apartments and the second phase will be renovation of the existing building. We have discussed apartments or lofts; there is a possibility the existing tenants would remain, the accounting office and the childcare facility.

4. Discussion on the Changing of the Organizational Chart for PB&Z - Planning Building and Zoning

Background/History:

The Department of Planning Building and Zoning is currently advertising for a Planner I. Since the advertisement, we have gotten only three applications. In the field of Planning, Planner I is considered an entry level position, and the duties aligned with the current position are more aligned with a Planner II position. The department is requesting to change the title of the position from Planner I to City Planner to reflect the current duties and needs of the department. The current salary range is competitive with surrounding jurisdictions for a City Planner. The request will not have an impact on the budget.

Comments from Governing Body: There were no comments

5. Discussion on Noah's Ark and Forest Avenue Tank Reconditioning – Public Works Department

Background/History:

The Clayton County Water Authority is about to enter into a contract with an experience and qualified contractor to recondition five ground storage tanks, three of which are located at 1101 Forest Avenue, Forest Park, GA (Forest Avenue Tanks). The City of Forest Park desires to utilize the Authority's contractor to paint its city logo on one of the three Forest Avenue Tanks. The Authority with its own resources has already bid and awarded Sothern Tank & Tower, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder to complete the project. The Authority will pay for the upfront costs, including labor, materials, and equipment to begin the project, in which Forest Park will reimburse the Authority for our portion of the logo totaling \$14,000.00.

Arthur Geeter, Procurement Manager – It was brought to our attention that the Clayton County Water Department was going to paint all their water towers and we caught them at the right time so, that we could place our new City logo and say welcome to Forest Park on the water tank, for viewers to see when entering the city. The total bill is \$400,000 for all towers and we will reimburse them \$14,000 for placing our logo.

Comments from Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez – In the bidding, we found a company that does art, and this is their cost?

Procurement Manager – Clayton County Water did the procurement.

Councilmember Gutierrez – In the future if we would want to decorate those in a different way, is that possible, or would we have to go through Clayton County?

Procurement Manager – We would have to do a change order and we would have to inquire what exactly would you want to change and hopefully we could catch them before they begin the work, and it would be an additional fee.

Councilmember Gutierrez – They are beautiful, and it a huge canvas and it is one that was identified with the Teen Council and Director Jinks mentioned that something was in the works of putting our nice new logo out there, but if we can get the other two that would be beautiful.

Councilmember James – The water tower that is on Conley Road, is it included.

Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works – No, it was not scheduled to be painted. The three to be painted are located where the American Flag is located, which is the main focal point of the intersection, and they will put their logo on a different tank further back.

6. Downtown Development Authority and Urban Redevelopment Authority Board Appointments – Economic Development Department

Background/History:

There are vacancies on the DDA which also serves as the board for the URA pursuant to O.C.G.A. 35-61-18(b) which states that " If the governing body of a municipality designates members of a downtown development authority as an urban redevelopment agency, the method of appointment, number of commissioners, and terms of office shall be in conformity with the requirements of Code Section 36-42-14."

This item will be discussed during Executive Session.

7. Discussion to Approve the Confirmation of Fire Chief – Executive Offices

Background/History:

Discussion to approve the confirmation of the City of Forest Park, Georgia Fire Chief

City Manager – We did a nationwide search for the City of Forest Park Fire Chief and had a panel of outside deputy fire chiefs and city managers that sat on the panel with me to interview four (4) highly qualified candidates, one backed out, but we still had three candidates and we all agreed at the end of the interviews that we had the best candidate all along which is something that just confirmed it for us all. Madam Mayor and City Council I will be bringing forth out Interim Fire Chief Latosha Clemons as our fire chief nominee for confirmation.

Comments from Governing Body: There was no discussion

8. Discussion to approve Resolution 2021-26 with Family Literacy of Georgia to accept a donation of a Little Free Library – Legislative

Background/History:

It is proposed that the City of Forest Park accept a donation of a Little Free Library from Family Literacy of Georgia for placement at Starr Park. The resolution authorizes the Little Free Library at that location and the terms of the partnership agreement with Family Literacy of Georgia and the Little Free Library Read in Color program.

Comments from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – I did not get a chance to contact the young lady about the donation, it is a powerful opportunity and Councilmember Gutierrez was able to sit in the meeting with her. It is free to the city, they are a nationwide partnership and will supply all the books and equipment, we will provide the location. They will put it on their GPS, so when people are traveling through and want to find a little library, they will find Forest Park on the nationwide GPS. This is a great opportunity to partnership with this organization.

Councilmember Mears – Do we have any accessibility or a general location? Will this be a building?

Mayor Butler / Councilmember James – Starr Park and would be somewhere by one of the benches that already exist.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I have one in my Ward; I am waiting on a piece of the bench for the other one; one on South Avenue and the other one at Parkwood Drive. It is a little house sitting on a pole, and it on the honor system, where you go and take a book and leave a book to promote literacy.

Mayor Butler – The residents at Park at Fort Gillem are wanting something for their children there so, can we add a location or with the setup you currently have you thought about expanding there?

Councilmember Gutierrez – Yes, that is something we could do. We would just have to purchase one.

Mayor Butler - Have we identified that staff who will be responsible for fulfilling all our requirements for the program? It says Forest Park will create activities to encourage clients to take a book, stock the structure with the books they provide.

Councilmember Gutierrez – The way I did it, I identified neighbors that would keep an eye on it and if they it is getting low, they would replace the books or let us know, because we have some book donations for replenishing. But that could be something that parks, and rec can do to promote it.

City Manager – We are looking at how we partner with the community in the areas where the books would be located to speak with them about helping along the lines of restocking and keeping it stocked with books.

9. Discussion to Approve the Abandonment of Portion of JG Glover Court - Legislative

Background/History:

The northern portion of JG Glover Court is not needed as a public road by the City of Forest Park. The adjacent property owner has requested that the City abandon the road and sell it to them so that they can further develop their property.

Attorney Williams – This has been previously discussed, it is the very northern portion of JG Glover Court from the cul-de-sac and then there is an unpaved section that goes to the border of Gillem Logistic center that is no longer needed for a public road. The property owner, that owns property on both sides would like that piece abandoned so they could round out their property.

Comments from Governing Body: There was no discussion.

10. Discussion for an Ordinance 2021-10 Amending the FY22 Budget for the Approval of an Employee Premium Pay – Executive Offices

Background/History:

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the city received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$3,738,098.00. Under the United States Department of Treasury guidelines Employee Premium Pay is an acceptable use of this funds. This is an ordinance request for a one-time Employee Premium Payment to those on our current payroll in the amount of \$2,500.00 each as of the approval date of the ordinance.

Comments from Governing Body:

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I would like to thank whoever came up with this idea, because our employees, who a lot of them are underpaid and overworked. This is huge and I would like to say thank you to whoever was responsible, and I am sure the employees will appreciate and would also appreciate a raise when time permits.

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 2, 2021, at 6:47pm

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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