



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, September 03, 2024 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
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Akins-Wells at 7:01 pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Elder Cook led the invocation and pledge.

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		✓

John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; Talisa Adams, Procurement Officer; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley, Deputy Public Works Director; Fire Chief Geoff May; Fire Dept; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Javon Lloyd, PIO; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director Marselles Williams, Economic Director; Chief Brandon Criss, Police Dept.; Major Jones, Police Dept; Major Smith, Police Dept.; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Director; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the consent agenda, removing #4, Council Approval for the purchase of Lawn Care Equipment, and moving it under New Business as item number 10.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the agenda, with the removal of #10 Council Approval on the Point System Policy for Public Works Employees and replace it with item #4 Council Approval for the purchase of lawn care equipment.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2024 -**
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2024.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

Elder Cook wanted to know if the old playground equipment could be donated to a NonProfit 501c3. He asked for information regarding the procedure to obtain it. He noted the Rock Church of Atlanta will be celebrating 22 years of ministry, 11 of which has been in Forest Park. He stated Friday, 27- Sunday 29th, they will hold their food feast, and the program is called Sharing. It is designed to help meet the need to feed. Mr. Cook noted they are looking for partnerships, food donations and volunteers.

Samuel Ibanez wanted to know where the Mayor was. He noted he has been asking about the roads for the bicycle riders and has not heard anything. He noted they can put a line on the streets so the bicycles can have a way to travel.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Ricky L. Clark, Jr noted he would like to introduce rehire Eric Ellis for the police department. He noted with the Home Program, 35 of the 65 approved Legacy Residents, work has either been completed or are in the process of arranging repair dates. He noted they were able to add-on additional contractors to expedite the process. Mr. Clark addressed the public comment for playground equipment. He noted the Minister Association could get with the public works department, because they do plan to surplus some of that equipment. He noted at the last meeting there was a comment in reference to mosquitos. He stated that the city is spraying and the machine has been fixed as of last Friday. Mr. Clark noted in reference to the bicycle lanes they are limited on some of the roads and because of their size they cannot place bike lanes on them. He noted in the LCI Plan it does talk about it in the feasibility in some areas where it is deemed necessary.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:**2. Public Hearing #1 for the Recommended Proposed Millage Rate-Finance Department****Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park has tentatively adopted a 2024 millage rate, which will require an increase in property tax by 1.57 percent due to property values increasing. Even though the City of Forest Park proposes to keep the millage rate at 16.74 mills, the increase in property values results in a property tax increase.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 16.74 mills, an increase of 1.57 percent. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 2.6 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000.00 is approximately \$10.40.

Director Wiggins presented the proposed millage rate for 2024, explaining that the increase is due to property tax values. He noted that the proposed millage rate remains at 16.74 mills, with no change in the millage rate. He stated there will be a small tax increase of 1.57 percent. He noted that he is asking that the millage stay the same.

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember James stated if the millage rate stayed the same and what would increase?

Director Wiggins noted that taxes are the only thing that increased. He noted that last year, they were 967, and this year, they are 1,032.

City Manager Clark noted the evaluation of the property increased. Mr. Clark noted according to the law, you have to advertise an increase if there is no desire to leverage a rollback.

There was a motion to close the regular meeting and open the first Public Hearing for Millage Rates.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

There were no speakers for or against the Proposed Millage Rate.

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing and reopen the Regular Meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

It was motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Councilmember James asked if it was the consent agent.

Mr. Clark noted it was and you have to have 3 public hearings, and this is the first one.

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

3. **Council Approval on a Blanket Purchase Order for Bennett Fire Products**-Procurement Department
4. **Council Approval for the purchase of lawn care equipment** – Procurement/Recreation and Leisure services

This item was moved under New Business

5. **Council Approval on the Upgrade of the Agenda Software System Civic Plus**-Executive Offices
6. **Council Approval on the purchase of two (2) vehicles for Senior Services and Maintenance Division** – Procurement/Recreation and Leisure Services

NEW BUSINESS:

7. **Council Approval on the Conveyance of Property at 5123 Springdale Drive** – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the Conveyance of Property at 5123 Springdale Drive.

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

8. **Council Approval on GMA Pension Plan Agreement and Adoption of Ordinance**-Executive Office

It was motioned to approve GMA Pension Plan Agreement and Adoption of Ordinance.

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

9. **Council Approval on the Citywide Operations and Performance Audit** – Executive Office

It was motioned to approve the Citywide Operations and Performance Audit.

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

Council Approval on the Point System Policy for Public Works Employees – Executive Office

This item was removed and replaced with item #4.

10. **Council Approval for the purchase of Lawn Care Equipment.**

Council Comments/Discussion

Councilmember James- asked if they had the required staff to run the equipment and is there a place to store it.

City Manager Clark noted this is a byproduct of the last budget cycle conversation. He said 4 positions were allocated in Recreation and Leisure for them to handle parks. He stated the conversation was for them to assist with the pocket parks, or to take some of the workload off of Public Works. He noted since they are now taking care of the Pocket Parks they did an emergency procure to order the necessary equipment for the employees here now. Mr. Clark noted they will store the equipment at recreation and leisure.

Pro-Tem Akins-Wells stated we are buying equipment for public works that is not being utilized, is there a way the directors can come together and see what they can utilize.

Mr. Clark- noted he will let staff answer that. He stated his understanding when they purchased the equipment that there was no excess, and Recreation and Leisure did not have any.

Director Maxwell noted that they are currently removing some of the equipment they have at public works and purchasing their own equipment so they do not have to take public work equipment that they are shorthanded on.

Mr. Clark noted he was not aware they were shorthanded.

Director Maxwell noted what they have now, they are borrowing from public works.

Director Jinks noted he had 4 lawn mowers in the capital that needed to be replaced over the next 3 years. He noted they are able to make both departments work seamlessly until this year rolls around, thinking there will be something in this year's budget. He noted there are no issues now, but if another mower goes down, they will have to shut down a crew because Leisure is using one of their mowers.

Pro-Tem Akins-Wells noted she understand but knows that public works purchased new equipment in public works that is not being utilized. She noted that may be a discussion for Executive Session.

Councilmember James called for a point of order to make a motion to approve the equipment.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

11. Council Approval on a Task Order for Croft to provide architecture renderings and 3D animation services for Starr Park-Projects Division

It was motioned to approve a Task Order for Croft to provide architecture renderings and 3D animation services for Starr Park.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

12. Council Approval on a 6-month Strategic Plan and Authority Boards Update - Economic Development Department

It was motioned to approve a 6-month Strategic Plan and Authority Boards Update.

Mr. Clark noted it can be ratified that the plan was accepted and approved by the governing body.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

13. Council Approval of the allocation of \$250,000 in Tax Allocation District (TAD) funds to support the stormwater infrastructure needs for the proposed new townhome project on Main Street-Projects Division

It was motioned to approve the allocation of \$250,000 in Tax Allocation District (TAD) funds to support the stormwater infrastructure needs for the proposed new townhome project on Main Street.

Motion made by Councilmember Gutierrez, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Council Comments/Discussion

Councilmember James noted that she agree with using the TAD Funds because she knows what the outcome of the project is going to be. She noted that she is frustrated about something that happened in the past. She noted TAD money was needed to help with stormwater and Clayton County Water Authority.

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

14. Consent Approval on the Second Street Park Basketball Court Resurfacing Contract – Procurement/Public Works Departments

It was motioned to approve the Second Street Park Basketball Court Resurfacing Contract.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

15. Council Approval on the Department of Planning & Community Development Surplus Office Furniture- Planning and Community Department

It was motioned to approve the Department of Planning & Community Development Surplus Office Furniture.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

16. Council Approval of a Temporary Easement for Sidewalk Improvements at 790 Linda Way, Forest Park, GA-Public Works Department

It was motioned to approve the Temporary Easement for Sidewalk Improvements at 790 Linda Way, Forest Park, GA.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

17. Council Approval of a Temporary Easement for Sidewalk Improvements at 5185 Ellen St, Forest Park, GA-Public Works Department

It was motioned to approve the Council Approval of a Temporary Easement for Sidewalk Improvements at 5185 Ellen St, Forest Park, GA.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

18. Council Approval on Minister Associations Day of Prayer – Recreation and Leisure Services Department

It was motioned to approve the Minister Associations Day of Prayer.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

City Manager Clark noted before the vote staff has a condition.

Councilmember James amended her motion to approve this item with the insurance coverage recommendation.

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

19. Council Approval on the 6th Annual Youth Empowerment Summit – Recreation and Leisure Services

It was motioned to approve the 6th Annual Youth Empowerment Summit.

Motion made by Councilmember Gutierrez, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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 and asked them to go to the website so they can view the Ward meeting she host every 3rd Thursday of the month. She noted her Ward Party hosted by Code Enforcement will be on October 2nd. Councilmember James noted September 28th will be a busy day. There will be an Annual 5k, at 3 pm there will be a Homecoming Parade, and the Elementary and Middle Schools are invited to participate. She stated they will be at the amphitheater afterwards to watch the band and different organizations perform. She noted that will kick off the Tailgate with the Georgia and Alabama game. Councilmember James asked everyone to come out and help celebrate.

Councilmember Antione thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked Mayor Pro-Tem and noted she did a great job filling in. He noted that Food Truck Friday is this Friday and they will be watching a movie, and cleanup will be the next day. He noted the employees are doing an amazing job and welcome the new officer back.

Councilmember Mears noted he had his block party last week and thanked all those who participated and made it a success. He noted they were at the newly renovated park and the kids loved it. He thanked the employees and noted that they work together, and it makes their job easier. He gave Mr. Finch a shoutout for being the oldest member to attend the meetings.

Councilmember Gutierrez noted that they are having the second annual Back in School Giveaway. He noted that he is partnering with school board representative Victoria Williams. This will take place at 4609 Jonesboro Road and if there are any children in need to come out.

Councilmember James thanked Mr. Jonathan for the clear bookbags that he donated. She noted she is still giving them out and the kids are appreciative of them. She stated she is always looking for sponsors to help celebrate the Teachers of the Year, the principal, and the parent liaison of the school.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted to Councilmember Gutierrez that she had some more book bags donated to her and she will give them to him to go with what they have. She noted the Fall Community Garden workday at the Willie Finch Garden is Tuesday, September 17th, from 9 am to 1 pm. She invited everyone to come out to 5413 Lee Circle and stated lunch will be served. Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked Jonathan Rashmir for giving back to the kids in the Forest Park Community. She thanked the directors and employees for all they do.

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 7:39 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

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 adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Session Meeting at 8:21 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

City Manager, Clark noted to reflect the increase and scope and responsibilities, he recommended to the governing body effectuate a change of title for the Procurement Officer. He stated staff is seeking to upgrade this position to the Procurement Manager. He noted staff is also looking to change the Procurement Officer position to the Assistant Procurement agent. This change is budget neutral and results in a saving.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:23 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at 404-366-4720 at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Approved