



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, August 01, 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

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

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager

S. Diane White, City Clerk

Mike Williams, City Attorney

### APPROVED MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 7:26pm by Mayor Butler and she read the Mission Statement.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge of allegiance was done 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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Kim Trawick, HR Specialist, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Latosha Clemmons, Fire Chief, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

**PRESENTATIONS:****1. Proclamation for Judy Pryor Taylor – Legislative Office**

Ms. Judy Pryor Taylor has been a resident and business owner in the City of Forest Park and will be celebrating 40 years of business in the City of Forest Park on August 6, 2022.

Mayor and Council presented Mrs. Judy Pryor Taylor with a proclamation.

**Ms. Taylor** – Thanked Council for the proclamation and she is proud of her business here in Forest Park, things have not always been easy, but she preserved and stayed true to her dreams.

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

There were two (2) speakers:

**Mrs. Hartfield** - I have some concerns about my councilman. I do not feel he is supporting my area like he is supposed to. If we get out and vote for you and you do not work for us, is not right. I hope and pray that you all do a better job for Forest Park, GA. I was born and raised here I am 85 years old, and I am proud. Thank you.

**Ms. Carter** - Mrs. Hartfield, is my mentor, and this is my first meeting. Mr. Hector

**Mayor Butler** - Please direct all comments to the chair, and you have 3 minutes.

**Ms. Carter** - Mayor Butler, I just have one issue, all this stuff that you all have going on it is simple. I am requesting a speed breaker for my street. I am a notary, and I am trying to figure out where do I go to get a background check. I went to Forest Park Police Department, and they told me to go to Morrow or Lake City with my twenty dollars. I felt like that was wrong.

**Mayor Butler** - The City Manager has your information and will be contacting you.

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

It was moved to adopt the Council agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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 July 18, 2022 - City Clerk**

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from July 18, 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 Appointment of a Land Bank Authority Board Representative – Chief Executive Offices**

It was moved to appoint LaShawn Gardiner as the new Land Bank Authority Board Representative

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

4. **Council Approval of Budget Amendment (Increase Requested) – City's Right of Way and Parks Lawn Maintenance – Chief Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve a Budget Amendment of \$50,000 for the City's Right of Way and Parks Lawn Maintenance.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

5. **Council Approval of an Adopt a Road – Beautification Initiative – Legislative**

It was moved to remove this item from the agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

6. **Council Approval of the Transfer of City Property to the Downtown Development Authority – Economic Development**

It was moved to approve the transfer of city property to the Downtown Development Authority

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** - I do not know if you all remember last year in October, there was a young lady by the name of Martha Still, she was 92 years young, and we did a drive by birthday celebration for her. She was in the nursing home for about 4 months. I had an opportunity to visit her on Friday, and her son Rusty, text me today and she passed away. She was 93 years old, and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge her family. The Still family that lives on West Street, I am sending love, likes and prayers. I did get a chance to talk to her and tell her that I love her and gave her a hug. So, I am happy about that, and we will keep the family lifted in prayers.

I also, want to remind everyone that the July Ward meeting recording is on the website and there is some insightful information that is available for everyone, so be sure to check that out on the city's website. We had a very successful food distribution at Forest Park High School, for the Forest Park residence. Thanks to all that came and volunteered and those that came for photo ops.

We had approximately 200 families that came through for food. Also, mark your calendars for September 10<sup>th</sup>, Forest Park High School Homecoming Parade, which we are doing early this year. We have a new Football coach this year, he is an Alumni of Forest Park High School, and he is doing great things with the football program.

I will be getting with Coach Jay; we are going to be utilizing Kiwanis Stadium for the Alumni Flag Football games or whatever they decide to do. Please mark your calendar so that you can come out and show support. If you are a Forest Park graduate make sure we get that information, and I will be putting out some information so that you know how to get engaged and involved.

Thanks everyone for coming out. The Rock, yes you all showed up today and volunteered. Mayor Butler, Councilmember Mears, Dr. Cooper, Javon Lloyd, and Chief Clark. Everyone showed up and thank you all for participating. I love serving, and I love serving you, so if you have any questions or comments just give me a call and I will be happy to help you.

**Councilmember Antione** - I love serving everybody also. Mrs. Hartfield I am your city council, and you are welcome to call me or email me, just let me know where I can improve, and I will be there for you. I had the opportunity to go to Senator Bookers Office, in New Jersey, with an organization for Haitians that are elected in America. We spoke about Forest Park; we spoke about immigrations, and he has some great news that he is working with the Senator Warnock on. It is to bring more federal funding to Clayton County and metro; he was very excited and humbled.

Also, I would like you to go by and see the new senior building which is huge, and that alone will show that Forest Park is headed in the right direction. I am unsure of the grand opening, but it will bring people to the city and make us feel as though we are seeing big improvements and that Forest Park is going in the right direction. I am glad to see everyone, the directors, City Attorney, Dr. Cooper, all the staff, and I also see some new faces, please continue to come back. I hope we can continue to work as a team, because we are the largest city in Clayton County. If anyone needs me, you have my card and my email.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - Thanks everyone for coming out I love to see a big crowd. I love celebrating our citizens and those that have done so much for themselves and help to impact our future generation. As an educator I always admire people who teach and pass on knowledge to empower others. It is about the next generation where we are building people up, we cannot be gate keepers of things and not share these resources.

We had a successful game night at the park and gave away a lot of book bags. I partnered up with Ms. Victoria Williams, who is feeling well, so she could not make it, I hope you are feeling better Ms. Williams.

We also had a partnership with City Edge. They gave away many resources to our community, so thank you for that. I was not able to attend that event, but I appreciate you investing in our people here in Forest Park. This Friday we will have our first Food Truck Friday, give out school supplies and will be showing the movie Bad. I will be unable to attend due to a leadership course I am starting, and I will bring back to Forest Park whatever they teach me and apply it. I would like to come back with resources our community can use. The organization is Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and they are all around Georgia.

I will not have the clean up this Saturday, and I am unsure of when I will reschedule it. I may tag along with the Masons and their clean up. The Masons at Fort Gillem are one of the organizations that Adopted-a-Road here in Forest Park. Thank you, council, for committing funds to adopt-a- road it is a great initiative. It helps people to take

pride in what we do here in our city. Anything you all need just reach out. Ms. Mitchell, I am going to reach out to you about those speed bumps, it is a process to it, but we will get some attention on your road.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** - Thank you to everyone for coming out and a huge congratulation to Ms. Judy. You have done so much for our community, and we should have been recognized you. Dr. Folami had something to do with that, so thank you for bringing the attention to this amazing phenomenal woman and what she has brought to the City of Forest Park.

Every year since I have been in office, I have done a back to school for the kids of Forest Park. This year instead of giving the book bags away, and since the city took away funds this year, I decided to do my own thing and do the free haircuts for the kids. This is the second time I have done the free haircuts. We had four barbers, and a bounce house, my little brother was the DJ and he did it for free. The barbers took time out there day to give back to the children in Forest Park and they cut over 50 heads.

S.J Lodge, S.J. 171, one of the barbers Mr. Gipp, called me and said councilwoman my lodge brothers want to know if they can come out and give out school supplies. I said yes, because these young men could have been doing anything with their time, but they took time out to give to the kids in Forest Park.

We also had High Society Barber Shop, Main Steet sponsor. Mario Glass, Jamari Big Baby the Barber, Gipp the Barber of SJ171, and my brother took time to come out and DJ. Tenisha and Demarion did an amazing job, they made sure the barbers were fed and made sure everything was in line, it was an amazing day. Pictures were shown on projector of the event

Mrs. Hartfield it is so good to see you, and I am only a phone call away if there is anything I can do to assist you. You mean a lot to this community and what your family has done has not gone unnoticed. I said that to say this, some people got elected to serve the people, and some got elected for the people to serve them. Thank you all for coming out and have a good night.

**Councilmember Mears** - I am glad that everyone has come to take care of your business. I appreciate you being here and the only way to find out what is going on and to get involved is to attend these meetings. Thank you.

**Mayor Butler** - Thanks to everyone for being present. Ms. Carter the speed bump in your area requires a speed study and that process is about 90 days. Dr. Cooper will be reaching out to you. We had a passing of a former Forest Park employee; his name was Jamie Reynolds. He was a police officer and was injured working in Spaulding County, so condolences to the family.

The food drive was the largest one and it was good to see everyone come out. The backpack giveaway was a good event. Council Antione, the senior 55 and older active living center, will be called Forest Station. Around September or October, they will have someone set up to start taking applications. The process will go quickly, because there is only 60 units, based on income and other criteria.

They take applications and give you a number. Once they start calling people to bring in their documentation it is going to go quickly. Once they reach out it is up to the applicant to get all the information together and turned in a timely fashion. This housing is federally funded with strict criteria.

We do have Executive Session, but I would first like to leave you with this, "Maybe the universe is not really testing you; Maybe it is giving you an opportunity to practice, who you really say you are."

**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 7:58pm for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate.

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 the Regular Meeting at 8:25pm

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 authorize the entering into a Consent Order with the State Elections Board pertaining to SEB Cases 2017-075, 2019-033, and 2019-042.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Council Regular meeting at 8:36pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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