



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, November 07, 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) 366.4720

**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  
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 by Mayor Butler 7:32pm and she read the mission statement.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Minister Cook did the invocation and gave the 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		✓

Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Joshua Cox, IT Director, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development, Shalonda

Brown, HR Director, Fire Chief Latosha Clemons, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Police Chief, Nathaniel Clark, and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

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

There were three speakers:

**Michael Manzi** – Wanted to complain about Forest Park Animal Control for not doing a good service to him. There is a Pitbull that belongs to his neighbor that is terrorizing him. It held him hostage in his vehicle when he drives up to his home, if he is sitting on the porch, it chases him in the house. The dog is running wild, and the animal control will not do anything about it, and he has placed three complaints about this, and he has also called the police. He has spoken to a lawyer and told the council they will be held liable if something happens. All they are doing is giving citation after citation to the owner. Please do something about this.

**Carl Evans** – We need to look at expanding as much as we can, especially with the growth we are seeing at Gillem. If we have a major event out there, we will need every piece of equipment we can get out there to take care of it. On the other side with public safety, I am sure they will have their own security team to help with our police department.

If there is a fire or explosion, we are going to need this, and these things are going to be expiring and we cannot use them so we will be shut down. There is no way they can go and fight a fire without that equipment, they cannot hold their breath for 30-45 mins and then run back out; this is needed. I am really encouraged by everything that I have seen tonight, all these things are wonderful. The buses will be wonderful also, because they are fluid and can change their routes if needed. I am looking forward to all the things we have going on in the next five or six years. I am honored to be a resident and I support you in every way that I can.

**Dr. LaWanda Folami** – My volleyball placed fourth. I did not get back with Dr. Cooper on the trophies, but I have a sponsor for them. Councilmember Wells will pick those up, because I needed three quotes and did not have the time. I like to see the people in the right places and giving recognition to those that deserve it, because it has been a long time coming. With the rail system we are going to have hiccups and I am glad Mr. Hightower is here dealing with it, but the bus will go through the city. Norfolk has been a pain in the butt for decades and they still are. Kudos to the police department for an outstanding job with the neighborhood watch, Chief Clark has really stepped it up. In December we are going to do a Christmas Fellowship potluck dinner as we always do. Ms. Rose Sims passed, and we wanted to meet with Councilmember Wells, to do a balloon release on her behalf, at the senior center.

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

It was moved to adopt the Council Agenda as printed

Motion made by Councilmember Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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 October 17, 2022 -**  
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2022.

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:**

### **2. Council Approval to Endorse a Bus Rapid Transit Alternative – Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve to endorse a bus rapid transit alternative

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

### **3. Council Approval of Certificate Allocating Local Option Sales Tax Proceeds - Legal**

It was moved to issue a certificate allocating Local Option Sales Tax Proceeds

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

### **4. Council Approval of Information Technology Hardware Surplus - Information Technology Department**

It was moved to approve the Information Technology Hardware Surplus

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

### **5. Council Approval Resolution 22-24 Accepting the BJA FY 2022 Bullet Proof Vest Reimbursement Program Funding – Grants/Police**

It was moved to approve the Resolution 22-24 Accepting the BJA FY 2022 Bullet Proof Vest Reimbursement Program Funding

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

### **6. Council Approval to Purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – Fire & EMS Department**

It was moved to approve the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

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 to Add Email Addresses for City Boards - Legislative**

It was moved to remove this item

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**8. Council Approval of a Home Repair Grant Program and Guidelines – Executive Office**

It was moved to approve the Home Repair Grant Program and Guidelines

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – Thanks to everyone for coming out, and thanks to the new employees, we are excited to have you join us. Congratulations to Mr. Rudy who turned one hundred over the weekend for whom we did a drive by celebration. I would also like to congratulate my colleague Councilmember Mears, who celebrated his 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I also would like to mention the joint effort of the police force. The significance of the fentanyl that was found in our city was significant, and it was enough to kill all of us. That was a very powerful enforcement that was done collectively, and I know our chief had a lot to do with that. I am excited about us getting drugs off the streets.

**Councilmember Antoine** – I would like to give a shoutout to our city manager for receiving a major prestigious award from the NFBPA. I would also like to give a shoutout to Clayton County, we are up to 50,000 people that voted in this election. Thank you all for coming.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thanks to everyone for the public comments. To the gentlemen that mentioned the dog situation, we are going to take care of that. Next time please do not wait so long, you or anyone else. Everyone has a supervisor and answers to somebody, please reach out to your local elected officials so we can handle things. I am happy Dr. Folami team is doing well. Welcome to all the new employees here at Forest Park, we are glad to have you as part of our family.

Happy birthday to Mr. Rudy, he turned one hundred years young, and he is also a WWII veteran. We will be celebrating him at the Veterans Day event this Friday. We have movie night coming up on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please go out tomorrow and vote, a lot of woman rights are on the ballot, they are trying to take away the decision of what woman can do with their bodies. If anyone needs anything, please reach out to me. Shout out to Dr. Cooper and Chief Clemons, we are proud with their accomplishments. Congratulations to Councilmember Mears on your anniversary.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I would like to say to the gentleman complaining about the dog that no resident should have to deal with that, and I apologize for that. That is what we are here for, we work for you and hopefully it will be taken care of sooner than later. Congratulations to Chief Clemons, you are phenomenal, ever meeting it seems like we are congratulating her. It shows what type of leader you are and how far the department has come under your leadership. I thank you; the community thank you and we are blessed to have you as the Fire Chief of Forest Park, thank you for everything. In reference to Ms. Ruby, we want to do the balloon release. She was a life-long resident of Forest Park and people either knew her or knew of her, and I would like to look at getting a proclamation for her. Tiffany, my condolences to you, that is Ms. Ruby's daughter. Trophies, Dr. Folami it was my pleasure, it is like things that are to help the community we get the run around about it, or we are doing away with it. The kids should not have to fight for trophies, and I think every recreation department should have this in their budget. I did not agree with getting three quotes for this, so I took some of my ward money so that those kids could get trophies. These are our kids, and this is our community. Please make sure you go out and vote, it is important to have your voice heard. Representative Stovall thank you for joining us tonight and thank you all for coming. Wellness with Wells will be next Tuesday at the gym at 6:00.

**Councilmember Mears** – I would like to thank everybody for coming. We will be working on your dog problem and get a handle on that. I am glad everyone is here because this is where your business is handled. Thanks for the comments, they are good, and we need to know this information, which is what the council is here for. Each one of us has a ward and we are supposed to take care of them.

**Mayor Butler** – I do echo the sentiments of my colleagues and do know that we are ecstatic of all that the progress that is going on and this momentum will only continue. Also, we have our Veterans Program coming up this Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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 8:02pm for Personnel, Litigation or 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 Council Regular Meeting at 8:35pm

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 adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:36 pm

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

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