



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

Tuesday, September 07, 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 by Mayor Butler at 6:00pm.

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 Via telephone		✓
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; Shalonda Brown, HR Director, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, James Shelby, PB&Z Director, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, Major Sandra Johnson, Police Department and Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager**COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:**

- Clayton County Rental Assistance Program has been extended to October 3, 2021. This is for Clayton County residents needing help with rental assistance can apply for funding now. For more information contact 404-858-6147 or email – erap@claytoncountyga.gov
- Clayton County Police Department has commended 45 days “warning period” to notify and help drivers adjust to the Automated Traffic Enforcement of School Zones. This program was instituted after a nationwide spike in pedestrian fatalities over the past decade in which Georgia become one of the 5 deadliest states for pedestrians, with the seventh highest fatality rate.
- Early Voting is October 12-29 from 8:00am to 5:00pm. There are two Saturday days, October 16 and 23 and those hours are (9:00am – 5:00pm). The location for early voting is City of Forest Park’s Senior Center located at 5087 Park Ave, Forest Park, GA 30297.
- General Election Voting will be held on November 2 from 7am – 7 pm at the City of Forest Park Gymnasium, 803 Forest Parkway, Forest Park, GA 30297.
- Absentee ballot applications can be requested by contacting our City Clerk/Elections Superintendent Diane White’s office at 678-704-4784 or via email elections@forestparkga.gov or by visiting The Elaine Corley Recreation Center, 803 Forest Park, Forest Park, GA 30297 Monday thru Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm.
- Clayton County Community Services is hosting a job fair on September 10, 2021, from 10:00am – 1:00pm at 1000 Main Street, Forest Park, GA 30297. You must check in with resumes between 8:30am – 9:30am. Several employers including the City of Forest Park will be present and looking for highly qualified candidates to fill several open positions.

CITY OPERATIONS:

- Councilman Gutierrez hosted a community awareness meeting with the Clayton County Police Department and the Forest Park Police Department addressing checkpoints done outside of the City of Forest Park’s jurisdiction. Chief Clark and Clayton County Police Chief Roberts addressed members of the community and addressed issues especially surrounding the Hispanic community on their feeling of being targeted. This was a great meeting and I know we are speaking of more meetings in the future.
- Councilman Gutierrez will be hosting a Teen Night LGBTQI event on September 10, 2021, from 6pm – 8pm at 850 Main Street.
- On August 24, I participated in an awesome zoom meeting with all the parent liaisons within Clayton County Schools. It was supposed to be a meet and greet but turn into a great sharing of ideas and concerns. I am looking forward to continuing to develop that partnership. Thank you, Councilwoman Kimberly James, for initiating that meeting.
- Forest Park Police Department has kicked off its Active Preventive Patrol by Law Enforcement (A.P.P.L.E) program.
- City of Forest Park has also initiated school zone cameras and submitted applications for all 8 schools in the city. As of now we have 5 schools approved, 1 pending and 2 were denied by the state. The areas will be posted with signage to warn drivers slow down and adhere to the speed limit near our schools.

HUGE KUDOS

I would like to give **HUGE KUDOS** to our Council Aides Tenisha Dixon and Demarion Moses, and to the City of Forest Park Public Works Department, Director Bobby Jinks, Recreation and Leisure Department, Director Tarik Maxwell, our Police, Chief Nathaniel Clark and Fire Department’s Chief Latosha Clemons for helping to

make this Labor Weekend Tailgate and Fireworks Show so amazing. You all did an absolute amazing job with the event and securing the safety and well-being of all our attendee's.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Police Department: Newly Hired Recruits Alexis Mayes, Samuel Taylor and Eric Ellis and recent Academy Graduates: Officer Shareese James and Officer Isaiah Ellis (Top Gun Honoree)

Executive Office: Demarion Moses, Council Aide

COVID-19 UPDATE: Division Chief Joel Turner

Mayor Butler- requested to have a moment of silence to remember Firefighter/Paramedic John Gaddy.

As we have all seen on the news, the COVID-19 numbers continue to rise again statewide. The same is true within the city. The current average rate of daily positives among those tested statewide is 16.8% over the past two weeks.

As of today, 9/7/2021:

- Clayton County's average rate of daily positives is 13.9% for the past two weeks.

As reported by Clayton Co Health District: 9/5/2021

- There are 2,757 cumulative cases in the 30297zip code: 9.0% of county cases.

The COVID-19 vaccines are available now for individuals ages 12 and up, with continued testing underway for children under 12. Pfizer has received full authorization from the CDC and Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are both in that same approval process now. These vaccines have shown to be highly effective at minimizing the effects of COVID in vaccinated individuals, as well as helping limit it's spread. Vaccines are STRONGLY encouraged for all, and especially those with underlying medical issues that can be further complicated by COVID-19.

We continue to encourage good hygiene practices – washing hands or using hand sanitizer, distancing of unvaccinated individuals, and wearing masks in close indoor environments, especially for the non-vaccinated.

Measures are still in place in all departments to minimize sick employees at work and exposures to their coworkers.

Councilmember Mears- are cloth masks more efficient as the other masks?

Division Chief, Joel Turner- there are a variety of studies and results that are coming out. The CDC is recommending medical grade mask for efficiency. Something is better than nothing.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion - Sister Cities Itemized List – Legislative Department

Background/History:

On August 02, 2021, the City Council Approved a budget of \$15,000 to participate in Sister Cities International with 3 cities in Haiti, Ghana, and Senegal. At that time, it was the direction of the council prior to any purchases being made that an itemized list be presented for approval. Submitted for council review and discretion is an itemized listing showing what could be purchased and shipped using available funding. The City Manager is seeking council direction on how they would like to proceed with this matter.

Discussion/Comments by Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine - I have seen all 3 lists and I thought it was a great job by the City Manager to break the information down to see it clearly. I was in favor of the last one in the amount of \$14,000. If you are going to help people you may as well put your best foot forward; I thought that was the best one. I am not sure what the other councilmembers think.

Councilmember James - I am wondering if these are for the (3) different countries that we are helping? Do we know if these items are a need? I see the iPad, iPhone and laptops. Are these items on their wish list? Or is this something that we decided to do.

Councilmember Antoine - this is basically for education. And yes, the principal does feel that these items are appropriate at this time only because you have a lot of students that do not have access to the internet. These are the kids that will google how to be a doctor, police officer, a lawyer or a mayor. So, it is appropriate for this setting; and yes, this is on the wish list.

Councilmember James - what countries are the items for?

City Manager - I did not specify what country this would be used for. I brought an itemized list based on the dollar amount that would be provided. So, if you did it for all (3) countries at \$5,000.00 each for the entire \$15,000.00 you could see what could be purchased. It is not designated to a specific country that would be up to the council.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - So, no one knows what country this money is going to, no one know where \$15,000 is going. It says the Sister Cities budget. In the budget does it have the travel expenses. I know Councilmember Antoine traveled to Haiti. Is travel expenses included in this budget? I can't remember. Is that something council discussed.

City Manager - that is something that I would have to look at from last year. There is no travel included in this budget here.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - if someone was traveling for Sisters Cities it should have come out of this budget, if that is what they were traveling for. So maybe we should look into that and where the money is going; we know it's being spent; where is it going is to (3) different countries? Who is responsible for knowing that? You can't just be sending money. If we have (3) Sister Cities (countries) then each country should get \$5,000.00. It should not be designated to one country.

Councilmember Mears - I have a point of order Madam Mayor.

Mayor Butler - Councilmember Gutierrez has the floor.

Councilmember Gutierrez - I guess we have committed to these (3) countries, but do we have a point of contact for Ghana and Senegal. If we are going to commit, who are the other people and what is the money is going to be used for? For Haiti, I know the money is going to the school. I just know the countries by their name.

City Manager - I do know we contacted one person from Ghana. We did receive that letter. Part of the issue that we had this last year, we discovered some of the letters that were supposed to be sent once council approved the whole Sister Cities initiative were not sent to those particular countries, so we never received a response as to who, what and where. The City Clerk and I are working diligently to try to get the

correspondence happening before we start saying we have something for your country. We did find a letter that was supposed to go to Ghana. I think the letter did get mailed and we are looking for the one for Senegal. We have been using contacts from previously and from Councilmember Antoine. We are still looking for the others.

Councilmember Mears - this is just an outline? This is not set in stone. We are in it; and I feel like we need to make our word good. These people are starving to death. They do not have clean water or bathrooms. You cannot go to school if you are dead. If you send all of the money over there for school, but they can't go to school. I think we need to break it down and look at it more. I am for giving them some money, but we have Sister Cities in Forest Park that needs help. I think we need more discussion.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - someone needs to know where the money is going, no one can answer the question. I mean if I was from another city/country, and I am the only one that knows anything; that is not okay.

Councilmember Antoine - when we sent before, the former City Clerk sent it to the designated area. We contacted principals and pictures were sent. The mayor was asked to come but some things occurred, and she could not. Everyone is welcome to come and view these schools. This is not rocket science, this is like if you go to church, and they partner with another church for proceeds, and you go on a mission trip. This is a good school. We have worked with the fire department and donated used phones.

Mayor Butler - there must be a shipping address.

City Manager - yes, there is an address.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Confirmation of the Director of Information Technology – Executive Offices

Background/History:

The City Council approved the City Manager's request for a Director of Information Technology to help enhance and build our city technology infrastructure.

City Manager - I would like to present to the Council the Information Technology Director Mr. Josh Cox. Mr. Cox is a graduate of the University of South Carolina in Columbia with a Bachelor of Science degree in integrated information technology. He also has a national certified as Chief Information officer from the University of North Carolina. He served for 6 years with the US Army Reserves as a Signal Support Systems Specialist, where he was responsible for maintaining, deploying and operating communication equipment and ensuring his fellow soldiers were properly trained. He received multiple awards during his service and was honorably discharged after completion of his enlistment. Most recently he has served in several positions with an information technology service provider that offered customers, which included municipalities private cloud hosting, custom web application development, SharePoint consulting, web designing, and managed services. He has served the last 5 years as virtual CIO for multiple municipalities in different states, including Georgia.

There were no comments.

3. Mission, Vision and Values Statement – Executive Offices

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park has several goals and initiatives that has been defined in a comprehensive plan. However, a mission and vision, and set of values is just as important to the strategic future of the city to helping the employees, and residents know the purpose of our existence and core values on which it is governed. It is an extremely important part of our city's strategy to help set priorities, allocate resources, and ensure that everyone is working towards common goals and objectives, providing a roadmap to the future. The attached Mission, Vision and set of values was crafted by city for this councils review and discretion.

Discussion/Comments by Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez - I am excited about this Mayor. Sometimes the comments can get clouded with things that are not aligned with any of these things. I am glad we can implement a mission, vision, and value statement

Mayor Butler- read the Mission, Vision, and Value Statement into the record.

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.

Vision Our vision is to be a welcoming, safe, family-oriented, fiscally sound city with an emerging urban vibrancy that maximizes its geographic location to be the most attractive residential and commercial destination in the state.

Values • Collaboration - We will work to maximize impact by incorporating diverse community stakeholders' feedback, expertise, and resources. • Creativity - We will work to encourage imaginative and innovative solutions to foster positive changes in our community. • Strategy – We will work to engage in strategic thinking that allows for efficient planning, objective data driven decisions, and flexibility to meet community needs. • Integrity - We will operate transparently with the highest level of professional and ethical behavior in our endeavors and encourage the spirit of generosity. • Respect and Equity - We will operate justly, without discrimination, to ensure equitable access to all. We celebrate the unique attributes of individuals and treat each other with sensitivity and respect.

4. Title Change from Training Captain to Division Chief (Training) – Fire Department**Background/History:**

The purpose of this request is to streamline the efficiencies of Fire Department Operations and to have consistency within the Divisions of the Fire Department. Currently, this position holds the Title as Training Officer Fire Captain with duties, roles, and responsibilities higher than a Captain and equivalent to a Fire Battalion Chief and EMS Division Chief. Our Fire Department is the only fire department in the surrounding area to not have a Training Chief as the head of the Training Division. I believe that changing the position title would help streamline training that requires communications with outside agencies and within our very own Fire Department.

Discussion/Comments by Governing Body:

Councilmember James - is there a person in that position already.

Fire Chief Clemmons - yes, we currently have a training captain. What I am looking to do is stabilize the fire department to have both divisions have equal ranking for the organizational chart. There is no pay increase it is just a title change.

5. Public Artwork (Murals) – Executive Offices**Background/History:**

The City Council has discussed on several occasions wanting Public Artwork (murals) displayed in specific areas of the city. The city would like to the opportunity to promote local talent and engage the community turning empty city walls into huge public canvases that have a lasting positive effect on the community. The City Manager is seeking direction on how the council would like to proceed.

Discussion/Comments by Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez - I am advocate of the arts. I am a big fan of the City of Atlanta and Hapeville with what they have done with some of their art spaces. I just want to make a comment when my name was mentioned. I was a little upset. Ms. Robin Kemp mentioned in the Clayton Crescent Report that “Councilmember Gutierrez has repeatedly lobbied for his wife from the dais to paint a mural for the city”. It was a bit distasteful, and I talked to Robin about it. She said that I said before. I said if I did say that I would donate my salary to the Clayton Crescent. She did apologize. I have identified some spaces and walls with the teen council. It would really improve the commute to work and school for employees and students to see a nice quote on the wall.

Councilmember James - I would like it to be on a professional level. I do want to get the students involved and engaged. I have spoken to the City Manager about the brick wall on Conley Road in front of the cemetery. I am working with Clayton County Arts to get an RFP sample. I want it to be something lasting. As far as seeking direction from the council, Madam Mayor the City Manager should move forward.

City Manager - one of the things would happen with the RFP process is that the Council would be designating where the murals would appear, and we could have the artists to give us their vision. We would ask the council and community. It would then be the budgeting and how you want to go about it.

Councilmember James - you may want to stop by the barbershop that is located on the corner of Main Street. I met Mr. Williams the other day. The mural that he has painted inside of his shop it is amazing. He is an alumnus of Forest Park High School. Mr. Williams played football at Forest Park High School and graduated from Savannah State and decided that he wanted to come back to Clayton County to give back.

6. American Rescue Funds Allocation Recommendation and Survey Results – Executive Offices**Background/History:**

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. The City of Forest Park received its first allocation of \$3,738,098.00 and posted and promoted an online survey from July 12, 2021, to August 30, 2021, requesting community input on how these funds

should be allocated. Base on the community survey results, conversation regarding strategic priorities and needs of city operations the City Manager and his team has put forward the following recommendation for council review and direction.

Discussion/Comments by Governing Body:

Mayor Butler - has there been an update on the eviction moratorium?

City Attorney - the national moratorium was determined to be unconstitutional so that does not affect various counties, I will have to check with Clayton County. There are a number of local courts that has imposed their own local moratoriums. I will have to check with Clayton County to determine if they will follow suit with some of the other counties.

City Manager - if I am not mistaken the moratorium is scheduled to expire on October 3, 2021.

Mayor Butler - can we allocate some funding to residents should they be in a predicament?

City Attorney - Yes.

Mayor Butler - How about for tree removal services? I know this is touchy because we are talking about private property. Can we allow up to (X) amount of dollars as a grant?

City Attorney - that would be something for us to explore. Particularly, if it is a public safety hazard for the trees, but if it is purely private, we would run in to some issues with the gratuity clause, but we can explore.

Mayor Butler - what about homeowner incentives?

City Attorney - we can explore.

7. Resolution 2021-30 to Accept the City of Forest Park LCI Main Street Report – Planning, Building, and Zoning

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park was awarded a grant by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to update the Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) study for the Main Street Overlay District in Downtown Forest Park. The purpose of the study was to revisit the original LCI plan and keep it relevant to the current context, and economic conditions.

The city had a robust public engagement process that included city officials, numerous public meetings, workshops, and public hearings at the Planning Commission meeting to encourage stakeholders and citizen participation in the process for shaping the report.

PB&Z Director, James Shelby, provided an overview of the Resolution 2021-30 to Accept the City of Forest Park LCI Main Street Report.

Bob Begel, of Lord Aeck & Sargent provided Mayor and Council with a presentation.

There were no comments.

8. Approval of Resolution 2021-31 to Authorize Sale of Abandoned portion of JG Glover Court – Legislative

Background/History:

On August 2, 2021, the City Council authorized the abandonment of the northern portion of JG Glover Court which was not needed as a public road by the City of Forest Park. The City notified the abutting property owner of its right to acquire the abandoned portion of JG Glover court pursuant to authorization provided in O.C.G.A. § 32-7-4(a). The property owner has requested the purchase of the abandoned right-of-way. A resolution approving the sale is required by O.C.G.A. § 32-7-4(d).

This is the final step in the process.

There were no comments.

9. Ordinance to Repeal and Replace the City of Forest Park Chapter 8 Zoning and Chapter 3 Sign Ordinances – Planning, Building, and Zoning

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park is updating its zoning and sign ordinances, which will address changing conditions that have occurred within the City and re-align current and future community and economic development goals. Updates to the zoning ordinance will focus on creating a predictable use of adjacent properties, uniformity in lot development, prevention of adverse built conditions on adjacent properties, requirements of compatible land uses, and improved cityscape appearances. The Zoning Ordinance will also integrate new business uses, modernize district standards, incorporate design guidelines for the Main Street District, and address items such as building facades, landscaping, sidewalks, bike lanes, lighting, and signage.

The City held numerous public meetings, workshops, and public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting to encourage stakeholders and citizen participation to help shape the new Zoning Ordinance regulations, achieve a neighborhood-friendly design, and stimulate economic development while maintaining the character of the City.

There were no comments.

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 September 7, 2021, at 7:03pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.