



## CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED

Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 6:30 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

**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  
Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager  
Michelle Hood, Interim City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

### APPROVED MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm 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		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Wattley, Deputy Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Police Chief; Brandon Criss; Tarik Maxwell, Parks and Recreation, and Joshua Cox, IT Director.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING – 2nd Reading of the FY24 Fiscal Budget Ordinance** Executive/Finance Department

**Background/History:**

Public Hearing for the 2nd Reading of FY 2023-2024 Budget - The Governing Body was presented with a proposed budget on June 2, 2023. A copy of the budget as proposed has been posted on the City's website since that date. A public hearing to receive comments concerning the budget was held on June 22, 2023. Revisions to the budget as agreed to by the Governing Body following the public hearing and a Special Called Meeting with the Mayor and Council with Department Heads are incorporated in the budget document for final adoption.

You can view the full FY24 Proposed Budget on the City's website by clicking the link below:

Request of Council is to have the 2nd Reading of the FY 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget.

It was moved to close the Special Called meeting and open the Public Meeting at 6:36pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

There were no speakers in favor of or against the budget.

It was moved to close the Public Meeting and reconvene the Special Called Meeting at 6:38pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2. Council Approval of Adoption of FY 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget Ordinance** Executive/Finance Department

**Background/History:**

The Governing Body was presented with a proposed budget on June 2, 2023. A copy of the budget as proposed has been posted on the City's website since that date. A public hearing to receive comments concerning the budget was held on June 22, 2023. Revisions to the budget as agreed to by the Governing Body following the public hearing and a Special Called Meeting with the Mayor and Council with Department Heads are incorporated in the budget document for final adoption.

You can view the full FY24 Proposed Budget on the City's website by clicking the link below:

Request of Council is to adopt the FY 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget.

It was moved to approve the Adoption of FY2023-2024 Fiscal Budget Ordinance.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** - I would like to ask about the proposed raise. I asked Mr. Clark to give us a proposal for the 5 percent for the lowest paid employee and what their amount would be?

**City Manager** – The 5 percent increase for the lowest paid employee, which is \$17.00 an hour would be approximately .85 cents. The .85 cent spread across the organization annually would be \$1,768.00 dollars, it would be \$17.85 or \$37,128.00.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Just the capital outlay money changed from \$47,000 to \$30,000.

**City Manager** – This is based upon the presentation. The \$30,000 dollars was presented to the council in January. That number has remained unchanged, so we did not touch it. One of the things we can do, and this budget is just being used as a guide, is reevaluate this budget in the next 6 months. At that time, we plan to go back through the same process the council went through to adopt the budget, in reviewing not only the revenue at that time, but looking at the forecasted numbers. If it is the pleasure of the board at that time, we can review every portion of the budget line item by line item. As to where we are in six months. The other thing for clarification is Mayor Butler, when we talk about capital funds the updated package that Mr. Patterson passed out, what it was when we printed this the line shifted, so we just shifted the numbers down. There were no changes. It initially showed in Councilmember Mears Ward 5 there was nothing budgeted there it is the same for every ward, we just shifted the numbers down.

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

**3. Forest Park Pedestrian Bridge/Connectivity Study**

**Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park applied for LCI/TIP for funding for a pedestrian bridge that would span Forest Parkway and the railroad tracks beginning at or near Lake Drive and ending at Main Street. The Pedestrian Bridge would provide safety to pedestrians crossing the multi-lane parkway and railroad tracks. It is also the intent to connect with the proposed Model Mile Greenway Trail project, and the City Center project. The awarded funds are for a feasibility study to determine the best location for the bridge and to place the city in a position to apply for federal transportation funds.

Asking for Council's approval.

**Lashawn Gardiner** – This is for the feasibility study for the pedestrian bridge project. We did apply over a year ago and have since received the agreement from the ARC, after a long overdue wait. We are asking for your approval so we can get the signed agreement to ARC which will put us in the process to apply for an RFP.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – Did we not do a feasibility study before?

**Lashawn Gardiner** – No, if you can recall when different congress members were listing funds for different shovel ready projects, we did apply, but because we did not have a study at hand, we were not considered shovel ready. Now this will put us in a position to move forward with some construction costs.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Was this not brought up to the DA board at one point? Did we not approve a study, or did it never get approved?

**Lashawn Gardiner** – As I recall the DA was asked to participate with some of the matching funds, but I do not know what happened with that discussion. In the interim, we were waiting to receive this agreement, so we would have this in place for us to move forward.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Is that a yes or a, no? Is the DA not participating in this?

**City Manager** – This grant is \$26,000.00 of which our grant funding is \$160,000.00, which means our match is 40,000.00. Our conversations relative to this we do plan once approved by mayor and council to the various boards, as this pedestrian bridge crosses over our Main Street district.

One of the things we discussed with staff was a cost sharing mechanism. The contract for this program just came in on Monday, so we brought it to you before our meeting in September so we could advance getting the RFP out. We anticipate going to the DA and DDA to participate in the \$40,000.00 match the city is required to match.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you, I know at one point it was brought up in our meetings then it evaporated into the air. I never heard back.

It was moved to Approve Forest Park Pedestrian Bridge/Connectivity Study

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

**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 6:45pm for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Special Called Meeting at 7:04pm.

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

It was motioned to amend our current pay classification scale for our City Clerk and our Senior Management Analyst position to a pay grade of 119.

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 Special Called Meeting at 7:05pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

APPROVED