



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

Tuesday, July 06, 2021, at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

**Website:** [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)  
**Phone Number:** (404) 366.1555

**FOREST PARK CITY HALL**  
745 Forest Parkway  
Forest Park, GA 30297

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING 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 7:08pm

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge were led by Dr. Beeler.

**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		✓

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Director of Parks and Recreation, and David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes) There were six (6) speakers**

**JoAnn Thomas** – This is for the chair I would like to know what happened to the URA Board from the beginning? Why do we not have a URA anymore? I would also like to know why we operating with the Army on the contract with them concerning Gillem? Why have the URA Board did research haven't it been finished since it was going on since 2010 and now it is 2021? I have contacted the state of Georgia concerning the URA of Forest Park waiting on them to get back with me and they told me they would this week because if an agenda is required by law and it was not done per meeting that was held in the past why and where can I find that was done by law because also there was four members back in 2020. I believe that was removed from the board and power was given to the DDA it all online and the urban redevelopment authority regular meeting on 6/24/21 please explain; also, the meeting that was held between Forest Park at Fort Gillem and supposed to have been legal teams. I would like to know Mayor, why you not excused yourself, since we were told this was supposed to be between the legal team and the residents.

**Felicia Davis** – To Miss Thomas' comment that I did serve on the URA Board, I do have some history and yes there were challenges with the residents but there is a record, and we did keep one and we did function according to our rules and procedures and the disbanding, also happened to the extent possible that's all I'll say on that but there were issues. I wanted to say to our city manager, but through the chair, that I was pleased to have my councilwoman nominate me another councilwoman called me and said you ought to have a resume and I'm like I'm not looking for a job but I do have a bio, but I was going to withdraw it because like Councilman Gutierrez, I was so impressed with the other names on the list and I too love new blood so having been called by a few people I found well let me stand down leave my name on the list and let y'all go in the back and figure that out so but I I I'M happy any way that it might go. I wanted to address proclamations, decorum, etc. so there's a part of lead leadership that can't be legislated and that's even thought we must have good policy, but you can have the best policy leadership and getting along as a body is a two-way street and I address that through the chair but to all of the members and so pettiness is something that we each individually have to check ourselves to set aside and then get to the broader issue. I would also say that some people speak out, they speak that is ok in some situations. So, there's the way that different people speak but if we search for the meaning and extract that out, we get to a better place and if we can set aside ego in that moment, because who matters most in this room is sitting over here are those serving, I take that piece of leadership profoundly, so servant leadership is what we're looking for all good.

**Clifford Pellegrine** – His comments were inaudible

**Cynthia Crawford** – Did not wish to speak

**Lawanda Folami** – Everyone the place is now the resident behind me I rise because I was listening to you by the rescue funds, I heard all about your audit, charter, bylaws, your GMA, and that's why you guys were selected by us, and those things should already be an appointed. Kudos and Mr. Cooper, as he tried to instruct you to take you further because new material, we had heard you tell other City Manager the very much same thing so let's show by action. I want to go to the rescue funds, I want to talk about the Forest Park Police Department that is the solely harder our city after these operation hours are closed followed by the EMS, fire department those are focus I move to Forest Park and you all have heard me say this many times but as Forest Park Police Department and the Forest Park Fire Department I hope and consider with these rescue funds all this money that have been allocated down to our city that they're becoming more compatible they feel that can sustain their welfare daily and make them feel that they're coming to a job that will respect them because they are first on site and two our public works kudos to you all do an amazing job. I don't think you need a bonus; a bonus is a one-time act I think that you should ask the Manager to evaluate

your staff and get with Mr. Cooper to give them a raise, a bonus is only temporary, let them reflect on each week or every by week or month they get paid that they can go home and feel their service is well appreciated. I'm here alone with some of our neighbors, we love public works we never seen in public work do nothing but do the best they can do not every now and then they fall short, but they apologize but I want you to look at our police officers; you all do whatever it takes start to give them a bonus, give them a raise. When it comes to us making our comments let us make our comments, we direct the to the mayor, we know we may call your name possibly, don't take it personal, we write your checks, we elected you all stop, wasting seven to eight minutes going back and forth, maybe you should just go to lunch and iron out your situation you got going on. It's too much personal and we sit out here and we look at it, we get sleepy, we get the discouraged, we listen for a three to six hours about a sign that CM Wells' had placed for event that is ridiculous, we sit and look at you all challenge our Mayor as she take charge of her dais, we're sick of it, sick at looking at each and every one of you saying, oh we working together but I hear we cannot tell no matter how I feel about each and every one of you, I know how to put away my personal feelings, I know how to put away my emotion and I know how to take care of business, the business for this city is first. We don't have a problem with change, we just won't change to be equal to all, if one gets a change, everybody gets a change. We got to ask this board why people haven't been up before the ethic and the active board need to be revisited. How can we go up to the ethic board when you all are at the ethic board; somebody help me out I don't know, but what we see happening here is we proud of what we see but we disappointed in your action and your action insert to combat and rebut against each other.

**Arvis Walker** - I am the proud PTSA President of Forest Park High School National PTSA. I've been the president since 2016, this last year was my last year I'm praying and hoping that I left Forest Park High School PTSA so much better than where I received it and with I couldn't do it by myself. You know just like you all you can't work by yourself you have to work together just like Ms. Folami just said you must work together; I mean we're not always going agree we must agree to disagree, and you disagree behind the doors. I love Forest Park, I'm here, I was chosen, I didn't come here on my own I came here as a messenger by a messenger, to one of my friends without this friend Forest Park High school PTSA would not be what it is today and I'm so grateful to my Councilwoman, Councilwoman James. I was chosen to read this from some of the citizens are Forest Park from all wards this is an we appreciate Forest Park Councilwoman Kimberly James we speak not only for Ward 1, we represent the City of Forest Park, we say this because you have done so much for all of us who reached out to you no matter what Ward you live in, you are dedicated, thoughtful, and considerate council person, it makes no difference to color, the size, the creativity or the nationality; you are always doing whatever you can for all of us who make up this great city, you know it is not easy dealing with so many different attitudes, but you hang in there it is evident your presence becomes your patience, comes from raising four beautiful well-mannered children and working in the school system the oath you took when you became councilperson was not just words to you, you live by that oath every single day we love you, we appreciate you, and if there is anything we can do for you let us know, citizens of Forest Park July 6,2021 thank you.

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

It was motioned to adopt the Council Agenda for July 6, 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- 1. Council Approval of Minutes from the following Meetings - S. Diane White, City Clerk**

Council Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2021

Council Work Session Meeting from June 21, 2021

Council Special Called Meeting from June 25, 2021

It was motioned to approve the minutes from Council Budget Hearing of June 26, 2021, Council Work Session of June 21, 2021, and Special Called Meeting of June 25, 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **2. Council Approval to Continue the Stipends for First Responders during COVID-19 Crisis - City Manager**

It was motioned to approve the continuance of the Stipends for First Responders

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

### **3. Council Approval of Resolution 2021-20 to Revise the Policy for City of Forest Park Proclamation Request - City Manager**

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-20 to Revise the Policy for Proclamation Requests with recommended changes.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Mears

Voting Nay: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells

#### **Motion failed.**

It was motioned to amend the Resolution to say that elected officials can give a proclamation but will give the mayor and other councilmembers the option to sign it.

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

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Mears

### **4. Council Approval to Adopt Code of Conduct Ordinance 2021-10 - City Manager**

It was motioned not to Adopt the Code of Ordinance 2021-10

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

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

5. **Council Approval for the Development Authority Board** - Bruce Abrahams, Economic Development Director and Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager

It was motioned to appoint Felecia Davis to the Development Authority

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Akins-Wells

Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

**Motion failed** - Mayor and Council will discuss during Executive Session.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – Thank everyone for coming out appreciate you all, remember the Third Thursday of the month will be the neighborhood meeting it is going to be a hybrid version. Also mark your calendars for October the 9th for the Forest Park Homecoming Parade, we want everyone to participate you'll be seeing flyers coming out soon on that. Thank you for honoring me, this was such a surprise I appreciate it and I do want to take a picture before you leave thank you. I wanted to address someone said they thought the proclamation ordinance was to exclude members or have a something in place to exclude group or individuals from being are recognized and I just wanted to clarify that's reason for this proclamation it is was to make sure that we are all have the opportunity to be included on that, so I just want to make sure I make that clarification.

**Councilmember Antoine** – We will have on July 11, 2021, the pool event where we will watch movies; everybody come during that time. Thank you all for coming in and God bless.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you everybody for coming out I appreciate everybody it's nice to hear from the community. Congratulations Mrs. Harris on your new endeavors and I hope you stick around to continue to make the PTSA great. Congratulations Councilwoman Kimberly James, I can attest to your hard work and I always I appreciate it. We had a great event on 4th of July themed food truck event. We also had a great meeting here with the residents of Holland Park it was great to get so much community input into that. I'm sorry that we put you all to sleep sometimes, some of the things up here are not as interesting I guess there's other stuff that we got going on but we're trying our best. So just thank you and be safe you know COVID is still out there if you haven't been vaccinated, please do and you know just continue preaching love, check on your neighbors and thank you for coming out.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I would like to thank everyone for coming out and dealing with the things we have going on. Thank you so much for being patient with us, I also would like to thank our employees and thank you to my Husband being mentioned in the City Manager's report and thank you for all. Mrs. Folami, I thought that was a great idea we mentioned the Merit System maybe two years ago and when we first got a new HR director we talked about the merit system so that the people that are deserving of raises can be evaluated and get what they deserve because we're giving away money; as well as a pension and we talk about being competitive and competing with other cities and a lot of our employees are leaving going other places because we don't have one. I have been stressing for maybe the last six years now and someone was supposed to be working on that and we have yet to hear anything so, Dr. Cooper, if you could give an update on what's going on with our employees' pension, so we don't keep losing valuable employees. Also on July 16<sup>th</sup>, the next Fun Friday, we will have Casper and the 911 Band. We have a good time and I know it's a lot of stuff going around by from Fun Friday, and I just say come and see it for yourself. Come see, there is fellowship with the community and let's have a good time outside. August 20th and 21st Forest Park Day, is for the entire community so get you neighbors, bring your tents, grills and cooler and let's have a good time thank you and hope everyone had a blessed fourth and have a great night.

**Councilmember Mears** – I also would like to thank everyone for coming. I hope everyone had a good fourth of July Weekend. Would like to congratulate the girls' soccer team. I noticed on the marquees as I was coming here they're going to state playoffs finals or whatever we've got a high school over there that we need to be proud up every time you turn around there any championship somewhere that the kids are really trying hard and we really need to support the school cause when they come out of school they turn into Grown Ups so I just want congratulate them appreciate everybody coming Thank You.

**Mayor Butler** - This is for Mrs. Thomas, we do currently have a URA board your question on how do we operate with the army I didn't quite understand that question is I'll ask you for clarification we can address it at the next meeting so I'm not quite sure exactly what you mean by that you asked why that you are a not finished from 2010 honestly I cannot attest to what transpired before assuming my position as chair on the URA board I do know as it pertains to the meeting minutes from those boards all of the minutes should be available on our website if there are some that are missing you just let us know we could have our clerk look into that but I can let you know that update the current URA all of those minutes and the agendas I think that's maybe what it was is on our website so it is it is the same members so the one that previous you are a board was dismantled we could not eliminate the board and so it is the same members but those boards operate completely independent when we have the meetings one meeting is open an adjourn and then the next meeting is started for the other board what yeah and that's why I welcome it but as far as past agent again. I know what we have um there are several years I believe that are online I know we did transition from our old website. I do not know if you have seen our new website. Now were some documents I believe was placed in the wrong web page that should have been corrected and we will make sure, and Bruce is here I'm who is the economic development director at his department oversees the board pages on our website to make sure that everything is in the report. Legal teams and the residents at Fort Gillum in that meeting I'm not sure where that came from. It was open to everybody now I ever being a specific request present at that meeting and, but they were invited and so for whatever reason they chose not to attend. Madame Mayor (Mike Williams) their attorney was watching online. We operate with the online I'll get with you afterward to get clarification we'll have an answer at the next meeting.

**There was a motion to amend the agenda by adding – Discussion on Variance for Businesses that operate within 100 feet of each other.**

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

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

**Dr. Cooper** - There was a request for a variance from a gentleman who purchased a barbershop that had been closed and he is requesting to reopen a barbershop that was there. In the current ordinance because there is a hair salon it talks about hair salon and barber shop within that distance, he's not being granted permit to open that shop. So, he is asking the Council for a variance to that ordinance to allow him to open the shop.

There was discussion on changing the ordinance and being consistent with the variance.

It was motion to table this item so staff can revise the ordinance.

Motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Mears

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 motioned to recess into Executive Session at 8:15pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was motioned to reconvene back to Regular meeting at 8:37pm

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was motioned to appoint Felecia Davis to the Development Authority Board.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was motioned to adjourn the City Council Regular Meeting at 8:39pm.

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

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