



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, February 03, 2025 at 7:00 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 Latresa Akins-Wells  
The Honorable Allan Mears

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager  
Randi Rainey, City Clerk  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

## DRAFT MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Mayor Pro Tem James called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Dr. Lou Goldstein led the invocation and pledge.

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large	X	
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		X
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		X
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		X
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5 -Via Zoom		X

Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Javon Lloyd, PIO; Kwame Marshall, Multimedia Specialist; John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance; Talisa Adams, Procurement; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis HR Deputy Director; Nicole Dozier, PDC Director; Marsellas Williams, Economic Development Director; Dorthy Roper-Jackson, Municipal Court Director; Tarik Maxwell, Rec and Leisure Director; Alton Matthews, Public Works Director; Nigel Whatley, Public Works Deputy Director; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome Deputy Fire Chief; Brandon Criss, Police Chief, Derry Walker, Code Compliance Director, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

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

It was motioned to move all items from New Business under the Consent Agenda except item #12 Council Approval on Case # TA-2025-01 Text Amendment to Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article F. – Boards and Commissions, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-169 Public Arts Review Board.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

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

It was motioned to adopt the agenda by adding the following: a public hearing for item #12 Council Approval on Case # TA-2025-01 Text Amendment to Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article F. – Boards and Commissions, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-169 Public Arts Review Board; Council Approval to Authorize the General Release and Indemnification on 4135 O'Hara Rd and Council Approval to Authorize the City Manager to execute the statement of work with IDX.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2025-**  
City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from January 6, 2025, with recommended changes.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)****There were three (3) Public Comment Speakers.**

**Lavern Mitchell**—Inquired about whom to contact in Ward 2; spoke about the seniors' Christmas ball and having a "bible" for the residents who want to run for council.

**Lester Turner**- Spoke on receiving a message stating that the Rec Center will be closed for practices moving forward and inquired where they could practice.

**Dr. Folami**- Spoke about the practices of stopping at the recreational center and noted parents want their money back, and she believes the city should help refund.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Clark Jr. presented the 2024 Year End Review video, which provided a comprehensive annual report covering the city's accomplishments in areas like operational efficiency, neighborhood sustainability, and economic development.

**CEREMONIAL:**

2. **Council Thank you on the Motherless Daughters Foundation-Legislative Offices (Ward 1 - Councilwoman Kimberly James)**

**Background/History:**

The Motherless Daughters Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth who have experienced the loss of their mothers. A village made of 100% volunteers who provide mentorship, leadership development, and access to vital resources. The Foundation helps youth build resilience, thrive in their communities, and create a legacy of success.

The Motherless Daughters Foundation celebrated its 11th Annual Gala with an unforgettable evening of elegance, community impact, and generosity. The highlight of the evening was an inspiring keynote address from Dr. Xernona Clayton, a pioneering civil rights leader whose lifelong commitment to justice and equality continues to uplift communities worldwide.

The Foundation would like to thank Mayor Angelyne Butler and the City of Forest Park for its support.

There was no action on this item.

3. **Council Recognition for 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year**

**Background/History:**

In recognition of the unwavering dedication, exceptional hard-work, selflessness and relentless pursuit of guidance in bettering the lives of our youth. The City of Forest Park recognizes the schools that make up the Forest Park High School Cluster. These schools include Anderson Elementary, BC Haney Elementary, Edmonds Elementary, Fountain Elementary, Huie Elementary, Lake City Elementary, Unidos Dual Language, Babb Middle, Forest Park Middle and Forest Park High. We also celebrate each Teacher of the Year. A Special thanks to community partners: State Representative Rhonda Burnough, Oasis Construction Services, Falcon Design Consultants, Robinson Weeks Partners, Stanley Law firm, Jasper Plaza, Guardian Life Care Transportation Services, and Forest Park High School PTSA.

Teachers being recognized are: Mena Robinson, Lacresha Adams, Josh Froneberger, Brenayl Smith, Shauntavious Releford, Danetra Ransom, Julie Chambers, Selena Davis, Lissette Hernandez-Negron, and Carole Ramsey Felton.

Mayor Pro Tem James presented certificates to the teachers that were recognized.

4. **Proclamation Recognition for Teacher of the Year- Ramille Moore-Legislative Office (Ward 1- Councilmember James)**

**Background/History:**

Councilmember James proudly recognizes Ms. Ramielle Moore for her outstanding achievements as Riverdale Middle School's 2024-25 Teacher of the Year and Clayton County Public Schools' 2024-25 Teacher of the Year. Her exceptional dedication to education and unwavering commitment to her students' success inspire the entire community.

Mayor Pro Tem James presented a Proclamation to Ms. Moore.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

It was motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

5. **Council Approval on a Request for Blanket Purchase Orders-Procurement/Public Works Department**
6. **Council Approval to purchase Three (3) Fire Staff Vehicles - Fire & EMS/Procurement**
7. **Council Approval of Lobbyist Services- Carpri & Clay, Inc.– Executive Offices**
8. **Council Approval on a Budget Amendment: Transfer of Funds for Special Election Expenses - Department of Finance**
9. **Council Approval on an Easement Agreement for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure-Police Department**
10. **Council Approval on the City's application submittal for HUD funding through the 2025 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and to accept the HUD funding through the CDBG Program once it becomes available if approved- PCD Department**
11. **Council Approval on Appointing Chief Latosha Clemons to the Clayton County Board of Health-Legislative Offices (Mayor Butler)**
12. **Council Approval on Task Order FDC 2025.01 for Falcon Design Consultants, LLC to assist the City with Bid Assistance and Construction Administration for the Starr Park Project- Project Manager**
13. **Council Approval on the Forest Parkway Median Landscape Discussion and Approval of Task Order FDC 2025.02-Project Manager**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

14. **Council Approval on Case # TA-2025-01 Text Amendment to Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article F. – Boards and Commissions, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-169 Public Arts Review Board-PCD Department**

It was motioned to open the Public Hearing.

The motion was made by Councilmember Gutierrez and seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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

Speakers in Favor: 1

Speakers opposed: none

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was motioned to approve Case # TA-2025-01 Text Amendment to Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article F. – Boards and Commissions, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-169 Public Arts Review Board.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**15. Council Approval to Authorize the General Release and Indemnification on 4135 O'Hara Rd- Executive Offices**

It was motioned to approve the Authorization of the General Release and Indemnification on 4135 O'Hara Rd.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**16. Council Approval to Authorize the City Manager to execute the statement of work with IDX- Executive Offices**

It was motioned to authorize the City Manager to execute the statement of work with IDX.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

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

**Councilmember Gutierrez-** He expressed pride in being an elected official leading the city, stating it has been one of his proudest moments, and was glad to see the achievements and progress highlighted in the meeting. However, he acknowledged there is still more work to be done. He was extremely proud of the teachers being recognized for their vital role in shaping students' futures and mentioned hosting an upcoming event at the high school to recruit for the Youth Commission and support a local club. Additionally, he announced an event on February 11th with nonprofit organizations to provide "know your rights" information for the immigrant community, which has been feeling targeted, expressing the difficulty of not having all the answers and the burden he carries, but emphasized the need for faith. He also offered condolences to a city employee who lost their mother, thanking them for their

dedication to the city, and stated he would follow up with the city manager regarding the recreation center issues discussed earlier.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** gave a shout-out to the fire department for their quick response and efforts in helping a resident whose house had a fire. She stated that she would work with other residents to raise funds to support the affected family, emphasizing the importance of the community coming together in times of need. She reiterated that she and the other council members can assist residents, regardless of their ward. She shared concerns about the issues with the recreation center practices and stressed the need for open discussions to resolve the problems. She congratulated the teacher award recipients, including her cousin, but expressed that while she appreciates the recognition of teachers, she believes the council should focus more on recognizing city employees and residents rather than school district employees. She stated that school board members, not the city council, should recognize school district employees.

**Councilmember Mears-** said he will make up for not attending tonight's meeting.

**Mayor Pro Tem James-** She thanked the council for approving the consent agenda, highlighting key items like new fire vehicles, Chief Clemens' appointment to the Clayton County Board of Health, and the HUD funding application. She expressed gratitude for the city staff's hard work, noting their raises and the appreciation event held for them. She stressed the importance of recognizing impactful community members, such as the honored teachers, and highlighted video clips featuring Mr. Dallas and Dr. Shirley, two dedicated Forest Park teachers. She acknowledged Dr. Shirley's recent retirement but praised his and Mr. Dallas's invaluable contributions. She also expressed pride in recognizing Ramile Moore, a Forest Park resident and Clayton County Public Schools 2024 Teacher of the Year. She concluded by thanking everyone and adjourning the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate).

15. **Council Discussion and Approval on Cyber Security Response** – IT Department

**Background/History:**

This quote is to be processed through our cyber security insurance. This includes notification letters to impacted persons as well as a call center to distribute information and answer questions.

Item was heard during the Work Session Meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Pro Tem James adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm.

**In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring meeting accommodation should notify the City Clerk's Office at 404-366-4720 at least 24 hours before the meeting.**