



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, September 06, 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) 366.1555

**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 at 8:07pm and she read the Mission Statement.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge was led by Dr. Leon 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		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Shalonda Brown HR Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Director PCD, Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, Bruce Abrahams, Economic

Development Director, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, Nigel Wattlely, Deputy Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Rec/Leisure Director, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

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

**Eliot Lawrence** - Attended the Food Truck Friday and had a great time. He saw a lot of smiling faces; the food was good, and the complimentary drinks were especially nice. Stated he is proud to be a resident of Forest Park and would like to give thanks to those responsible for putting together the event.

**LaWanda Folami** – Wanted to let everyone know that the volleyball recreation is back in session. She is asking council to look at the budget, to see if they can assist with the banquets and trophies for the scholars. She would like to see more effort helping scholars who accomplish their goals and keep their grades up. Would like more networking with the vendors to have a decent banquet for the team, so the coaches do not have to go out and network.

She has listened to their conversations about public works and public service and feel they have done a great job with giving raises. Stated they need to find out what issues they are having, because people come to the city, get trained and leave. She gives honor and respect to the previous council Sandra Evans, who has transitioned and wanted to thank, Councilmember Gutierrez, for his presence in representing Ward 3. She would like the body to figure out how to be solution driven.

**Dr. Leon Beeler** – First came to Forest Park in 1990 and was a manager for a telephone company. He can remember back then when he had to come down and face council, because they did not like something about the cables, that were being put in. He stated he remember sitting in this room, and it was a lot different from the décor down to the attitudes he observed, because at once he was not treated very kindly. In 1994 they moved their ministry to Forest Park and has been here ministering ever since. He has seen a lot of things happen here, that has saddened his heart, and he has also seen a lot of things that has made him proud. He stated, he was talking to his granddaughter about the things she is doing with the rental assistance program and the people she has talked to. He wanted council to know, because of their generous heart toward the citizens of this city, people have been spared, despair and the trauma of homelessness. He wanted to thank council for what they are doing and to take a picture with them.

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

It was moved to adopt the Council Regular Meeting agenda for September 6, 2022.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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 August 15, 2022 -**  
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the minutes for the August 15, 2022, Work Session, and Regular Meeting.

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 Adoption of Amending Ordinance 22-14 on Text Amendments—Planning & Community Development Department**

It was moved to open the Public Hearing for Amending Ordinance on Text Amendments

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was moved to close the Public Hearing for Amending Ordinance on Text Amendments.

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 Adopt Ordinance 22-14 Amending the Text Ordinance

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**3. Council Adoption of an Amendment to the Elections Ordinance 22-15 Barring Persons That Have Violated Election Laws from Serving as Election Officials - Legal**

It was moved to adopt Ordinance 22-15 Amending the Election Ordinance Barring Persons that have Violated Election Laws from Service as Election Officials.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**4. Council Approval of Policy Guidelines for Usage of Discretionary Ward Funds and Capital Outlay Funds - Chief Executive Office**

It was moved to approve the Policy Guidelines for Usage of Discretionary Ward Funds and Capital Outlay Funds

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, there was no second. Motion failed for lack of second

**5. Council Approval of the Appointments for Development Authority Board Members – Chief Executive Office**

Will go into Executive Discussion on this item.

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

**Councilmember James** - Wanted to remind everyone that Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> is the homecoming parade, and it will begin at 10 am. Everyone can start lining up to view the parade at 850 Main Street. The starting point will be at Jencare Senior Medical Center, traveling down Main Street and turning on Lake Drive. There is a follow-up flag football game at the Kawanis Stadium, with vendors, a marching band, dancers, football team and cheerleaders. Please come out on Saturday to help celebrate at 10 am.

Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> is the actual homecoming game. The homecoming tailgate party at Hines Ward Field at Tara Stadium, will start at 5:30 there will be a DJ and music. The game starts at 7:30 but the Alumni tailgate starts at 5:30p. The monthly ward meeting will be September 15<sup>th</sup> and is every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 5pm. The meeting will be in person at the Hart Field Community Center 696 Main Street, or you can watch it online virtually. She is putting together a 5-k team for September 24<sup>th</sup> for the 5k run. Please contact her if you would like to be a part of the panther strong team.

**Councilmember Antoine** - Wanted to thank everyone for coming.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - Thanked everyone for being there and being patient. Condolences to Councilwoman Mrs. Bagley, whose service he attended earlier that day. Wanted to share pictures from the tailgating event which included a voting booth, an entrepreneur booth for the youth and the water authority. He also shared pictures of Food Truck Friday, an event that brought the community out, first started by Mrs. Bagley, which will be part of her legacy. He thanked Ms. Dixon, for putting the event together. Lastly, he shared pictures of bingo night at the senior center, which included the senior board members, wearing shirts with their new logos. He stated that the police department and fire department came out and spoke to the seniors and that they had a great time. They are planning a ball for December and will be looking for sponsors.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Wanted to share, there are some people here because it boosts their ego, you have some that run for office, because a title is all they have to feel good about themselves. They feel empowered, because they have a voice somewhere, and then you have those that are here to serve the community and the citizens of the city. When things and events do not highlight them, they do not care as much about it, and will do anything to prevent those who initiate things to bring the community together.

Forest Park Day has been going on for 9 years, and this has been the best one yet. Several sponsors helped, and she thanked them. There was a wrestling match, and several Clayton County artists that came out once they heard the city had taken away the funds. These people wanted to give their time and give back to the community.

She thanked, Jonathan Rashmir, who always gives regardless of what is going on. The different artist that helped make Forest Park Day a success, are from Forest Park and Clayton County, and they care about what brings the community together. Whether some people in the community like it or not we are coming together. The city stepped down and the community stepped up. The adults and the kids absolutely enjoyed it. Again, this is the 9<sup>th</sup> year and there were no issues, and it is getting bigger and better.

She stated Melvin Bell, and his team was phenomenal. Collaborating with the community is in the mission statement, but the community gets pushed to the side, because the people they elected, do not want to collaborate with them. You may not like the activities and may not want to support it, but the community is coming together. There are people traveling from all over to attend Forest Park Day, and again it was amazing.

The city took the away our funds, now the aides cannot help with assisting council with getting funds. Everything, that Councilwoman Wells or someone is doing to try and bring the community together, that do not highlight certain people becomes an issue. Regardless of what obstacles are put out there I will not stop fighting for or being the voice for the community. She states it is home for her and not just politics and she is going to continue to serve the people, because that is what they are here to do. Her deepest condolences to Councilwoman Bagley.

**Councilmember Mears-** Glad to see everyone come out. Stated there is a lot to think about and a lot to be done, and they cannot do it by themselves. He asked for input from everyone that has concerns, especially on the garbage issue. It is going to get ugly, if they cannot come to some sort of conclusion, and would like feedback from the public.

**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 for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate at 8:32 pm

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

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

It was moved to reconvene the Regular meeting at 9:44pm

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

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

It was moved to re-appoint Alvin Patten and appoint Victoria Williams to the Development Authority Board

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was moved to approve the Settlement Agreement with Christine Terrell as discussed in Executive Session.

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 Council Regular meeting at 9:45pm

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

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