



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: 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 Butler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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		✓
Vacant	Council Member, Ward 2		
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3	✓	
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Public Hearing #3 on HB 581 to Opt-Out- Executive Office**

Background/History:

House Bill 581, passed during the 2024 legislative session and signed by Governor Kemp, introduces key changes that will impact local government revenue. This bill includes procedural modifications to property tax assessments and appeals, a new statewide homestead exemption (which local governments can opt out of), and a local option sales tax aimed at providing property tax relief.

Adoption to follow if approved by the Council.

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

Deputy Tax Commissioner Lisa Wood- provided a brief overview of HB 581 noting that the bill encompasses two main parts: administrative changes and taxation adjustments. Ms. Woods noted that on the administrative side, tax assessment notices will no longer include estimated taxes, as this was found to confuse taxpayers. She also included that Property appraisals must now be conducted at least once every three years, though jurisdictions may continue to perform them annually if desired. Ms. Woods stated that on the taxation side, the bill limits the increased property value that can be taxed following a reassessment. For example, if a property's value increases by 10% but the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is only 3%, only 3% of that increase can be taxed. This represents a significant shift from previous practices, where all growth in property value could be taxed.

Ms. Woods included that the bill has undergone numerous amendments and remains unstable, with ongoing discussions about extending the March 1, 2024, deadline for jurisdictions to opt-out. By default, all jurisdictions are included in the bill unless they formally opt out, which requires holding three public hearings and advertising the decision. She mentioned that once a jurisdiction opts out, it cannot opt back in. Many cities consider opting out to maintain local control over taxation, as property values and community needs vary widely. Ms. Wood included that opting out allows jurisdictions to preserve home rule and tailor tax policies to their specific circumstances. Forest Park, for example, has been proactive in offering homestead exemptions and could continue to provide tax relief through local measures rather than relying on the state-mandated framework.

Mayor Butler opened the Public Hearing

Those in favor of opting out: None

Those opposed to opting out: Ann Keith (noting confusion)

Mayor Butler closed the Public Hearing

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

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

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

APPROVED