



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, May 15, 2023 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
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
S. Diane White, City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Kimberly James at 7:10pm

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were given by Pastor Cook.

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		✓

Javon Lloyd, PIO Officer, Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; Arthur Geeter, Purchasing; 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; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome, Police Chief; Brandon Criss; Deputy Police Chief; James Shelby, Project Manager.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Municipal Leader – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Certificate Program** – Forest Park Fire Chief Latosha Clemons & Human Resources Director Shalonda Brown

Kay Love from GMA presented Fire Chief Latosha Clemons and Human Resources Shalonda Brown with certificates of completion of the Municipal Leader – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Program. Council and City Manager took a photo with the recipients.

Battalion Chief Joe Baker commended Sgt. Brittney Sparks, Officer Sharaya Bailey and Officer Paris Thomas for their compassion and patience in handling a potential suicide victim last week. Council, City Manager, Fire Chief Clemons, and Police Chief Criss along with the officers took a photo.

2. **Proclamation for National Public Works Week** – Executive Offices

City Manager, Rickly L. Clark read the proclamation declaring May 21-27 as National Public Works Week and City Manager and Council took a photo with Bobby Jinks and all Public Works' employees that were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were two (2) Speakers for Public Comments:

LaWanda Folami – Wanted to do a reflection on Diane Lunsford who transitioned last week. Also, the previous mayor's mother-in-law transitioned this morning. In 2014 when we first purchased the army base, I sat in this room many nights, only the board and myself. They went back and forth and negotiated, and now we own the land. I was a witness here last week when economic development, Erica Rocker, Chief Clemmons, and others rejoiced. I know Ms. Lunsford is rejoicing because she was waiting for that fire department to come to the army base. There were so many businesses out there with no fire department, other than the one on Jonesboro Rd.

She gave a shout out to Captain Davis, Deputy Sandra Johnson, who partnered with the Clayton County Library branches to partnership for the literacy coming up this summer. You see me with this Rumors tee shirt on, Mr. David, he is a big supporter of me and this community. He goes above and beyond, and I would like you all to purchase a tee shirt, so I can continue to get this sponsorship we need. This is Mental Health Month, please get your family evaluated. Shout out to Virginia Ford, Executive Director Chair for Mental Health. Shout out to Station 3, it is awesome, and the money is reflecting it.

Carl Evans – Condolences to Diane Lunsford, her service will be later this month. Art Melton went to be with the lord yesterday morning, so let us lift the Lockhart family up. I have had the privileges to work with the police department, fire service, and public works on many occasions. I will put them up against any agency around. We have some dedicated people, rain sleet or snow, they are doing what needs to be done, to serve the citizens. I have spoken with Mr. Clark and told him; I am totally behind his "One Forest Park". I am looking forward to unity and bringing this city back together and getting away from the divide we have going on right now. Let us be not only the largest city in Clayton County but be the very best in the State of Georgia.

Ms. Evans – Thanked the city council and the city manager, the director of public works and the public work guys. I was at a meeting last month complaining about the speeding on Puckett Street. Last week I saw a speed trailer had

cut it down. We had Atlanta ATL Speedway on Puckett, because that is the one that does not have speedbumps. I want to thank each one of you. I am not afraid to cross the street anymore.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Council Agenda as printed.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2023 - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2023.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – I would like to take a moment of silence to remember Ms. Lunsford and our former mayor mother-in-law or anyone going through bereavement. This was a fulfilling meeting and was all about our staff and the things you have done in the community. We thank you for everything you do in our community. I want to remind everyone that I have a ward meeting that I do once a month. It will be this Thursday, at 5pm, at 696 Main Street. As Councilwoman Wells said, Saturday is a big day. We have our class of 2023, that will be parading around the city, starting at 11:00 and will end up at Kiwanis Stadium. There will be food trucks and bouncy houses out there, and is an event for the whole community, and class of 2023. Tomorrow at 6:00 is the baccalaureate ceremony for our seniors. If you think about it say a word of prayer for them, as they transition into a new life of being an adult. Graduation is May 24th. and we are so proud of them and what they have accomplished. There will be over 310 students graduating in 2023, from Forest Park High School. Mr. Jones is the band director, and the students of Forest Park nominated him. Fox Five received so many great letters about Mr. Jones, and he was the winner out of the top five people. He received \$500.00 and the school received \$2500.00. The band will be performing on Saturday, so come on out.

Councilmember Antoine – Ward 2, I love you, we are looking good. Happy Mother's Day, God Bless.

Councilmember Gutierrez – That story was beautiful, chief. Highlighting that story, showing more empathy and love is just what our employees need. Happy Mothers' Day to all the moms, it was hard for me, because I just lost my mom. We had a great turnout at our middle school, for cleanup. Thanks for the public comments, I am always appreciative of you coming to let us know what to fix, but also the good things. Mr. Rashmir thanks for supporting Ms. Folami, he supported the bus trip for the band to go to Six Flags, and to Clayton. Thank you, Minister Cook, he brought out the whole gang, and those kids at the Rock Church worked. This was a great meeting; I am happy to see some young people here. To the employees of public work, congratulations. You make our city function every day, clean up everything and make it look beautiful, thank you for that. City manager, thank you for the great report.

Councilmember Akins Wells – Congratulation to our fire chief and Shalonda Brown. Thank you, Chief Baker, just as you spoke about them being passionate, you are the same way. You have dedicated a lot of years of service to the city. Thanks for recognizing the other team. Ms. Sparks, I wish she would have stayed, she grew up here and has always been passionate about everything she does. That means a lot and our employees should be recognized. I wish we could do just a little bit more than take a picture. Something they can feel, to let them know they are appreciated, and this is for all our departments. Mr. Clark, your city manager's report says a lot about your work ethics, he has hit the ground running. He is transparent and talks to us about everything, very open and honest and I thank God that you are here.

Mr. Rashmir, thank you. He has stepped up since his dad has been gone. Anytime we call he is there to support any initiative that we have going on. Thank you and the community really appreciates you. Public works, I do not think they get enough praise for what they do. When the pandemic was going on, the fire and police department got the money. Public works were the first ones to get called but did not get anything because they were considered nonessential. I think we need to change that, because they are essential, a lot of things that get done cannot get done without public work. Thank you all so much. On May 20th this Saturday, we will have the Forest Park Reunion. Come out, let us enjoy our community and each other. Congratulations to all the graduating seniors.

Councilmember Mears- I want to congratulate the public works department. I want everyone to make an effort to go over to Fort Gillem and see our beautiful fire station. We are fortunate to have a dedicated police, fire and public works department in the City of Forest Park. Thank you for what you have done and always will do. Mr. Willie Finch has been a pillar in the community, a little longer than I have. I think we need to recognize our senior citizens, for coming to the meetings every month and still participating in helping to build the city that they love. If I can remember I will try and pick someone at the meetings of age, that makes a special effort to be here. Mr. Jones, from Forest Park High School was on television and received an award and should be recognized. We should be proud of our school.

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

There was no Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:51pm.

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

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