



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, August 21, 2023 at 7:00 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 Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager
Michelle Hood, Interim City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Butler.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Elder Wanda.

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		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO, Shalonda Brown, HR Director, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Police Chief; Brandon Criss; Tarik Maxwell, Parks and Recreation, and Joshua Cox, IT Director, Authur Geeter, Procurement Manager.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager - With our Revenue Recovery Plan, we have been able to collect close to \$100,000.00 in back taxes. As we work to get a better understanding of the outflows and inflows of our financials for fiscal responsibility. Recreation and Leisure continue to work on being extremely busy. We are working city-wide to fill all vacant positions across this organization. The Office of Information Technology is continuing to improve operations city-wide. The Public Information Office has exceeded expectations for his role. He has been able to have 2 of his requests picked up from Fox 5 and 11 Alive News, and 3 of his stories were picked up from the Clayton Crescent. There was a large job fair held on July 31st and there were over 100 participants and there were about 16 offers extended. The Municipal Court is continuing to work and ensure all backlogs are caught up and to ensure the caseloads are adequate for a court of our size. We are also looking to bring a division of Probation Services.

We are continuing to see a downward spiral in our crime from the police department. We encourage you to continue to lock your doors because people are removing those valuables from inside. In our finance department, we have been collecting and issuing citations to businesses in Forest Park for delinquent taxes or that did not have a business license and have collected \$53,000.00. Kudos to Chief Clemons on a recent designation she received last month relative to the executive staff of the Fire Department. Chief Clemons continues to put forth cutting-edge technology within that department. Public Works continue to work with Waste Management to ensure we can release information relative to what is happening with sanitation in Forest Park. Community and Development is working on modernization and digitalization within their office, so it is a one-stop shop. Economic Development is working on a concerted unified retreat for our Downtown Development Authority and URA to make sure we are working on the vision of One Forest Park.

PRESENTATIONS:**1. CRAIG 1300 – COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PRESENTATION-** Fire DepartmentBackground/History:

The Forest Park Fire Department has a new tool called Craig 1300 that helps uncover risks, prioritize where to focus resources, and communicate data-driven plans with pre-curated visualizations that can be shared with community leaders.

In this presentation, we will show a video, talk about what is CRR (Community Risk Reduction), what is CRA (Community Risk Assessment), Our community, social vulnerabilities, and our incidents.

PowerPoint presentation to be given by: Ioana Armstrong, Emergency Management Coordinator, Forest Park Fire & EMS

Chief Clemons – I am going to turn this over to my colleague.

Ms. Armstrong–Craig 1300 will help in conducting community risk assessments from information that is data-driven and specific to the City of Forest Park. It is based on NFPA 1300 Standard which is the National Fire Protection Association, and that assessment is community risk assessment and community risk reduction plan development. This is a process to identify and prioritize local risks followed by integrated and strategic investment resources to reduce their occurrence and impact. A progressive CRR strategy will help communities protect their residents, business owners, and visitors in a changing world. As more communities implement CRR, first responders will be safer, resources will be allocated appropriately, and individual responsibility for prevention will become normalized across the community.

2. Council Recognition of African American Business Month – Executive Offices

Background/History:

Recognition of African American Business Month.

Mayor Butler, read the proclamations to be presented, recognizing August as African American Business Month, and she and the council took pictures.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were (3) three public speakers:

Zack Parker- I would like to make a suggestion, when doing the broadcasting on YouTube that the presentation be shown on YouTube or the Screen or linked in the description for the people at home who cannot come in. I also would like to thank my friend Ward 4 councilwoman for making Forest Park Day a success and bringing the community together. Thanks for your guidance and for keeping me levelheaded. I would like to show my appreciation to the City Manager, you seem to have done a lot of work and thanks for allowing me to get my minutes last time. I was perturbed by being interrupted, but I appreciate it. Thank you Councilmember Gutierrez for your support as well. I would also like to thank the Mayor for allowing me to speak uninterrupted tonight. Also, I would like the questions of the constituents to be answered when they come up here to voice their concerns.

Ms. Thompson – My property sits at the front door of Waste Management. I have a problem with debris in my yard all the time. The trucks start to work from 6 am to 5 or 6 pm and they back up in front of my home down the street. When someone is visiting me, they find it difficult to go around these trucks because they meet other cars coming up the street. The main problem is the structure of my home has changed. I can feel my floor vibrating, there is a glass object on my dresser that rattles when the trucks go by. There is a big hole down the street from my home and if the trucks hit the street, you can hear the vibration of that object.

Last year the ceiling in my bedroom collapsed and we have yet to figure out why. I was not out of the room for 20 minutes and this happened. I am very afraid that one day the whole house may collapse, and I pray that it doesn't, but I pray I am not in it if it does. There are cracks in the kitchen floor and a lot of things affecting my home. I would like Waste Management to put a fence around my home. There is a liquid leaking from these trucks, and I am concerned because I do not know what it is.

City Manager – Ms. Thompson, my staff will get with you after this meeting. This matter has been brought before us and we convened a meeting with Waste Management two weeks ago to figure out a solution for your property. The trash cleanup was going from the transfer station up to the police department. We are trying to get them to expand it from the police department to Old Dixie. In addition to that we have a grant program that will be out in the next 30 days for exterior modification and that will qualify for your fence to keep the debris out. Someone from my team will be out to assist you in filling out that grant application to see about fixing things relative to your house structurally and to see how to use the program to put a fence around your property to keep the trash and debris out. Know that we are working tirelessly to come up with a solution.

LaWanda Folami – I would like to echo my neighbor. I do not know how your property was this morning. We put our bins on the property, but when the dumpsters come and retrieve them, they do not place them back in the yard and are thrown out in the streets. It was an outstanding Forest Park Day, and the performances were great.

I would like to apologize to Ms. Hood, many people got her position confused after Ms. White left. She is filling in until we get a certified City Clerk, to deal with the voter's registration. I think you are doing an amazing job. I would like to thank the police department for keeping us safe and protected. I do want to talk about the Development Authority, but I will go there to talk about it.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of item 4a for the Council to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for election services with Clayton County.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

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 August 7, 2023 - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from August 7, 2023, with the recommended changes.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Council Approval of Charter Amendment to Establish New Ward Lines – Legal

It was moved to approve the Charter Amendment to Establish New Ward Lines.

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

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

4a. Council Approval on the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Elections Services with Clayton County.

It was moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Election Services with Clayton County.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

5. **Council Approval of Conditional Use Permit for Self-Storage at 4140 Jonesboro Rd** -Planning & Community Development

It was moved to consider a possible override of the mayor's veto.

There was no motion, so it dies.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. **Council Approval of a Change Order for the Main Street Streetscape Project** -Planning & Community Development

It was moved to approve the Main Streetscape Project.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

7. **Council Approval of LMIG Street Paving** – Public Works Department

It was moved to approve the LMIG Street Paving.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

City Manager – For clarity we are approving this in addition to looking to bid out some of our own streets to bring back a cost proposal. If we are able to put some of the roads up, we can, with the understanding we are still going to go out for bids and see what kind of pricing and timing we can go.

Mayor Butler – Do we amend the motion or make a separate one?

City Attorney – I would make it a separate motion for staff to proceed on the roads that we can do internally.

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

It was moved to authorize staff to bid out projects that can be done internally.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

8. **Council Approval of Reaffirming Commitment to Civil Rights Policy (Title 6)** – Legal

It was moved to approve Reaffirming Commitment to Civil Rights Policy (Title 6).

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

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

9. Council Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with DDA – Legal

It was moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Downtown Development Authority.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

10. Council Approval of Fire Department Contracts relative to training expenses – Legal

It was moved to approve the Fire Department Contracts relative to training expenses.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

11. Council Approval of Revision to Personnel Manual with Respect to Employee Suspensions – Executive Offices

It was moved to approve the Revision to Personnel Manual with Respect to Employee Suspensions

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

12. Council Approval of the One Light Initiative- Executive Offices

It was moved to approve the One Light Initiative.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – Thanks to everyone for coming out. My Ward meeting that I host every third Thursday will be at the Senior Center. The post will be made available, and the council aides will get it on the website. You can go back and listen to it. I would like to say thank you to Mr. Clark for all that he has brought to the City of Forest Park, and a shout out to our staff. We have our SMEs that run the city which are the department heads and the staff.

Thanks to the new employees. We are excited about the future, and we have a lot of great things coming down the pipeline. The city is in a great place. There are some new developments coming, things being done, and businesses coming, we are moving in the right direction. Mark your calendar on Saturday, September 23rd will be our homecoming parade. We will celebrate our Forest Park High School. We are asking all alumni graduates to consider being in the parade. We have Sling Nation that is going to participate in the parade. Let's make this a great day.

Finally, tomorrow is qualifying for Wards 3, 4, and 5. If you know anyone who is interested or thinks they can do a better job, you have the opportunity. Also, make sure you exercise your right to vote. Remember the lines and I think everyone has received their cards in the mail of things that have changed with the redrawing of the lines. Thank you all and have a great day.

Councilmember Antione – Nice to see everyone and the new faces. God bless everyone.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Thanks to everyone for coming out. I am very excited about the Craig Resources, that will be available. This is going to help our areas of vulnerability to growth and keep our people safe. Welcome to the new employees. I had a lot of fun at Fun Friday and Forest Park Day. It was exciting to see the community come out and the collaboration between the governments. I think it is essential to come together and bring the resources together for an amazing day. Tailgating season starts this Saturday.

Thanks to Director Maxwell and Public Works for everything. I was looking at the park that night and there was a lot of trash and the next day it was all gone. I am proud of our city for recognizing all the businesses today, thank you for choosing Forest Park. We get the big businesses, but the backbone of our city is these small hiding gems.

We gave out a lot of book bags for our Back to School Bash and I want to thank Victoria Williams, who supports our High School PTSA. Food Truck Friday will not be the first Friday this month, it will be moved to the second Saturday and Friday of the month. This is an election year, so make sure you register to vote so that your voices are heard.

Councilmember Akins-Well - I would like to say Happy Birthday to my aunt Ms. Gwen, who celebrated her birthday yesterday. She and her daughter Hope do a lot in the community. I met Zach Parker on Nextdoor and at first, I thought he was a terrible person. I invited him to my home, and we talked about life. We have taken the time to get to know one another and have become friends. He comes to the games and supports my son. You can't judge someone on how they look or because they may have said something that you do not like, get to know them first. He is a great person, and a lot of things can be resolved through communication.

Ms. Thompson, thank you for coming. We have been having this Waste Management discussion for a long time. I went to her home a couple of weeks ago. I feel that we are not listening and want to put a band-aid on the problem. It may not be in anyone else's ward, it is in the City Forest Park, and it is affecting our residents. The fence sounds good, but you have to go to her home to see what this station being there is doing. If it is doing it to her home, it is doing it to other homes in the area. It is not fair, and you would not want it done to your parents or grandparents.

It is time to do something and stop making excuses. I know legally it may take a lot, but I feel it is worth it. If we can spend 140,000.00 on Main Street for some bricks, we can pay for our residents to be comfortable. I will keep talking about this until we stop putting band-aids on it and do something about it. She was there first and the way she lives matters to me, and it should to you too.

Jonathan Rashmir, thanks for picking up where your father left off and for all you do for the community. Thank you for being a sponsor for Fun Friday and Forest Park Day and being out in the community. Thanks to public works, fire, and the police department. You guys were on point on Saturday in the community, you showed up and showed out.

These are pictures of the community coming together. You may not support the event, you may not like the event but you cannot hate the community coming together. People came from everywhere. Clayton County and the City of Forest Park came together. Working with Dr. Alieeka, and I appreciate Clayton County for being the sponsor, shows unity. I am all about bringing my community together. Thanks to everyone who played a part in making Forest Park Day a success. We will see you next month at Fun Friday.

Councilmember Mears – I want to thank everyone for coming and remember this is where your business gets taken care of. I always try to recognize the oldest participating citizen in the meeting and that is Mr. Finch. I appreciate everyone for coming. Come back and hold us accountable for what we do.

Councilmember Wells – I wanted to let Mr. Finch know that we are making some upgrades to the garden in Ward 4 that was named after him. We are about to do some great things to make it nice. We also have some great people assisting and once complete it will not look like your garden.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Sunday, at the Senior Center the Seniors in Action are going to have a Sip and Paint. If you have questions, you can contact me or the council aides. Ms. Thompson, thank you for letting us know your narrative. I think it needs to continue to come from the citizens. I am not on that side of town often but notice one side of the road is all black, those juices that are flowing have flies around it that look like bats. All the mildew and stuff on cars I know is from there. I do not want anyone in those conditions, and I think with this new city manager we will find a solution to this. We hear you loud and clear.

Mayor Butler – I echo the sentiments of my colleagues. Thank you for coming and we do have to enter back into Executive Session.

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 enter in Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate matters at 8:21pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

It was moved to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene back into the Council Regular Meeting at 8:39pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

City Attorney – Based on the discussion in Executive Session a motion will be in order to authorize the Mayor to sign a release agreement for the police department.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

City Attorney – Based on the Executive Session Discussion a motion will be in order to authorize a combination of the two positions in the finance department into one and the city manager can name those positions.

City Manager – Financial Service Technician and Staff Accountant.

Councilmember James – What is the name of the new position?

City Manager – Staff Accountant

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Councilmember James – What are the two positions?

City Manager- The two positions we are folding, are Staff Accountant and Financial Service Technician. We are folding them so we can increase the pay for the Senior Staff Accountant.

Councilmember James – So, Senior Staff Accountant is the new name?

City Manager – Yes.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

City Attorney – A motion to appoint Randi Rainey as the city’s City Clerk.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the August 21, 2023, Council Regular Meeting at 8:46pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear.

