



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, March 03, 2025 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 Latresa Akins-Wells
The Honorable Allan Mears

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

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Pastor Clinkscale 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		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; Nicole Dozier, PDC Director; Marsellas Williams, Economic Development Director; Dorty 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:

City Manager Clark noted they need to have a Public Hearing for item #11.

It was motioned to remove items # 6 and #7 from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to approve the agenda with the added items of Dr. Simpson giving ESPLOST update and Ms. Angel, a 7th grader from Forest Park Middle School, reciting a poem in honor of Black History Month.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**1. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2025, and Special Called Meetings from February 20, 2025, at noon and 6 p.m. - City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from February 17, 2025, and Special Called meeting minutes from February 20, 2025, at noon/6 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were two (2) Public Comment Speakers.

Ann Keith wanted to remind everyone that this Saturday will be the Beautification Board's first cleanup of the year. She stated that they could sign up, and there would be lunch provided. The start time is 10 a.m.

Samuel Ibanez wanted to thank everyone for the things they are doing. He noted that the police officers have been doing great work and wanted to say thanks.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Dr. Simmons noted he brings greetings on behalf of the Superintendent and CEO, Dr. Anothy Smith of Clayton Schools. He wanted to thank them for supporting the Clayton School system in terms of the ESPLOST over the last 30 years. He noted that one penny does go a long way, and the new constructions and renovations are confirmation. He noted the Rosenwald School is being renovated, and years ago that was the only black school that resided in Clayton, and it is now going to be a museum. He noted there are athletic fields throughout the county, transportation technology, and the communication center will be completed in August 2025 at Southlake Mall, which will be an 8000-seat arena. He asked people to continue to support it on the March 18 ballot.

Ms. Angel recited a poem describing the inequality people of color encountered in the past.

CEREMONIAL:

2. Proclamation Recognizing Mr. Hicks for 25 Years of Service with the City of Forest Park- Legislative Offices-Ward 4-Councilmember Akins-Wells

Background/History:

Councilmember Akins-Wells would like to honor and recognize Mr. Hicks for his unwavering hard work and dedication to the City of Forest Park.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she wanted to thank Mr. Hicks for his years of dedication and wanted to thank him for all he has done for the city. She said they are essential, and the city could not function without them. She gave him a proclamation and honored the men and women with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked them for what they do. She stated Mr. Gerrod Finch grew up in the community and he gives back to the community. She stated he does the lawn for the seniors in Ward 4 for free.

Mr. Hicks noted on behalf of Public Works he loves working for the City of Forest Park, and he and his team do their back to keep the city together and looking good. He introduced his family and noted he was proud of them, and he thanked Councilmember Akins-Wells.

3. Honoring and Recognizing Public Works Workers During the Snowstorm- Councilwoman Akins-Wells

Background/History:

On January 9th and 10th, 2025, the City endured a severe snowstorm, during which our dedicated Public Works workers braved the harsh conditions to ensure the city remained functional. These tireless individuals worked around the clock to keep the streets clear, safe, and accessible for all residents. In recognition of their unwavering commitment and extraordinary efforts, Councilmember Akins-Wells is proud to honor and celebrate these Public Works employees for their hard work, resilience, and dedication to our community.

4. Proclamation Honoring Taletha Patton, owner of Patton House of Performance Arts, LLC.- Councilmember James

Background/History:

Councilwoman James would like to honor Taletha Patton, the owner of Patton House of Performance Arts, LLC, with a proclamation for her outstanding contributions to the arts and her impactful Black History stage production titled The Journey. This recognition celebrates Taletha's dedication to preserving and sharing Black history through the performing arts, as well as her commitment to enriching the community by fostering creativity and cultural awareness. The proclamation will highlight her achievements and the significance of The Journey in educating and inspiring audiences about the resilience, struggles, and triumphs of Black history. This honor underscores the importance of supporting local artists and cultural leaders like Taletha Patton, who use their talents to uplift and unite the community.

Councilmember James noted the next proclamation is for Taletha Patton who just did a Black history program called "The Journey". She stated that Forest Park High School band did the preshow and showed scenes from the play.

Taletha Patton stated she was grateful for the partnership with the city and thanked the Mayor and Councilmember James for believing in her. She thanked her stage manager, Ashley, for helping her stay on track. She stated she hoped others would come out and see the show because it is much needed since so little of their history is being taught.

It was motioned to remove items # 6 and #7 from the consent agenda and to have a Public Hearing for item #11.

CONSENT AGENDA:

5. Council Approval of a Fee Proposal to provide ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) cost estimate for Starr Park-Executive Offices
6. Council Approval of a one (1) year extension for On-Call Electrical Contractor Services-Procurement/Public Works- **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**
7. Council Approval to enter into a contract for the On-Call Real Estate Appraisals and Right of Way Acquisition Consultant Services - Procurement/Public Work- **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Council Approval on the ELEVATE Workforce Development Initiative– Executive Office

It was motioned to approve the ELEVATE Workforce Development Initiative.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

9. Council Approval to enter into a contract with Aeras MEP for On-Call HVAC Equipment Repair, Installation, and Maintenance Services (Annual Contract)-Procurement/Public Works

It was motioned to approve to enter into a contract with Aeras MEP for On-Call HVAC Equipment Repair, Installation, and Maintenance Services (Annual Contract).

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

10. Council Approval to enter into a contract with Hatley Plans, LLC for Impact Fee Study- Procurement/Planning & Development Department

It was motioned to approve to enter into a contract with Hatley Plans, LLC for Impact Fee Study.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

11. Council Approval to Approve Case # CUP-2025-01, Conditional Use Permit to combine the existing W.A. Fountain Elementary School and existing Unidos Language School to construct a new expanded elementary

school located within the Single-Family Residential District (RS)-Planning and Community Development Department

There was a motion to recess the regular meeting to open the public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit **Case # CUP-2025-01**.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

There were no speakers for the Case # CUP-2025-01.

There were no speakers against Case # CUP-2025-01

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing and reopen the regular meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was motioned to approve the Case # CUP-2025-01, Conditional Use Permit to combine the existing W.A. Fountain Elementary School and existing Unidos Language School to construct a new expanded elementary school located within the Single-Family Residential District (RS).

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James noted every third Thursday, you all are invited to come to the Hartsfield Community Center, and if you are not able to come, you can see it online. She noted she would like to thank Councilmember Akins Wells for recognizing public works. She said that the Ward 1 residents who travel on Hendricks Drive know how rough the road is. She said she recently did a ride along with Director Matthews, and she shared her concerns about the road, and he stated it could be taken care of. She noted she went to an event with the iconic Mayors of Metro Atlanta with Mayor Butler. She noted that Mayor Butler, along with other Mayors, will be in Upscale Magazine for the April edition. She stated the first picture was of the first African American ever elected in the City of Forest Park, and that was Sparkle Adams. She told Mayor Butler she was proud of her.

Mayor Butler thanked her and noted she wanted to point out in the picture that one of the ladies in the picture was the first African American to be elected Mayor in the State of Georgia. She noted when you are the first of something, there is a magnifying glass on you. She noted that see the people there reminds her that the role and purpose in life is so much bigger than them. She wanted to thank the Bonvanti Organization for recognizing her

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked everyone for coming out. He thanked Mr. Hicks for all he does and thought it was awesome that his family is there to support him. He thanked Mr. Finch for helping the seniors. He stated the first Food Truck Friday was coming up. He noted postponing his cleanup because the Beatification Committee is having theirs. He said he is sorry he missed the play but will try and catch it next year. Councilmember Gutierrez thanked Angel for the poem and stated it takes a lot of courage to present in front of others.

Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked the Public Works workers for all that they do. She noted she wanted to congratulate Director Matthews because the roads have been bad for the last 8 years, and it only took two to three days to get done, which means they could have been done. Councilmember Akins Wells noted her grand opening for the Community Closet was a success, and the council Aides did a great job getting it together. She said it is a great thing when you give back to the community, and she thanked everyone for all their donations. She noted it will be open every third Friday of the month from 12 to 2 p.m. for the Forest Park community. She thanked Officer Thomas for everything he does for the community and stated he is doing great things with his mentoring program for boys. She noted early voting was going on and that a forum was held for the candidates. She stated that there was barely anyone there. She thinks people should become more involved and get to know the candidates so that they know who they are voting for.

Councilmember Mears noted his guy, Mr. Finch, is back in attendance. He thanked the city workers and noted they have a wonderful police, fire, and public works department.

Councilmember James noted that this Sunday, March 13, is the Atlanta Community Landbank Hunger Walk at 9:30 a.m. She noted they are taking donations, and any funds collected will go to the land bank, which allows them to do food giveaways.

Mayor Butler asked everyone involved with Elevate to come up front for a photo.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

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