



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, February 17, 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

DRAFT ACTION MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Bishop Mark Fortson 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		•
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		•
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		•
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		•
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		•

John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance, HR Director; Shalonda Brown, Diane Lewis; Deputy HR Director, David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Joshua Cox; IT Director; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Nigel Wattley; Deputy Director Public Works, Public Works Director, Alton Matthews; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation Director, Marsellas Williams, Economic Director; Nicole Dozier, Planning Community Director; Brandon Criss, Police Chief; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

There were no consent agenda items.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of removing item #4 Public Hearing the text amendment does not require a Public Hearing, it will be placed under New Business.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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 3, 2025 -**
City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from February 3, 2024, as printed.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were three (3) Public Comment Speakers.

Dr. Beeler:

Ms. Folami:

Ms. Gunn:

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Clark

PRESENTATIONS:

2. **IT Department Update – IT Department**

Background/History:

The IT department would like to share a presentation to Mayor and Council. The presentation includes some key updates from the IT department including metrics, projects, staff updates, etc.

It was motioned to recess the regular meeting to open the first of three public hearings to opt out of House Bill HH 581.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Public Hearing #1-Opting-Out of HB 581-Executive Offices**Background/History:**

House Bill 581, passed during the 2024 legislative session and signed by Governor Kemp, introduces key changes impacting 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.

The second Public Hearing will be on February 20, 2025, at noon, and the third Public Hearing will be at 6:00 p.m. If approved by the council, the adoption will follow.

There were four people in opposition.

It was open to close the public hearing, and to reopen the regular meeting.

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

4. Council Approval to approve Text amendment to amend such section updating Banquet Halls and adding definitions for Brown Bagging, Banquet Halls, and Brewpubs. - Planning and Community Development (public hearing in regular session).**Background/History:**

Staff have worked with the city attorney to update the ordinance for clarity. After a careful review of the ordinance, several changes were proposed to safeguard the community, prohibiting brown bagging, covering front windows in banquet halls, and updating operating hours. These items were suggested to clarify and to ensure safe business operations and practices within the City of Forest Park. If the Mayor and the Council proceed with approval of this Text Amendment, it will allow the proposed amendments to be enforced.

This item was moved under New Business; a public hearing was not required.

CONSENT AGENDA: **There were no items.**

NEW BUSINESS:**Council Approval to approve Text amendment to amend such section updating Banquet Halls and adding definitions for Brown Bagging, Banquet Halls, and Brewpubs. - Planning and Community Development (public hearing in regular session).****Background/History:**

Staff have worked with the city attorney to update the ordinance for clarity. After a careful review of the ordinance, several changes were proposed to safeguard the community, prohibiting brown bagging, covering front windows in banquet halls, and updating operating hours. These items were suggested to clarify and to ensure safe business operations and practices within the City of Forest Park. If the Mayor and the Council proceed with approval of this Text Amendment, it will allow the proposed amendments to be enforced.

It was motioned to approve the Text amendment to amend such section updating Banquet Halls and adding definitions for Brown Bagging, Banquet Halls, and Brewpubs.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

5. Council Approval regarding the distribution of a publication to all residents via mail showcasing the happenings within the City of Forest Park. - Mayor Angelyne Butler, sponsor

It was motioned to approve regarding the distribution of a publication to all residents via mail showcasing the happenings within the City of Forest Park.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

6. Council Approval regarding use of 696 Main Street by the Downtown Development Authority – Councilwoman Latresa Akins-Wells

It was motioned to approve the use of 696 Main Street by the Downtown Development Authority.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, as she would like to discuss the item, seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

Councilmember James asked for a point of order to call for the vote.

Councilmember Akins-Wells rescinded her old motion.

The new motion was made to find a different location and the container concept for the community closet.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,

Voting No: Councilmember James, Councilmember Mears

Mayor Butler broke the tie with a vote of yes, and the motion passed.

7. Council Approval on the March 18, 2025, Special Election Voting Locations- Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the March 18, 2025, Special Election Voting Locations, with a Saturday of March 8th from 9 to 5 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

8. Council Approval on the FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)- Finance Department

It was motioned to approve the FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

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

9. Council Approval of Budget Amendment for General Fund- Finance Department

It was motioned to approve the Budget Amendment for the General Fund.

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

10. Council Approval on the MAINTSTAR Upgrade – IT Department

It was motioned to approve the MAINTSTAR Upgrade.

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

11. Council Approval on the 696 Main Street Special Usage Request – Recreation & Leisure Services Department

It was motioned to approve the 696 Main Street Special Usage Request.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

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 at 8:28 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was moved to reconvene the work session at 9:31 p.m.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:31 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.