



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, January 02, 2024 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
Randi Rainey, City Clerk
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Councilmember Mears.

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; John Wiggins, Finance Director, SaVaughn Irons, Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO, Shalonda Brown; Director HR, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley; Deputy Public Works Director, Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development; Latosha Clemons; Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, IT Level 2 Support Engineer; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; Dorth Roper-Jackson; Court Administrator, Pauline Warrior; Senior Management Analyst, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

CEREMONIAL**1. Swearing-In Ceremony of Councilmembers for Wards 3, 4, and 5**

Magistrate Judge Wright-Hill did the swearing-in for Ward 3, Councilmember Gutierrez, Ward 4, Councilmember Akins-Wells, and Ward 5, Councilmember Mears. They all ran unopposed in the November 2023 election.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of Council consideration of approving Lavenya Jackson to serve on the Clayton County Board of Health.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**2. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2023, and December 4, 2023 - City Clerk**

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from November 6, 2023, and December 4, 2023.

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

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember James

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were three (3) public comments:

Mr. Evans – noted that he lost his son right before Thanksgiving and wanted everyone to know that it is important to tell people that they are loved. He noted he was concerned about the fireworks that were being set off. Mr. Evans would like something to be done about it. He noted that ShotSpotter is up and running. The police showed up a few minutes after a neighbor let off some rounds. He hoped Gillum would pave the roads before turning them over to the city. Lastly, Mr. Evans noted that there should be something in the Waste Management contract; if they miss a pickup, there will be a reimbursement.

Mrs. Gunn- noted she has been getting phone calls about the amazing home program. She noted she conversed with Ms. Pauline about the seniors being able to come in for help since they are not that computer-savvy. Ms. Gunn inquired if there could be a mailout to push out the information before the deadline, informing legacy residents there is money for home repairs.

City Manager Clark -noted that the Mayor just asked about sending postcards out last week. He noted they have set up a station here at City Hall for the people that do not have a computer, to be walked through the process. He noted they plan to push this out through the Senior Citizen Center and Parks and Recreation.

Mrs. Gunn- advised the council to get the word out to their Wards, via text if needed. She noted the deadline was February 9.

Zack Parker – noted that it is a new year, and the Mayor and Council do not know their own rules for the order of the meeting. He noted the Mayor is disrespectful towards him for simply voicing his displeasure. He also noted the meetings are not being held properly, and rules are being made up along the way. Mr. Parker noted he would continue to come and speak against the Mayor, Council, the chief, and uninformed officers who do not understand amendments or civil rights. He expressed that the leaders in the city will never allow themselves to be held accountable and will always kick the can. Mr. Parker noted he would keep his eye on the can and remind them every chance he got. He also expressed that Forest Park has a section that addresses extending public speakers' time, a code no one knew at the last meeting. He noted many have been in their position for quite some time and do not understand their bylaws. He attested that all was out of order when he did not take the proper vote to extend the public speaker's time. Section 217 5b, in part, the governing body, by a majority vote, may allow extensions of time to allow individuals to finish their comments, but there was no vote.

Mr. Parker noted that the rules read before the public comments state that members of the governing body may respond to the comments during their closing comments. He noted that the phrase is not included in the current codes for Forest Park. He noted the City Manager was out of order for commenting on his public comment portion and that it should be reserved for the governing body in their closing comments. He noted that he does not believe the City Manager is technically a part of the governing body, and the role is Administrative. Mr. Parker also noted he does not have the power to respond to public comments outright. Section 2172 (B) Decorum Meetings, states that all comments of any council member shall be addressed to the presiding officer of the general public in attendance at the meeting, provided that it shall be the privilege of a council member to ask any questions to the City Manager, any staff person, or the City Attorneys. Mr. Parker noted the exchange that took place tonight after the previous speaker's comment was out of order and did not follow the rules that govern the city.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Ricky Clark -wished everyone a **Happy New Year** and stated he would keep things brief. Mr. Clark introduced the new Council Aide, Monica Miller, and plans to introduce her to the governing body after the meeting. He also recognized the new hires in the police department: Major Andray's Smith, Animal Control Officer; Olivia Samples and Shae Grove. Mr. Clark noted the old phone tree would be removed and updated, and that the recreation employees and Yvonne Braswell from HR would receive those calls and send them to the respective department. He noted that he would like to have the retreat on the weekend of February 9th, if everyone will be available. He noted that the See Click Fix system/One Click Forest Park averaged about fifty-nine (59) requests through the system and is averaged to close in about six (6) days.

Mr. Clark noted the Court Amnesty Program for Forest Park has fully launched the Warrant Amnesty Program, from January 4-March 1, 2024. He noted that, at the end of the program, a record restriction seminar would be held for people interested in getting their records restricted. Mr. Clark explained that the program offers limited amnesty to individuals facing arrests and other penalties due to delinquent traffic tickets or misdemeanor violations. The goal is to give licensed drivers a second chance to renew their licenses and become lawful drivers. Mr. Clark noted that Public Works will host the Spring Clean event for the Forest Park residents this Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 330 Forest Parkway and 4853 Springdale Road. Mr. Clark explained residents could bring anything except dirt, bricks, acid, unknown chemicals, etc. Car tires are welcome but will be limited to 4 tires per resident and dried paint.

Mr. Clark noted the \$2,000,000.00 request for Rite Aide was submitted to the county. He noted they are presenting to the BOC meeting, next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. He noted the Army Navy Store, and the I.T. Department won the Christmas decorating contest.

PRESENTATIONS:**3. Forest Park Fire & EMS – Year-End Report (Presentation from EMA Coordinator Ioana Armstrong)**

The Forest Park Fire & will present its year-end / annual report. EMA Coordinator Ioana Armstrong will provide a presentation/slideshow.

Chief Clemons – gave an overview of the first annual report from the fire department. The report highlighted the department's many accomplishments over the past 12 months and pointed out the important services provided to the community through fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire prevention & arson investigation, public education, special operations, and emergency management programs. She noted they deliver services from three local fire stations, including the Administrative Headquarters and the city's Emergency Operations Center. The three stations are distributed throughout the city to reduce transit times when responding to a citizen's requests for emergency assistance.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James- thanked the chief.

Councilmember Antoine- thanked the chief.

Councilmember Gutierrez- thanked the chief and noted that he was thankful and proud of her. He noted that he always brags about the Fire Department every time he goes somewhere.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- thanked the chief for what she brings to the Fire Department and for making her men and women better. She thanked her for being in the community and doing things with the kids.

Councilmember Mears – thanked the chief and noted that she is doing a wonderful job and making Forest Park safe.

Chief Clemons- noted her team makes her better, and she could not do what she does without her team.

NEW BUSINESS:**4. Council Approval of the Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem – Executive Offices**

It was moved to Approve the Appointment of Councilmember Akins-Wells as Mayor Pro Tem.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Antoine

5. Council Approval of the Appointment of Dorothy Roper-Jackson as the Court Administrator- Executive Offices

It was moved to approve the Appointment of Dorothy Roper-Jackson as the Court Administrator

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

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

6. Council Approval of a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$4,300,485 in Increased Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund- Finance Department

It was moved to approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$4,300,485 in Increased Revenues for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

7. Council Approval of a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$281,020.00 for TYMCO 600- " The Street Sweeper"- Finance Department

It was moved to approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$281,020.00 for TYMCO 600- " The Street Sweeper.

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

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

8. Council Approval to purchase fifteen (15) Flock Cameras for the Police Department in the amount of \$72,250.00-Police Department

It was moved to approve purchasing fifteen (15) Flock Cameras for the Police Department in the amount of \$72,250.00.

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

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

9. Council Approval to Authorize a Contract for Perkins Park Basketball Court in the amount of \$59,750.00 – Public Works

It was moved to approve to Authorize a Contract for Perkins Park Basketball Court in the amount of \$59,750.00.

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

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

10. Council Approval to Appoint Luvenya Jackson to the Clayton County Board of Health.

It was moved to approve the appointment of Luvenya Jackson to the Clayton County Board of Health.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed all the new employees. She noted that they did host the December Ward meeting and that the video should be out soon. She noted that you will hear the letter that Chief Clemons referenced, given by Educator Gallman. She noted they have powerful information shared by different department heads and invited everyone to her Ward meetings. They are at the Hartfield Community Center on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. She noted that on Saturday, February 3rd, she will be hosting a Partners in Education Business Breakfast. She noted that the Elementary, Middle, and Forest Park High School will collaborate on hosting the business in the City of Forest Park. She noted that there will also be a business expo on that day, and flyers should be available by the end of the week.

Councilmember James- noted that on Sunday, March 10th, she will host the Hunger Walk, where they walk for the community. She noted that they are in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank to raise money for the Forest Park School team for the community's feeding events.

Councilmember James- noted she is disappointed in the county's unanimous approval to have a gas station and commercial parking on Conley Road, located in the unincorporated Forest Park. She noted that there have been a lot of complaints about the speed in that area. She noted that the residents did not want it to happen, but it did. She thanked everyone for being a part of the wonderful city.

Councilmember Antione – noted he appreciates everyone, and God bless them. He gave a shout-out to Ward 2 and noted that the Rental Assistant program is back, and there is a Home Improvement Program. He gave a shout-out to the Police Department and the new hires. He gave a shout-out to the Fire Department honorees. He noted he would contact the City Manager to address Mr. Evan's concerns and said he is available if anyone needs anything.

Councilmember Gutierrez – gave his condolences to Mr. Evans and thanked him for always speaking up. From what they are told, he noted, that is how they get better as a community. He also noted that he spoke with a community member with eight (8) grandchildren, who spoke about hardships and getting toys. He noted that Mr. Gallman helped with that and thanked him for always looking out for the people. He noted some officers came out to South Parkwood, where some young ones were hanging around, and he thanked Chief Criss for coming out. He congratulated his colleagues that was reelected. He extended his condolences to one of the employees that just lost his mother. He noted excitement about the Home Program and Councilmember James's work with the school cluster. He wished the new Mayor Pro-Tem a Happy Birthday. He noted he was here to help if anyone needed anything and welcomed the new City Attorney.

Councilmember Akins-Wells -wanted to extend her condolences to Mr. Evans and Mrs. C.J. Horns. She thanked God for continuing to allow her to serve the community where she grew up. She noted it has not been easy and has been a long 12 years. She had no plans of running again, but God had other plans. She had no opposition, so it was meant for her to be here. She thanked her family for participating in the journey, and the community for trusting her.

She thanked the Governing Body for appointing her. She noted that she always says, "I do not get caught up on titles, but each of them deserves the opportunity." She even thanked the no, and stated that if God is for you, who can be against you? Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked Rumors and noted that because of them, they could give back to three (3) families for Christmas. She noted that on January 24th, she will be hosting a job fair; so far, fifteen (15) companies have registered. She noted that she wants to help her community. She stated she loves everyone and is looking forward to another four (4) years.

Councilmember Mears – thanked everyone for coming and stated he is looking forward to the next four (4) years serving Forest Park. He noted many things to be done, but it is getting better every day. He noted that if everyone

pulls together, they will reach their goal at the end of the day. He recognized his friend Mr. Willie for being there. He thanked everyone for being there.

Mayor Butler – noted she loved them, and they kept her laughing.

Councilmember James- noted that they hear comments but do not address them. She noted that the Police Department and the Council Members are doing a fine job. She noted they are improving and growing, and sometimes you hear a lot of negative. She thanked the staff, police department, the council, and Mr. Clark and noted they were not kicking the can; they were stomping the can and getting things done.

Mayor Butler- noted she is great for every one of them, and 2024 is looking brighter than ever. She noted that Forest Park has progressed as a municipality because of them. She thanked the nonprofit organizations that participated in the toy giveaway. She extended her condolences to Mr. Evans for the loss of his son, and how the holidays have been riddled with death and illness. This has allowed her to appreciate those around her more. Mayor Butler thanked those who contacted her and noted that her father was out of the hospital. She thanked everyone for all they did. She asked everyone to keep Jimmy in their prayers because his mother passed. She commended Councilmember Akins-Wells for being the longest-serving official in Forest Park.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

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