



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, March 20, 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

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager
S. Diane White, City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:18pm and she read the Mission Statement.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Pastor Rickey Schoonmaker

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 - via telephone		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director; Pam Stevenson, Management Analyst; Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, Director of Human Resources; Diane Lewis, Deputy Director of Human

Resources; Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; and Captain Kayla Ghant, Police Department

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were two (2) speakers:

Ms. Undine Gore-Luncheon – Her mother lives on Albert Dr. in Forest Park. Her issue is about zoning and roads. She has been trying for the last year to get her neighbors to pull their garbage cans back from the street. She would like roads to put notices on people's doors, followed by issuing the \$25.00 fine, for not complying; but they are not doing that. Secondly, Code Enforcement came last week and got things moving, and she wanted to thank them. Lastly, she would like Forest Park to get to the point where they can handle the debris issue, instead of having to wait weeks at a time to get things taken care of.

Ms. Mary E. Baldwin – Lives on Elam Rd and stated the road is unsafe and would like someone to fix the issue. This is in Ward 3, and I would like to know if there is an update on it. Also, in Ward 1 on Forest Parkway and Hwy 85, there is this big dip caving in front of Lee Tire Company. The construction is horrible, I go through there every day, and no one is working, and the barrels are just sitting out there. Things have been the same way for the past 6 months and I would appreciate it if someone would give me an update.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Regular Council Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2023** - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2023

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2. **Council Discussion on Amending the Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance** – Planning & Community Development

It was moved to Amend the Ordinance on Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

3. Council Approval of Resolution to Extend the Moratorium of Accepting Applications for Certain Uses – Planning & Community Development

It was moved to approve the Resolution to Extend the Moratorium of Accepting Applications for Certain Uses for sixty (60) days.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

4. Council Approval of a Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program – Executive Office

It was moved to approve the Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine.

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

5. Clayton County Public Schools Projects Update – Executive Office

Mr. Ronick Joseph, Chief of Construction for Clayton County Schools – Gave a quick update of the ongoing and upcoming SPLOST. Tomorrow is the election, and I am asking the community to continue the one penny sales tax. The total collection will be \$350 million dollars. A few years ago, we opened the Michelle Obama Stem Elementary School, which was a 40-million-dollar project. Last year we opened the new Morrow High School, and it was \$85 million dollars. Demolition has begun at the old Forest Park Middle School, and next month we will present the award to the BOE to begin construction next month for 18 months.

We purchased the former Sears building at South Lake Mall, and we are partnering with Clayton County Government to construct an 8,000 seat Convocation Center. There will be a portion for Junior Achievement, a Boys and Girls Club and a charging center at the site. The bids will be next month, and we are looking at 24 months for construction. We are also, looking to convert old elementary schools into early learning centers. Like the new Michelle Obama School, we will construct other new stem schools throughout the county. Lastly, we will perform athletic improvements at all our existing high schools.

Comments/Discussion Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine – What is STEM, and will you all have security to protect the equipment?

Mr. Joseph – The number of students at the school. Yes, there will be security.

Councilmember Gutierrez – This SPLOST is an existing tax that will go to our schools, and I am a big advocate for this, because some of our schools need help. The oldest age of our school is about 60 years. This is something we need. The buildings that are getting modernization are not like a patch or covering holes, they look new.

Mr. Joseph – Forest Park Middle School is the oldest and it is being demolished. The average age is fifty plus years.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – Thanks for coming out. Thanks, Mr. Abrahams, for providing the URA update. Thanks, Chief Clemmons, and the fire department and all the new recruits. The comment that was made was about it being road, and it not being our responsibility. Do you know what she is talking about? I wanted to comment on Conley/Old Dixie Road, that she may be referring to. Most of the construction over there is underground, and we have had communications with our commissioners before. The GDOT are doing the work, with the expansion of the airport. There is a lot of work being done underground and it just looks like there is no work being done. This is by Conley and Old Dixie; I am not familiar with Hwy 85, that is not my area.

The Atlanta Food Bank, we had a successful walk on March 12th. The Forest Park team raised over \$1,300.00 and had a \$1,000.00 match, and we will be using that. One hundred percent of the funds go back to the community, and we will be advertising when we have our next food giveaway. I know that the interest rates are causing food prices to rise, and we have an opportunity to help those families in need in the community. I had to cancel the March community ward meeting, but we will have a meeting in April on the 3rd Thursday at 5p. Thanks again for coming out, let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Mayor Butler – I am not sure if she was trying to say public works.

City Manager – I will be contacting her Councilwoman James.

Councilmember Antoine – Thanks for coming out. I would like to give a big shoutout to the City Manager, Dr. Cooper. At the end of this month, it will be his second year at Forest Park, and I have seen a lot of city managers come through here. I ask that you be patient with him. Shoutout to the new recruits. Thanks to all the departments, you are the reason the city is running. This month is Women's Month, and I want to give a shoutout to all the ladies here, tonight.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Welcome to the new employees. Thanks to Ms. Hampton for coming out, and always advocating for her side of town. We will handle it and give you a reply. She also supports the clean-ups, so she is not just about her street. It is Women's Month, and on March 30th, I will be having another women's panel. Please come out and hear from different women of all ages and backgrounds.

March 23rd. we have our State of City for Forest Park, and I look forward to hearing from our mayor. April 4th we will team up with the Girl Scouts, to provide them with a space to promote their organization. On April 20th we will have a Spring Festival, Unidos School is co-hosting it with us, and it is open to the community. April 29th we will be co-hosting a wellness fair with a few organizations, and our School Board Representative, Ms. Sabrina Hill. On April 14th we have our Senior Prom, and the Seniors in Actions will help celebrate this. On April 15th we will host the first ever Selena Day, and this idea came from a student. Thank you, Mr. Rashmir, for your support with this event and all you do to support our community.

April 19th is Earth Day, we will have another Clean-Up Day. On April 1st I will have one here in Forest Park with the Boy Scouts and ROTC. We will be going to Ms. Baldwin's side of town, taking care of Elam Church Road and the school there at 10am.

Councilmember Wells – Thanks to everyone for coming out and a huge thank you to Chief Clemmons, for always doing an amazing job with the Fire Department. Thanks to all the departments and employees for doing what is needed to make sure that our city is great.

Councilmember Mears – Thanks to everybody for being here. To the gentlemen with the SPLOST, thanks for the presentation.

Mayor Butler – For the past 5 years I have partnered with the Motherless Daughter Foundation, and this is the 2nd year that we are doing a Youth and Aviation Program. There are still scholarship opportunities available, and if you know of anyone of high school age interested in a career in aviation, encourage them to sign up. It was such a phenomenal success last year. Thursday is the State of the City Address, and I would love for you all to be present.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Council Regular Session at 7:53pm

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

APPROVED