



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, January 17, 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 meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Butler and she read the Mission Statement.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Bishop Fortson.

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		✓

Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development, Shalonda Brown, Director of Human Resources, Fire Chief Latosha Clemons, Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager, Josh Cox, IT Director, and Nigel Whatley, Deputy Director PW

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were no Public Comments.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Council agenda with the adding of an Item #7- Council to consider the expansion of the Downtown Development Authority.

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 January 3, 2023 -**
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session/Regular Meeting Minutes from January 3,2023.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember James

OLD BUSINESS:

2. **Council Approval on the Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem -** City Clerk

It was moved to Appoint Councilmember Kimberly James as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2023.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

3. **Council Approval to Amend Human Resources Department's Budget to Add a New Position -**
Human Resources

It was moved by Councilmember James to table to Amend the Human Resources Department's Budget to Add a New Position.

Motion failed for a lack of a second.

It was moved to approve Amending the Human Resources Department's Budget to Add a New Position.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Voting Nay: Councilmember James, Councilmember Akins-Wells

4. Council Approval of Resolution 23-03 for Budget Line-Item Transfer - Planning & Community Development

It was moved to approve Resolution 23-03 for Budget Line-Item Transfer for Planning & Community Development.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

5. Council Approval of Resolution to Purchase GovClarity Software – Planning & Community Development

It was moved to Approve Resolution 23-04 to Purchase GovClarity Software.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

6. Council Approval of Allocating Funds to the Police Department for Surveillance Cameras and Installation – Police Department

It was moved to Approve to Allocate Funds to the Police Department for Surveillance Cameras and Installation.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – I just want to make sure we continue to look at the ARPA funds and the priorities that we set. I would like to keep those in mind.

7. Council Approval of the expansion of the Downtown Development Authority Jurisdiction.

It was moved to Approve the expansion of the Downtown Development Authority

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – Thank you all for coming. I will have my ward meeting this Thursday at 696 Main Street at 5:00p. We will be going to the budget retreat Friday if you all want to travel out there, you are welcome to join us,

it is a public meeting. Next week on Wednesday we will have a new principal at Forest Park High School. Dr. Dancy is the interim principal, and we have a New Superintendent that has some new interim superintendents.

Mr. Manning was the former principal of Forest Park High School, is one of the Deputy Superintendents. Next week Wednesday at 9:00am, we will be sponsored by Chick-fil-A and the Forest Park PTSA will have breakfast at a meeting with the principal. We will also have a meet and greet on that same evening, and we are looking for sponsors. If you want to sponsor a bite to eat for that day, let me know.

Mark your calendar for June we will be having a major give away of goods from Goods 360 and Helping Hands Ending Hunger. Hopefully, we will be producing a flyer in the month of February to get this information out. You will have to reserve your space to go and shop. Everything is free and brand-new items. There is another date in May for the Senior Caravan, and we will have a community fun day, on the same day at the Kiwanis Stadium. We are going to bring together the entire community to celebrate our graduating seniors and to have a good time on the field. Rock Church of Atlanta will be a part of that and anyone that wants to participate can reach out to me.

Councilmember Antoine – Welcome to the soldier/ police officer that was here. Shoutout to Chief Clemons for doing much more work in the city. To Spalding County and the other cities, my heart goes out to the people that were affected by the tornado. It is very important to have a plan for when a storm is coming.

Not sure if everyone knows but President Biden has a program where he is allowing 30,000 from each country to come in with temporary Visas to work. If you know someone that is Cuban, Haitian or Nicaraguan that is a program that the state is hosting.

Shoutout to City Edge. A lot of my residents called into that program and for those of you that do not know the city has a rental assistant program, that helps people that need help with rent. Mr. Geeter, shoutout to your department, I want to acknowledge you for all that you do.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Two shoutouts for Mr. Geeter today. Thanks for coming and thanks for our viewers online. This Friday we have our bingo night at the senior center. If you want to donate prizes for this, you are welcome as well. We have our council retreat where we will be discussing finances and other things in our city. I am excited about this; I get to see my colleagues and I am looking forward to this and talking about our city's future and to make sure we are all on the same page.

I started school at University of West Georgia where I am taking the Leadership certification course. I graduated from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and I am excited to bring those resources to our community. I will be meeting up with Mr. Abrahams to see if we can start up some type of Business Owners Association to focus on the business that we have here, to make sure they have what they need and not just focus on bringing in new ones. It is important for new businesses to come, but we have to take care of the ones we have. If you need anything let me know and thanks for listening in.

Councilmember Mears – I need to get understanding from Mr. Cooper about our dog catchers. The lady we have had for a long time has retired. Do you know right off how many trucks we have?

City Manager – We have two.

Councilmember Mears – Lately, in my ward there have been several dogs getting loose and chasing people up and down the street. You cannot walk and jog in the after, because of this. It has been reported to the police department and I just wanted to follow up on their behalf so I can go back and report to them that we are diligently doing something about these mutts that are chasing them up the street.

City Manager – We are looking into this.

Councilmember Mears – That is what I will tell them, thank you. I am glad everyone is here, be careful going home and we will see you next time.

Councilmember Antoine – Ward 2 we will be having a townhall meeting. We are putting this together, it will be with Councilmember Antoine, I ask that you come in peace. Make sure you come, and you can give me ideas so that we can make your ward the best ward.

Mayor Butler – I would like to thank everyone for attending. I did participate in the MLK parade yesterday and it was epic. There were lots of municipalities; representation from all seven municipalities, businesses and nonprofits were a part of it. At the conclusion of the parade, we gave a tremendous welcome to our new Superintendent, Dr. Smith. He will come in the near future to do a new presentation on the new school board, and to talk about the upcoming SPLOST. I think in March we are going to be voting on that. We cannot tell you how to vote but we will tell you the impact the SPLOST project will have on the City of Forest Park.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I would like to shoutout Captain Ghant. There is a constituent that was having an issue and she gave world class customer service. Thank you so much.

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

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:19pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears