



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING

Monday, April 07, 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 Delores A. Gunn
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells
The Honorable Allan Mears

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

AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

To watch the meeting via YouTube - <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>

The Council Meetings will be livestreamed and available on the City's

YouTube page - "*City of Forest Park GA*"

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Dr. Leon Beeler, Apostle-Gateway Restoration Church

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2025 - City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

CEREMONIAL:

2. Official Swearing-In of Councilmember Delores A. Gunn for Ward 2- Legislative Offices**Background/History:**

The Official Swearing-In for Ward 2 Council Elect Delores A. Gunn will be administered by the Honorable Judge Robert Mack of the Clayton County Superior Court.

3. Recognition of Ward 4 Yard of the Quarter- Councilmember Akins-Wells**Background/History:**

The Yard of the Quarter program celebrates community pride by recognizing Forest Park Ward 4 residents who go above and beyond in maintaining their homes and yards. Their efforts contribute to the beauty and spirit of our neighborhood.

This quarter, we're proud to present the award to the residents of 645 Glenn Drive for their outstanding dedication to keeping their property looking its best. Congratulations and thank you for helping make our community shine!

PRESENTATIONS:**4. Presentation by Alan Owens-Waste Management Public Sector Manager- Executive Offices****Background/History:**

Waste Management representative Alan Owens will showcase and explain the new WM ASL trucks that will be servicing Forest Park residents. They will also discuss the required distance for placing carts away from mailboxes, marking a significant change in service automation.

Additionally, the Mayor and City Council will receive a \$5,000 check for Recycling Education, followed by a photo opportunity.

5. Forest Park Fire & EMS – 2024 Annual Report (Slideshow & handouts) – Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

The Forest Park Fire & EMS will present its 2024 Annual report:

- Strategic Goals
- Finance
- Operations
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Professional Standards
- Community Risk Reduction
- Emergency Management
- Highlights and Accomplishments
- Employee Recognition and Awards

A Slideshow will be shown as well as handouts for the Mayor and Council. Presenter: Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

6. Procurement Division Update Presentation**Background/History:**

Mrs. Adams will present a procurement presentation update to Mayor and Council.

7. Recognizing our Telecommunication Operators for Telecommunicators Week- Police Department

Background and History:

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is celebrated annually during the second week of April (April 13, 2025 - April 19, 2025), to honor public safety telecommunicators for their crucial role in public safety.

NPSTW is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel across the nation but more specifically in the City of Forest Park who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telecommunicators are the "first, first responders," often serving as the crucial link between the public and emergency services, handling thousands of 911 calls annually.

CONSENT AGENDA:**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 8. Council Approval to Approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding to continue sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property- Planning and Community Development Department**
- 9. Council Approval to End Service with Shotspotter- Police Department**
- 10. Council Approval to Decommission K-9 Krypto and to accept the Donation of another Bloodhound-Police Department**

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)

ADJOURNMENT:

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.

File Attachments for Item:

1. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2025 -
City Clerk



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

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DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Pro Tem James called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large Arrived at 6:06 p.m.		X
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		X
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		X
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4- Via Zoom		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; John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Nicole Dozier, PDC Director; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Municipal Court Director; Tarik Maxwell, Rec and Leisure 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:

It was moved to amend the consent agenda to remove Item 1-Council Discussion and Approval to purchase 6 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units, and Item 2-Council Discussion and Approval to purchase a Record Management Software System.

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

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to amend the agenda to remove Item 5-Council Discussion and Approval for the Sale of Firearms from the Police Department's Evidence Room and Item 7-Council Discussion to approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding for the continuation of sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Council Discussion and Approval to purchase 6 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units - Procurement/Fire & EMS Department** **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

Background/History:

Fire & EMS requests purchasing six (6) new SCBA air packs/units. One unit consists of SCBA, spare cylinder, mask, and protective bag for the mask. The NFPA 1981 (National Fire Protection Association) and NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) require that all SCBA cylinders be hydrostatically tested every 5 years throughout the service life of 15 years. We currently have a total of 59 SCBA cylinders. These SCBAs were manufactured in 2011 and have reached the end of life. This purchase is to replace the outdated SCBAs and keep inventory fully stocked. Requesting to purchase the SCBAs from the Sourcewell cooperative contract #011824 with Municipal Emergency Services for \$64,552.92 from 100-61-3520-53-1136.

2. **Council Discussion and Approval to purchase a Record Management Software System - Procurement/Fire & EMS Department** **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

Background/History:

Fire & EMS is requesting a records management software system that will allow it to maintain and track equipment inventory accurately. The system will also allow it to fulfill other multifaceted responsibilities, including fire/medical incident reporting and data analysis. Additionally, the software will interface with 911 Dispatch through the existing Central Square software system. There are annual fees associated with the interfacing systems, which will consist of annual renewals for three years.

Fire & EMS is requesting to piggyback on the cooperative agreement with Hillsborough County, Florida, and EPR Systems. The total cost over three (3) years is \$106,746. Startup and Year 1 costs are \$24,030 EPR Systems and \$17,656 Central Square—a total of \$41,686. Each Annual Recurring Cost is \$20,530 for EPR Systems and \$12,000 for Central Square—an annual total of \$32,530.

3. **Council Discussion and Approval of a Fee Proposal to provide ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) cost estimate for Starr Park-Executive Offices** **THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM**

Background/History:

Croft Architects has completed the Starr Park Renovations' contract documents and technical specifications. In a prior bid, the city received only one bid that exceeded the project budget. Staff determined that it would be in the City's best interest to revise the drawings and obtain the assistance of

a cost-estimating firm to prepare a cost estimate for each of the buildings/structures and the three separate sites of the project before rebidding.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Council Discussion and Approval to Launch 1-800-BOARDUP- Fire & EMS Department

Background/History:

1-800-BOARDUP is a team of trained emergency responders standing by to help fire victims handle all the effects left behind after a fire. The 24/7 response team will immediately begin protecting the victim's property from further damage and containing the damage already in place. This team is ready to board up the victim's property and provide restoration services every step of the way.

The training and experience help quickly inspect and contain the property by securing structural integrity, protecting it, and beginning the restoration process. The team will remove harmful carcinogens and leftover smoke odors using specialized and expert equipment.

Some of the services include Board-up and roof cover, structural stabilization, temporary fencing, complete building enclosure, plumbing winterization, temporary power and generators, emergency cleaning and deodorization, emergency heat and AC, emergency temporary repairs, tree removal, emergency demolition, heavy equipment, and crime scene/biohazard cleanup.

The Fire Chief will give more details and answer any questions.

Fire Chief Clemons- noted that this organization has trained emergency responders who help residents and businesses when their buildings are badly damaged, such as after a fire. She also said they provide services like boarding up structures and restoring properties to keep them safe.

Fire Chief Clemons stated that in the past two weeks, we had two fires—one on Lake Drive South and another on Kendrick—where 1-800-BoardUp stepped in to secure the properties and prevent further damage. She concluded that this service does not cost the city anything; they work directly with insurance companies and property owners to cover the costs.

5. Council Discussion and Approval for the Sale of Firearms from the Police Department's Evidence Room- Police Department **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park Police Department has completed a comprehensive audit of its evidence room. Initially, nearly 33,000 items, including some dating back to 1984, were in storage. By returning items to citizens and destroying those eligible for destruction, the inventory has now been reduced to 10,500 pieces.

The police department currently holds approximately 750 firearms, which are ready for sale/auction on PropertyRoom.com. These guns, now owned by the City of Forest Park as a result of court orders, will generate proceeds that will be deposited into either the Local Forfeiture Account or the General Fund.

6. Council Discussion and Approval on the Re-Appointment (s) of the Urban Design Review Board Members- Planning and Community Development Department

Background/History:

Staff is seeking approval for re-appointments for five (5) Urban Design Review Board Members: Rodney Givens, Ron Dodson, Yahya Hassan, Yoni Cortez, and Karyl Clayton. Terms are three (3) years and will end March 7, 2028.

Director Nicole Dozier- noted that the current members are requesting re-appointments.

7. **Council Discussion to approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding for the continuation of sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property-** Planning and Community Development Department **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park's Planning & Community Development Department, along with the Public Works Department, recently held a predevelopment meeting with representatives from Clayton County to review the specifications and scope of the proposed pocket park/skate park project. Clayton County plans to develop a pocket/skate park at 851 Alpine Way, which will feature an open multipurpose area, restroom and maintenance facilities, a gathering and picnic pavilion, a tot lot (small playground), a parking lot, a 10-inch-wide pedestrian trail, a fenced-in skate park, and a parking pad designed for two community mobile medical units.

As part of the project, City staff have requested that Clayton County install sidewalks along the park's frontage to enhance accessibility and connectivity. Additionally, staff are seeking authorization from the Mayor and Council to allocate City funding for infrastructure improvements, including extending existing sidewalks from the daycare center at the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property.

Should the Mayor and Council approve the request for the pocket/skate park and funding for sidewalk improvements, Clayton County will proceed with the park development, while City staff will begin installing sidewalks to improve accessibility. This will help promote active transportation, ensure safe pathways, and contribute to residents' overall quality of life. By providing convenient and accessible routes, the City encourages healthier lifestyles, fosters community engagement, and ensures that all residents, regardless of mobility, can fully enjoy the park and its benefits.

8. **Council Discussion and Approval on a Partnership with Georgia Haitian American Chamber of Commerce and The Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta –** Recreation and Leisure Services Department

Background/History:

Haitian Flag Day, celebrated annually worldwide on May 18th, is a momentous occasion that honors Haiti's history, culture, and contributions to the world. Haiti, in 1804, became the first republic in the world where all its citizens and residents enjoyed true freedom, regardless of ethnicity. The Georgia Haitian American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (GAHCCI) and the Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta are organizing the 2025 Haitian Flag Day Celebration to bring together the Haitian American community, residents, businesses, and civic leaders for a day of cultural pride, networking, and community engagement.

We propose to partner with the City of Forest Park, GA, to host this event at the Forest Park Amphitheater, creating a welcoming space where attendees can celebrate Haitian heritage while also promoting economic and community development.

Ron Cetoute, President, and Jacques Laurent, VP of GA Haitian American Chamber of Commerce- presented a presentation to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Cetoute noted that they are organizing the 2025 Haitian Flag Day Fest, an annual event typically held in partnership with the Consulate General of Haiti. Mr. Cetoute noted that in recent years, they have collaborated with the City of Atlanta, hosting it in the atrium, but due to its growth, they've moved it outdoors. Mr. Cetoute expressed that given their past success hosting a similar event in Forest Park, they are excited to bring it back in partnership with the city. This year, they focus on driving economic, community, and cultural development.

Mr. Cetoute- also noted that the GA Haitian American Chamber of Commerce's mission is to equip members with the skills, resources, and connections needed to build a strong foundation for starting, running, and growing their businesses successfully. As a result, both member businesses and communities in Haiti thrive. Mr. Cetoute stated that the chamber's vision is for entrepreneurs in Haiti and the diaspora to achieve financial success within a healthy ecosystem, ultimately contributing to Haiti's development as a nation within our lifetime. Mr. Cetoute noted that the chamber offers several programs, including The Foundation, which supports charitable initiatives such as student scholarships; The BELL Initiative Program focuses on entrepreneurship education and fostering trade between the U.S. and Haiti; The Pinnacle Project, aimed at strengthening nonprofits; The Leadership Academy and Monthly Business Coaching, providing essential guidance and skill development; The Georgia Haitian Real Estate Association, dedicated to promoting homeownership and wealth-building within the community, benefiting professionals in real estate, including realtors, loan officers, and service providers in the industry; Commerce Works, a monthly networking event. Additionally, the chamber hosts various events throughout the year.

Mr. Laurent- mentioned that the Haitian Chamber annually hosts a series of signature events that celebrate and support the Haitian business community. One of these events takes place every March in honor of Women's Month, recognizing outstanding Haitian businesswomen and awarding one as Businesswoman of the Year. Mr. Laurent noted that following this, the chamber will organize the annual Haitian Flag Day celebration in May, which will be hosted in collaboration with the City of Forest Park.

Mr. Laurent- noted that this event fosters cultural exchange and inclusivity, welcoming the Haitian community and all communities to engage and celebrate. Mr. Laurent noted that the chamber's most distinguished event is "Lakay," meaning "legacy" in Creole. This prestigious gathering honors entrepreneurs who have overcome significant challenges to build thriving businesses and leave a lasting legacy for their families and communities. A key highlight of this event is awarding scholarships to young students of Haitian descent. Mr. Laurent mentioned that the final signature event of the year is the Year-End Holiday Celebration, where members and partners reflect on the year's accomplishments and enjoy a festive gathering.

Mr. Laurent- stated that the key partnerships The Haitian Chamber collaborates with several influential partners, including: The Consulate General of Haiti in Atlanta – A long-standing partner supporting various cultural and business initiatives; The City of Atlanta – Mayor's Office of International and Immigrant Affairs – Supporting Haitian Flag Day and other community events; American Family Insurance – A key sponsor with board representation; The Atlanta Black Chambers – Recently co-hosted a multi-chamber networking event at Rock Steady ATL; The French American Chamber of Commerce, Haitian Chamber of Commerce of Orlando, Gwinnett Chamber, and Greater East Side Chamber of Commerce – Collaborative partners in fostering business growth; Clark Atlanta University School of Business – Actively involved in entrepreneurship education, with the Associate Director serving as the Chamber's president; The Haitian Times – A media partner with over 40,000 subscribers; The Gwinnett Office of Economic Development – Supporting economic initiatives.

Mr. Laurent- explained that Haitian Flag Day, second only to Haiti's Independence Day (January 1), is a deeply significant celebration within the Haitian community. It commemorates the historic events of May 18, 1803, when Haitian revolutionary leaders sought to establish their identity. During a pivotal meeting in the town of Arcahaie, Jean-Jacques Dessalines famously took a sword, removed the white portion from the French flag, and entrusted Catherine Flon to sew the remaining blue and red sections together—symbolizing the unity between formerly enslaved Africans and free people of color. This moment marked a turning point in Haiti's fight for freedom, culminating in the country's independence on January 1, 1804.

Mr. Laurent- noted that the chamber has previously hosted similar events in Forest Park, making this return a natural continuation of an ongoing partnership. Mr. Laurent mentioned that the area has long been home to a significant Haitian community, with institutions like Bethesda Haitian Adventist Church playing a central role. Over the years, the chamber has hosted various events in the city, including a Flag Day program and a relief initiative for Haiti held at the amphitheater. Additionally, discussions and community meetings addressing Haitian issues, such as the "Cozy Conversations for Haiti Relief," have taken place in local venues.

Mr. Laurent—noted that for the 222nd anniversary of the Haitian flag, the chamber proposes a partnership with the City of Forest Park to host an event featuring live music, dance performances, spoken word presentations, inspirational guest speakers, networking opportunities, a business expo, and authentic Haitian cuisine—offering attendees a taste of Haiti's rich culture and heritage.

Mr. Cetoute- noted that hosting the Haitian Flag Day Fest presents several key benefits for the City of Forest Park. This event typically attracts 300+ attendees, offering increased visibility and exposure for the city. As a bi-national chamber, the Haitian Chamber fosters international business opportunities, opening doors for trade, entrepreneurship, and investment in the local economy. Mr. Cetoute also mentioned that this event provides economic benefits, as Haitian immigrants are Georgia's second-largest Caribbean immigrant group, contributing significantly to various communities. Mr. Cetoute noted that Haitian American businesses have played a vital role in boosting local economies across counties such as Cobb, DeKalb, Henry, and Clayton, with Forest Park well-positioned to benefit from similar growth. Increased foot traffic from this event could positively impact local businesses, attract new residents, and encourage long-term economic development.

Mr. Cetoute- stated that beyond economic benefits, the event strengthens community and cultural engagement by reinforcing Forest Park's commitment to diversity and inclusivity. He believes this collaboration enhances the city's image as a welcoming and culturally vibrant destination. Additionally, it encourages greater civic engagement among diverse communities, fostering stronger relationships between residents and city leadership.

Mr. Cetoute- included that the Haitian Chamber is committed to sustained collaboration rather than one-time partnerships. Beyond hosting Flag Day, the chamber envisions exploring future initiatives that could benefit the city, local businesses, and the Haitian American community. While no immediate decisions are required, these opportunities are seeds for future collaboration beyond an event.

Mr. Cetoute- noted that the chamber operates with a dedicated team of professionals from diverse backgrounds, including executives from major corporations and successful entrepreneurs. The chamber is expanding its leadership, bringing on five new board members and additional advisory board members, further strengthening its capacity to support business growth and community engagement.

Mr. Clark Jr.- noted he was unaware of a charge for this event. Mr. Cetoute explained that the tickets to be purchased are for vendors and not the community.

Mr. Cetoute- concluded that this event represents an opportunity for Forest Park to engage with its growing Haitian American community and solidify its role as a hub for cultural exchange, economic development, and civic participation. The chamber looks forward to working with Forest Park, the Georgia Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, and the Consulate General of Haiti to make this partnership a success.

Mr. Clark Jr.- inquired with Director Maxwell whether this arrangement is structured as a partnership or simply a fee waiver for the use of the park. Mr. Clark Jr. stated that if a partnership involves any financial transactions, it is important to ensure transparency and confirm that no gratuity concerns arise. Mr. Clark Jr. noted that a clear understanding of the financial structure will help define expectations and responsibilities on both sides. He also inquired about the intended benefit to the city. Mr. Clark Jr. also stated that While various benefits were mentioned about past collaborations with the City of Atlanta, as well as scholarship opportunities and other programs, it is essential to clarify what direct benefits this partnership will bring to the residents of Forest Park. This includes assessing how the event will significantly contribute to the community beyond its general cultural and economic impact.

Mr. Clark Jr.- mentioned that if the governing body agrees to a fee waiver for the amphitheater, it is important to outline the city's additional obligations in this partnership. Beyond approval of the fee waiver, what level of city involvement or resources (if any) would be required? He also noted that this event was held two years ago as a council-led initiative sponsored by a council member. Understanding how this proposal differs in structure and commitment will clarify the city's role moving forward.

Director Maxell- noted that this event would be structured as a partnership involving discussions on key logistical and financial aspects. As part of this process, a determination would need to be made regarding vendor fees, including how they contribute to covering costs such as police services and venue expenses. Director Maxwell noted that if the decision is made to waive all associated fees, the vendor fees will be directed to the department, following standard procedures.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James- expressed appreciation for the event organizers considering Forest Park as the host location. She emphasized the importance of embracing diversity, particularly in a city with such a diverse community. Acknowledging the presence of Haitian American business owners and the businesses that serve the city, he highlighted the value of fostering strong relationships that contribute to economic and cultural growth. Councilmember James assured that while logistical details will need to be worked out, the city is open to collaboration.

Councilmember Gutierrez- expressed enthusiasm and strong support for the event, recognizing its cultural and historical significance for the Haitian community and the broader Forest Park population. He emphasized that Forest Park's diversity is one of its greatest strengths. Councilmember Gutierrez highlighted the importance of creating spaces for celebrating different cultures, ensuring that all residents feel represented and included in city-sponsored activities. He reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the Haitian community and fostering cultural exchange. Additionally, Councilmember Gutierrez encouraged educational initiatives that could help residents learn more about Haiti's contributions to world history and its cultural impact. He also expressed interest in collaborating with the Haitian Chamber on future opportunities beyond the event, ensuring this partnership could lead to lasting engagement within the city. In closing, he expressed excitement about the event and encouraged the organizers to contact him directly for any assistance he could provide to make it a success.

Councilmember Mears- expressed support for the event and emphasized the importance of expanding Forest Park's international engagement. He recognized the value of fostering global connections and

cultural exchanges within the community. He also stressed the need to address logistical and security measures properly. Councilmember Mears suggested working closely with the City Manager to ensure that all loose ends—such as security, park protection, and overall event safety—are properly managed. By doing so, the city can ensure a smooth and successful event while maintaining the integrity of the venue.

Mr. Clark Jr.- emphasized that the current discussion is simply a request for the governing body to approve a partnership between the city and the Haitian organization. He clarified that the specific details of the partnership have not yet been finalized and that this approval does not automatically include a fee waiver or vendor fee exemptions unless explicitly agreed upon as part of the final partnership terms. Mr. Clark Jr. reinforced the importance of properly addressing all logistical and financial aspects before making any commitments. He stressed that security, park protection, and any obligations on the city's part must be clearly outlined to avoid any misunderstandings. To move forward, he recommended that during the regular session, the governing body should state within the motion that this approval only allows city staff to work with the Haitian organization and legal counsel to define the specific terms of the partnership.

Mr. Clark Jr. also assured that he would work to ensure that presentations are provided in advance to the governing body, allowing for more informed discussions and decisions. He expressed support for the event and its potential benefits for the Forest Park community while emphasizing the need for proper coordination and clarity in the partnership agreement.

Councilmember James- inquired about the firearms item being removed from the agenda. Mr. Clark Jr. addressed the urgency of the matter, noting that the contract is set to expire in two days. He emphasized that when this item is brought back for further discussion, the city welcomes the opportunity to meet with governing body members in advance to address any outstanding questions. Mr. Clark Jr. acknowledged that multiple council members have raised concerns and assured that those questions would be fully addressed before making final decisions. Mr. Clark Jr. stated that the first step is for the governing body to agree on how they wish to proceed based on the proposal presented. Once there is agreement, the governing body can decide whether to declare the excess firearms as surplus and determine the appropriate disposal method in accordance with city policies. Mr. Clark Jr. reiterated the importance of ensuring clarity and alignment before the contract expires. He encouraged council members to engage in discussions before the next meeting to facilitate an informed decision-making process.

Attorney Matricardi- clarified that the proposal essentially involves declaring the excess firearms as surplus and then entering into an agreement with an outside entity to conduct a public auction for their sale. She emphasized that the firearms must be auctioned off and cannot be sold directly by the city. Attorney Matricardi reiterated that once the governing body agrees to declare the items as surplus, the next step would be to formalize an agreement with a qualified auction service to handle the process in compliance with legal requirements.

Councilmember James- inquired if the firearms could be destroyed. Attorney Matricardi noted that, generally, because the sale of surplus firearms can generate revenue for the city, municipalities typically opt not to destroy them. Instead, they pursue auctioning as the preferred method of disposal. However, she emphasized that the final decision rests with the governing body, and if the council determines that destruction is the appropriate course of action, that option remains available.

Mr. Clark Jr.- mentioned that agencies have traded in weapons as part of a purchase agreement to acquire new equipment in some cases. However, he acknowledged that the age and condition of the firearms in question could determine whether this option is viable. Given that some of these weapons

may date back 20 years or more, he suggested that the governing body consider all possible options, including auctioning, trade-in, or disposal, based on the feasibility and potential benefits to the city.

Mr. Clark Jr.- suggested that if Mayor Butler and the governing body wish to discuss their preferred course of action collectively, they could engage in that conversation to determine a unified approach. He proposed that city staff prepare the necessary documentation based on the governing body's collective decision and bring it back for formal review, along with the contract for disposal of the items. He also indicated that he is open to meeting individually with council members after the session to address any concerns or questions before finalizing the next steps.

Chief Criss- provided an update on the recent audit of the evidence room, revealing that the department had approximately 33,000 items in storage, some dating back to 1984. During the clean-up process, it was discovered that there were nearly 800 firearms that now require guidance from the governing body regarding their disposal. Chief Criss outlined the available options for declaring these firearms as surplus and determining their proper disposal: Destruction of the firearms – This would permanently remove them from circulation; Selling them through a contracted auction service – The department has identified GovDeals and PropertyRoom.com as potential platforms for this. Chief Criss noted that these companies would conduct an auction, allowing eligible buyers from across the United States to place bids, provided they pass all required background checks and legal requirements. Additionally, Chief Criss noted that any firearm with an altered or fictitious serial number must be destroyed per legal requirements. Regarding fund allocation, he explained that if the firearms sold were abandoned (such as weapons turned in and never reclaimed), the revenue from the sale would go into the city's General Fund. However, if the firearms were seized as part of a forfeiture case, the proceeds would be required to go into the city's Forfeiture Fund. Chief Criss concluded that the department is now seeking guidance from the governing body on disposing of these surplus firearms.

Mayor Butler- noted the firearms item was originally taken off the agenda due to the contract expiring in two days. Attorney Matricardi clarified that the proposed contract for the sale and auction of the firearms would piggyback off an existing contract listed on Sourcewell, which was originally established with another agency. However, the impending expiration of that contract in two days cannot be used as a basis to move forward with the disposal process.

Mayor Butler- noted that if the council wants to destroy the firearms, there is no need to wait for the contract to expire. Attorney Matricardi noted that this is correct; no contract is needed.

Councilmember Gutierrez- inquired about who would destroy the firearms. Chief Criss noted looking at a company to melt them down or trade the weapons at a local pawn shop.

Councilmember Mears- shared his perspective as a gun collector and a weapon permit holder for 50 years, expressing concern over destroying good-quality firearms when there could be an opportunity for legal resale. He emphasized that, without placing any pressure on the city, he believes that if firearms are in good condition, a reasonable effort should be made to sell them to qualified individuals through a legal and transparent process. Councilmember Mears noted that destruction would be the best action if most firearms were in poor condition, altered, or unsafe. However, for reputable and still functional firearms, he suggested the city explore ways to ensure they can be sold legally to responsible and qualified buyers rather than automatically opting for disposal. Councilmember Mears expressed personal interest in having the opportunity to legally purchase quality firearms if the city decides to move forward with an auction process. Chief Criss reassured the governing body that if the city proceeds with an auction process, the contracted company would thoroughly vet all buyers to ensure that only those legally eligible to purchase firearms would be allowed to do so. He emphasized that all necessary background checks and legal requirements would be strictly followed, ensuring that firearms are sold only to qualified individuals in compliance with state and federal laws. This process would provide an

additional layer of safety and accountability, preventing firearms from falling into the wrong hands while allowing responsible buyers to participate in the auction.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- expressed strong opposition to the idea of auctioning off the surplus firearms, emphasizing concerns about a government agency putting guns back onto the streets. She stated that, regardless of whether the firearms are considered collectible items, she does not support the city financially benefiting from selling them. Referencing Councilmember James's previous question, Akins-Wells agreed with the ethical concerns surrounding the sale of firearms. She firmly stated that she is not in favor of reselling the weapons and believes the city should pursue an alternative method of disposal that does not contribute to the circulation of guns.

Mr. Clark Jr.- inquired whether the city could explore trading the surplus firearms directly with a licensed gun dealer rather than a pawn shop, which might resell them to the general public. He referenced previous exchanges where government agencies have traded surplus firearms to a company that supplies weapons to law enforcement in exchange for credit for purchasing new guns, ammunition, or other equipment. Mr. Clark Jr. asked Chief Criss whether this trade-in option would be a viable alternative to outright sale or destruction, allowing the city to recoup value for necessary police resources while ensuring the firearms do not end up in unregulated circulation.

Mayor Butler- acknowledged the discussion and emphasized the need for the governing body to carefully consider the end result of any decision regarding the surplus firearms. She pointed out that even if the city trades the firearms to a licensed dealer or government-approved supplier, those weapons could still end up back on the market and potentially be resold to the public or other entities.

Mr. Clark Jr.- inquired whether firearms dealers that supply police weapons—specifically those the city might trade with—resell the surplus firearms to the general public or if they only sell to law enforcement agencies. Chief Criss noted they sell to the general public.

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 6:42 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

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

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

It was moved to reconvene the work session at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Bulter adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING

Monday, March 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 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Elder Cook.

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; John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Nicole Dozier, PDC Director; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Municipal Court Director; Tarik Maxwell, Rec and Leisure 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:

It was motioned to remove items # 3 and # 4 from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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 removal of item #9.

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 March 3, 2025- City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from March 3, 2025, with the recommending changes to spelling on pages 16 and 18.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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. Mr. Ibenez was not allowed to speak as his residency is in question.

Laverne Mitchell thanked Mr. Walker for always showing up on time and all the employees who did not get recognized enough. She noted Waste Management has been doing a great job.

LaWanda Falomi thanked Ward 3 and the City Manager for assisting with their banquet. She also thanked Director Matthews, Judge Freeman, and Dorthy Roper-Jackson for their help and the work they do. She thanked Councilmember Gutierrez and Councilmember Akins-Wells for always stepping up to assist with the Leisure Recreation Department. She noted that it is volleyball season, and she will provide the schedule soon.

Duane Thomas wanted to thank those who have shown support for the Chain Center Mentor Group for the 100 young men across Clayton, Gwinnett, and Cobb County. He noted on March 2 they had their grand opening. He said it was joyous and thanked everyone who attended. He noted he was disappointed because when he applied for the business license, he was told the city would reach out to assist with the planning, as they do other businesses in the city. He stated his business received no recognition, and as a city employee and business owner, it was disheartening.

Mayor Butler noted that another person signed up, but he listed an address in another city and spoke at the council meeting while she was in attendance. She explained when residents could speak and when visitors could speak along with the process. Their residency is being challenged, so they were advised to talk with the city attorney on how to move forward. She expressed that no one is being denied an opportunity to speak, but they have to follow the process.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Clark noted there are representatives present to speak about ESPLOST, and he wants them to share updates.

Monica Colbert stated she has been an advocate for the county for seven years and a resident. She stated ESPLOST stands for Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. She stated it does not affect home taxes nor House Bill 581. She said it is funded by tourism and airport visitors. She said this penny sales tax has done so much for the schools in Clayton County and Forest Park. She stated they are asking people to vote yes to help get it passed.

City Manager Clark gave a brief update on the legislative office events, which included the Journey Play, Teachers' Celebration, Seniors Bingo, Teen in Action Vision Board, Wellness with Wells, and the Community Closet Grand Opening. He stated the city held its first graduation with the first Administrative Cohort Class in partnership with Clayton State University. He said Deputy City Clerk Michelle Hood was chosen to speak on behalf of the Cohort Class and gave a remarkable presentation, along with Mr. Roscoe, who was cleaner than a pastor on Sunday. He said with the home program 17 contracts have been issued out. He noted they are 98 percent complete within the participating phase 1 and have processed 100 percent of 276 applications for phase 2. He gave an update on all the departments in the city. He noted the implementation of the AP Automation system in finance has allowed the city to process and streamline payments efficiently. He stated Alley, the new K-9, is going through training and will soon meet her new family. He noted the Biggest Loser Challenge is underway. Mr. Clark noted he is happy about the partnership that includes Jonesboro Mock Trail that Director Roper Jackson has come up with. He noted in February, 66 business licenses were issued, and 31 PD permits were issued. He stated the new website has been approved, and they are looking to have it launched by the 3rd quarter and will be able to translate in multiple languages.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Financial Reporting of the FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial Report

Background/History:

The Finance Department is presenting FY2024-2025's Monthly Financial review of the City's financials. The purpose of the monthly financial review is to help us understand how healthy the City's cash flow is and evaluate department performance to see if the executive office needs to reallocate resources to achieve the city's financial goals.

Director Wiggins gave an overview of the financials for the month of February. He said the snapshot ending on 2.28.2025 shows the budgeted revenues and expenses at 43 million 752 thousand 359. He stated the monthly take-in was 941 thousand 26 dollars. He noted the year to date is 29 million 104 thousand 462. He stated the monthly spending was 2 million 962 thousand 584, and the year-to-date actual expenses from February were 26 million 708 thousand 808 dollars. Director Wiggins gave an overview of the different departments that gives you the budget to actual monthly spending and the percentage of the budget being used. He stated all the departments together have only used 61 percent, and usually, around this time, it is 66 percent. He said they are under, which is good.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to remove items # 3 and # 4 from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

3. Council Approval to purchase 6 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units - Procurement/Fire & EMS Department. **This item was removed from the agenda.**

4. Council Approval to Purchase a Record Management Software System - Procurement/Fire & EMS Department. **This item was removed from the agenda.**

5. Council Approval of a Fee Proposal to provide ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) cost estimate for Starr Park-Executive Offices

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Council Approval to Launch 1-800-BOARDUP- Fire & EMS Department

It was motioned to approve to Launch 1-800-BOARDUP.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

7. Council Approval for the Sale of Firearms from the Police Department's Evidence Room- Police Department

It was motioned to approve this but to come up with a way to distinguish the sale of firearms from the police department.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Governing Body Comments/Discussion

Councilmember James asked about the process for determining who they will go to. She stated she was not comfortable making a decision and seconded it so they could have discussions on this.

Councilmember Gutierrez, a War veteran, noted that he is not fond of guns and would like to dispose of them. He stated that, as an elected official, since it can be money for the police department and ammo, he will put his personal feelings aside on this. He stated honestly that he did not want to put the guns back out there.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she is in agreement with Councilmember James and does not feel the city should benefit from putting guns back on the streets. She stated she would not be in favor of selling the guns.

Councilmember Mears noted there is a way to do this, or you can just destroy them all. He stated that some people can have weapons, and some should not. He noted that he is in agreement with what the governing body decides, but it will not solve the problem.

City Manager Clark noted that Officer Daniels, the evidence custodian, is present and knows more about this topic than anyone. He asked if there was any value in this.

Officer Daniels noted that some are highly collectible, and some are not, but they can all be sold. He stated he could not site the statue right off, but the State of Georgia passed it about 8 years ago, saying guns cannot be destroyed and have to be sold. He noted he could provide that statue tomorrow.

Councilmember Gutierrez asked if there was a way that they could sell them that they only are collectibles or determine the destination of the weapons.

Attorney Matricardi noted no. They have to be done via sealed bid or public auction, not specific individuals.

Officer Daniels noted that they would be sold to a licensed dealer who does not operate in the State of Georgia.

City Manager Clark noted that Mr. Daniel is correct. Citation 17-55 FL states that unclaimed firearms in law enforcement agencies' possessions must be disposed of through public sales to licensed firearms dealers unless certain exceptions apply.

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

8. Council Approval on the Re-Appointment (s) of the Urban Design Review Board Members- Planning and Community Development Department

It was motioned to approve the Reappointment (s) of the Urban Design Review Board Members.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

9. Council Approval to approve a Clayton County Pocket/Skate Park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding for the continuation of sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property- Planning and Community Development Department This item was removed from the agenda.

10. Council Approval on a Partnership with Georgia Haitian American Chamber of Commerce and The Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta – Recreation and Leisure Services Department

It was motioned to approve a Partnership with the Georgia Haitian American Chamber of Commerce and The Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta with conditions that both entities work with the city in order to iron out the logistics for the Flag Day on May 18.

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 thanked everyone for coming out and wanted to remind them that the 3rd Thursday of the month is her Ward meeting. She stated on Thursday that Jerry's Café will be the caterer for the Ward meeting. She

noted you will be able to hear from the directors, and the other meetings are on the website. She noted the meetings have been tabbed so you can go directly to the director you want to hear. She thanked those who participated and donated to the Hunger Walk. Councilmember James stated the weather prevented them from walking, but they did raise \$1,100.00 dollars, and the first food giveaway will be Friday, April 4th, and some of the students will be walking that day. She noted the giveaway will be at Forest Park High School at 11:30, and flyers will be going out soon. She thanked the recreation and police department for coming out to the GMASS Festival last week, which was a collaboration with all of the schools, and they serviced some of the community members there. She congratulated Mr. Thomas on the ribbon cutting of his Change Center and said that ribbon cutting are usually done throughout the week during the day, so it is not during their personal time. Councilmember James thanked him for the work he is doing with the young people. She stated during this time of the political season, there is always a focus on what you are not doing, and it is disheartening.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked Ms. Mitchel and Ms. Falomi for their comments. He thanked the police department. He noted the merged bingo night with the St. Patrick's Day event so the seniors could attend. He stated next Friday is Food Truck Friday, and they will show the movie Wicked and April 18 is Selena Day. He congratulated Lifus, on his retirement and wished him well. Councilmember Gutierrez congratulated Officer Thomas and stated he was sorry about how he felt. He noted that he has his number and to please reach out in the future and noted what he is doing with the children is amazing and needed. He said he is excited about the Haitian Flag Day and can't wait to go and hang out with them. He told everyone to be sure and go exercise their vote, and because of ESPLOST, they are getting a 92 million-dollar building right down the street, Forest Park Middle School, which is stem-focused.

Councilmember Akins-Wells apologized for not being there and noted she did not feel well. She thanked Mr. Lifus for giving the city 25 years. She said the city celebrates new employees, and they should do the same for those who have given blood, sweat, and tears to the city. She thanked Director Maxwell and everyone who played a part in his send-off being great. She noted that Wellness with Wells is still going on, and this is the 5th year, and there is more participation. She noted the Community College is doing well, and she thanked everyone who played a part in it. She thanked Ms. Dixon and Mr. Henry for working extremely hard. She thanked the Rock Church of Atlanta and noted she was able to go there and visit and help give out food to the community. Councilmember Akins Wells thanked Officer Thomas for his comment and stated that she is sorry he felt that way. She asked all elected officials to be consistent when celebrating the businesses. She said maybe they can get with the department that handles the new businesses something can be set up so that they feel welcome.

Councilmember Mears thanked everyone for coming out. He states he has been around for over 60 years, and it is so much better now. So, if you see a city employee around, thank them for the work they do looking after the city. He acknowledges Mr. Finch as the eldest person in the room.

Mayor Butler noted tomorrow is an election day, so make sure to go and vote. She stated that ESPLOST is very important. She said, as stated earlier, with this being election time, if it is meant for someone to have the seats, they will have them. She noted you do not have to go to the extreme to find stuff to put on someone. She said she looks forward to the next person filling Ward 2 seat to come on board and continue the progress already started.

Councilmember Gutierrez wished Pastor Mike and Pastor Michelle a Happy Birthday. He noted that he has had the chance to attend Rock Church, and it was great. He noted that El Malone Fitness not only keeps them fit but also helped his wife, who was stressed because their dog jumped out of the vehicle.

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:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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.

DRAFT

File Attachments for Item:

2. Official Swearing-In of Councilmember Delores A. Gunn for Ward 2- Legislative Offices

Background/History:

The Official Swearing-In for Ward 2 Council Elect Delores A. Gunn will be administered by the Honorable Judge Robert Mack of the Clayton County Superior Court.



City Council Agenda Item

Title of Agenda Item: Official Swearing-In of Councilmember Delores A. Gunn for Ward 2

Submitted By: Legislative Offices

Date Submitted: 3/24/2025

Work Session Date: 4/7/2025

Council Meeting Date: 4/7/2025

Background/History:

The Official swearing-in for Ward 2 Council Elect Delores A. Gunn will occur today, April 7, 2025. A celebratory reception will follow at 696 Main Street after the Council Meeting.

Action Requested from Council:

Cost: \$

Budgeted for: Yes No

Financial Impact:

State of Georgia County of Clayton

I, **Delores A. Gunn**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Georgia; and that I will in all respects observe the provisions of the charter and ordinances of the City of Forest Park and I will well and truly perform the duties of the office of **FOREST PARK CITY COUNCILMEMBER WARD 2**, and that I will to the utmost of my skill and ability endeavor to promote the interest and property of said city, without fear, favor, or affection. So help me, God.

This 7th day of April, 2025

Delores A. Gunn

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned,

Judge of the Clayton County Superior Court

Honorable Chief Judge Robert Mack

File Attachments for Item:

3. Recognition of Ward 4 Yard of the Quarter- Councilmember Akins-Wells

Background/History:

The Yard of the Quarter program celebrates community pride by recognizing Forest Park Ward 4 residents who go above and beyond in maintaining their homes and yards. Their efforts contribute to the beauty and spirit of our neighborhood.

This quarter, we're proud to present the award to the residents of 645 Glenn Drive for their outstanding dedication to keeping their property looking its best. Congratulations and thank you for helping make our community shine!

CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Title of Agenda Item: Recognition of Ward 4 Yard of the Quarter

Submitted By: Legislative Offices

Date Submitted: 4/2/25

Work Session Date: 4/7/25

Council Meeting Date: 4/7/25

Background/History:

The Yard of the Quarter program celebrates community pride by recognizing Forest Park Ward 4 residents who go above and beyond in maintaining their homes and yards. Their efforts contribute to the beauty and spirit of our neighborhood.

This quarter, we're proud to present the award to the residents of 645 Glenn Drive for their outstanding dedication to keeping their property looking its best. Congratulations and thank you for helping make our community shine!

Action Requested from Council: Approval of renewal

Cost: \$

Budgeted for: ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Financial Impact:





File Attachments for Item:

4. Presentation by Alan Owens-Waste Management Public Sector Manager- Executive Offices

Background/History:

A Waste Management representative will showcase and explain the new WM ASL trucks that will be servicing Forest Park residents. They will also discuss the required distance for placing carts away from mailboxes, marking a significant change in service automation.

Additionally, the Mayor and City Council will receive a \$5,000 check for Recycling Education, followed by a photo opportunity.

CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Title of Agenda Item: Presentation by Alan Owens-Waste Management Public Sector Manager

Submitted By: Executive Offices

Date Submitted: 03/10/2025

Work Session Date: 04/7/2025

Council Meeting Date: 04/07/2025

Background/History:

A Waste Management representative will showcase and explain the new WM ASL trucks that will be servicing Forest Park residents. They will also discuss the required distance for placing carts away from mailboxes, marking a significant change in service automation.

Additionally, the Mayor and City Council will receive a \$5,000 check for Recycling Education, followed by a photo opportunity.

Action Requested from Council:

Cost: \$	Budgeted for:	Yes	No
	_____	_____	_____

Financial Impact:



WM Smart Truck® Technology

Always Working for a
Sustainable Tomorrow®

Presenters: Alan Owens – PSS Manager
Jeff Turner – Sr. District Mgr.

Date: April 7, 2025



AGENDA

1. New ASL Truck
2. Introduce Smart Truck Program
3. Residential Cart Placement
4. Recycling Check Presentation

Automated Side-loader (ASL)



Driving Cleaner, Sustainable Communities

Item # 4.

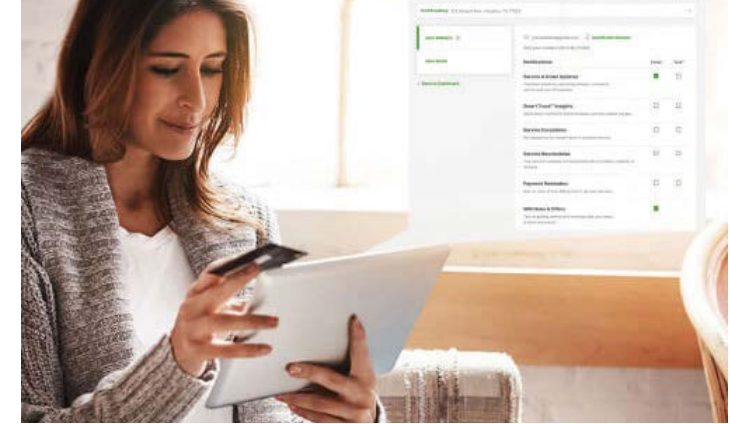


With the help a proprietary system of cameras and sensors, WM Smart Truck[®] technology can document every service, every day.



Machine learning is used to identify when carts are serviced and Not out.

A dedicated PSS coordinator can audit footage to confirm results.



If Public Works or WM receives a call regarding missed carts , the dedicated PSS coordinator can notify Public Works with pictures of the results.

The WM Smart Truck[®] program can audit every container each time it is collected. This allows the city & residents to receive direct, targeted feedback to drive behavior change

Quality Control, Privacy & Protecting Customer Data

Item # 4.

How can you tell my cart is contaminated?

- Mounted cameras record service
- Every collection is reviewed & tied to a specific service address via location and telemetry
- We partner with jurisdictions to create a tailored program around what is and isn't acceptable in the recycling for each community

What quality control is in place to ensure accuracy?

- Our technicians are trained to carefully identify service issues and contamination. We have standard protocols for assessing every situation with built-in checks and balances to ensure accuracy

Is this the first-time cameras have been used on WM collection trucks?

- **No, WM has used cameras on trucks for many years.** We use mounted cameras to improve safety by assisting our drivers with rear and side-view perspectives, and documenting driving incidents.

What about privacy?

- **WM will never share the images or customer information with third parties for marketing or data mining.** The photographs or videos are only used to educate and inform residents and the city to improve collection service, recycling and diverting materials away from the landfills.

Residential – Cart Placement

Automated Collection with 96-gallon Carts

Dear City of Forest Park Resident,

WM will begin using automated trucks for trash and recycling collection April 2025. These trucks use automatic lifting arms to empty carts, making collection efficient and safer for your community and our drivers.

With automated collection, all materials must fit inside the WM trash or recycling cart with the lid firmly closed - no extra bags, materials outside the cart, or resident-owned containers will be collected.

WM is excited to provide the residents of Forest Park with automated collection.

See the back side for more information.



Residential – Cart Placement

Important Cart Placement Information

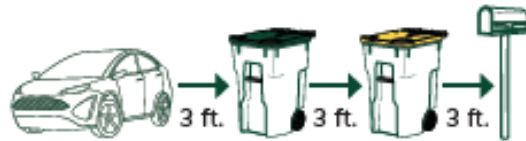
Beginning April 2025, use only the WM 96-gallon carts for trash and recycling. No materials outside the carts or resident-owned containers will be collected. Your trash and recycling will continue to be picked up weekly on your regular service day.



Address
City, St, Zip

Proper cart placement for automated collection

Remember to place your carts at least 3 feet apart and 3 feet away from any obstacles (trees, cars, mailboxes, etc.) to allow the automatic arm to lift and empty the carts. **Place wheels of cart toward house.**



Recycling cart with yellow lid - use only the green 96-gallon cart with the yellow lid for recycling. Please break down cardboard and place it inside the recycling cart. No materials outside the cart will be collected.



Trash cart with green lid - bag and tie trash inside your trash cart. No materials outside the cart will be collected.



Have your carts at the curb the night before or **no later than 6:00 a.m.** on your collection day.



Need an extra cart?

For just \$XX per month, you can rent an additional cart. Contact WM at wm.com or call (404) 794-6707.

Residential – Cart Placement



Recycling Check

**Bag Your Trash,
Don't Trash
Our Community**



Loose trash in your cart blows when being emptied into the truck and trashes our community. Please bag your trash first and then place the bags inside the cart.

**Let's work together to keep the
community clean and green.**

For more information, visit [wm.com](https://www.wm.com)



File Attachments for Item:

5. Forest Park Fire & EMS – 2024 Annual Report (Slideshow & handouts) – Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

The Forest Park Fire & EMS will present its 2024 Annual report:

- Strategic Goals
- Finance
- Operations
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Professional Standards
- Community Risk Reduction
- Emergency Management
- Highlights and Accomplishments
- Employee Recognition and Awards

A Slideshow will be shown as well as handouts for the Mayor and Council. Presenter: Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Subject: Forest Park Fire & EMS – 2024 Annual Report (Slideshow & handouts) – Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

Submitted By: SANDRA DAVIS – FIRE & EMS OFFICE COORDINATOR

Date Submitted: March 24, 2025

Work Session Date: March 24, 2025

Council Meeting Date: April 7, 2025

The Forest Park Fire & EMS will present its 2024 Annual report:

- Strategic Goals
- Finance
- Operations
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Professional Standards
- Community Risk Reduction
- Emergency Management
- Highlights and Accomplishments
- Employee Recognition and Awards

A Slideshow will be shown as well as handouts for the Mayor and Council. Presenter: Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

Cost: \$ N/A **Budgeted for:** _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Financial Impact: NONE

Action Requested from Council: NONE – Slideshow and handouts – presented by Fire Chief Latosha Clemons.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Item # 5.



Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services

2336 Anvil Block Rd., Forest Park, GA 30297

www.forestparkga.gov/fire

Page 42

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- 24 Employee Recognition & Awards



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



Welcome to the Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services Annual Report for calendar year 2024. As you scroll through the document, I am confident that the pride and dedication of our team will be evident. We are honored to present to you the Forest Park Fire and Emergency Service's Annual Report. We are honored to be able to serve our community and live the city's vision to create a safer "One Forest Park".

Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services is leading the way in Fire Protection Services and Emergency Response. Our agency provides the highest level of professional service to the community with the most advanced equipment and training in the State of Georgia. As a Class #1 ISO -rated fire department, we aim to continue leading our industry with innovation and science as our number one Strategic Goal is Health and Fitness. Our team members are adept at suppressing fires, providing medical care, operating in unusual (yet dangerous) IDLH environments. Yet, we remain steadfast in an ever so changing Fire Service.

The members of your department realize emergencies can be frightening and have uncertain outcomes. They are trained and equipped to be there for you on your best and worst day with outstanding service as well as compassionate care. According to our patient satisfaction ratings, we are hitting the mark but there are always areas for improvement. As the famous quote by Dr. Maya Angelou states, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Your department cares for the members of our community as we would care for our families because we consider you, our family.

In the following pages, you will read about the accomplishments of the department in 2024, see our performance through various metrics, and be inspired in a path forward for our organization. Each year we respond to more 911 calls ranging in various incidents. These incidents range from advanced life support, basic life support, outside fires, structure fires, hazardous materials, confined space, and myriads of others. As this shows, we are an all-hazard fire department.

Our vision is to be a welcoming, safe, family-oriented, fiscally sound city with an emerging urban vibrancy that maximizes its geographic location to be the most attractive residential and commercial destination in the state. It is my honor to serve our diverse community as well as lead the Forest Park Fire Department as we continually strive for excellence and a better future for the citizens we serve.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Latosha Clemons".

Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief & Emergency Manager



Mission Statement

To ensure the safety of the community by continually providing the highest quality of service through preparedness, education, and action.

Core Values

- Professionalism
- Cooperation
- Dedication
- Loyalty



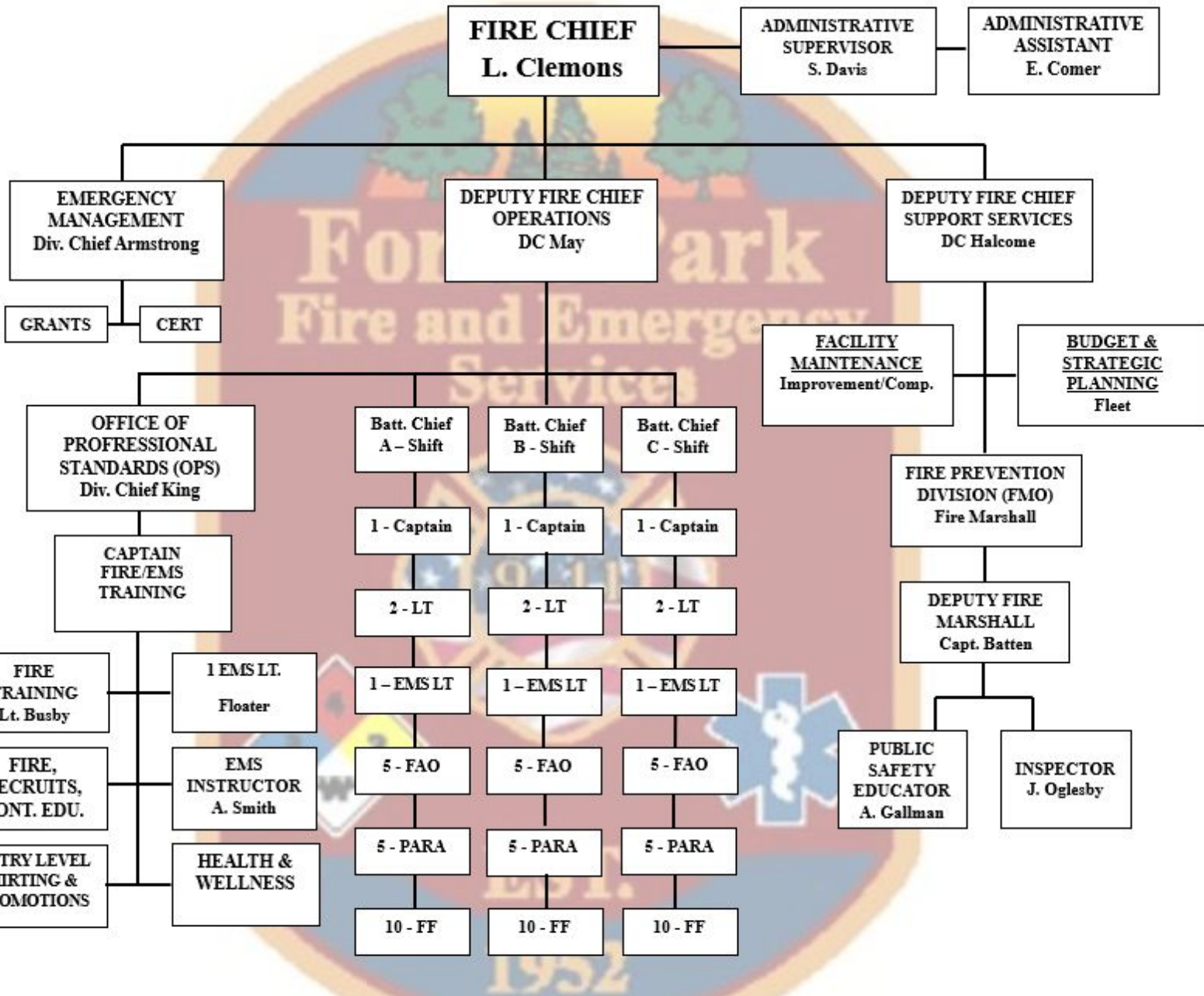
About Us

Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services (FPFD) maintains **3** stations throughout **9.3** square miles in the City of Forest Park, the largest municipality in Clayton County. FPFD is budgeted for **89** employees who proudly serve north of **19,000** citizens with excellence. In addition to providing a wide variety of community risk reduction programs, FPFD's emergency response includes:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Emergency Medical Services | ▪ Technical Rescue |
| ▪ Fire Suppression | ▪ Fire Inspection |
| ▪ Hazardous Materials | ▪ Fire Investigation |

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Item # 5.



STRATEGIC GOALS



HEALTH & SAFETY

Educate, exercise, and equip our responders to successfully contend with the everyday mental and physical stress of their duties in a way that maximizes their well-being and minimizing potential of injuries.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Processes and systems that support and field a qualified, educated, certified, and fiscally responsible workforce capable of delivering a high level of service to a diverse, growing, and multicultural community.



STRATEGIC PLAN

Visionary culture of engaged, empowered, forward looking leaders who operate within a comprehensive vision that supports short, mid-range, and long-range planning. Meet community established response standards by effectively arriving to emergencies with appropriately trained and equipped personnel.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Having an engaged culture that harnesses the development, growth, and unique skill set of every employee through recognition, certificates, and awards.



COMMUNICATION

Transparent, responsive, and adaptive communications to our internal and external stakeholders. Strive to develop communications capabilities within the department that recognizes various audiences for information to explore new approaches and methods that can improve the department's operations.



TECHNOLOGY

Utilize technology to drive innovation and capture efficiencies to ensure the services that we provide are meeting or exceeding best practices and industry standards.

OUR FINANCES

Item # 5.

The FPPD budget provides the necessary funding to accomplish organizational goals established through the strategic and business planning process while adhering to the policies and procedures set forth by the city and the department. The department continues to meet the demands of the economically challenging times while funding personnel, operational expenses, and capital items while remaining consistent and in accordance with the city and departmental capital improvement projects and vehicle replacement program.

Expenditure	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual
Personnel Services	\$6,295,107	\$6,373,311	\$5,460,935	\$6,969,273
Operating Expenses	\$319,865	\$347,735	\$683,535	\$827,782
Capital Outlay	\$66,710	\$306,139	\$552,000	\$719,693
Non-Operating Expenses	\$312,287	\$869,073	\$936,732	\$585,000
TOTAL	\$6,698,119	\$8,330,992	\$7,636,203	\$9,341,264

OPERATIONS

Item # 5.



DC MAY



BC HOGAN



BC BAKER



BC FLAGG

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

FPPD responded to **7,199** incidents in **2024** and transported **2,027** patients. Average response time to incidents was within **4 to 5** minutes.

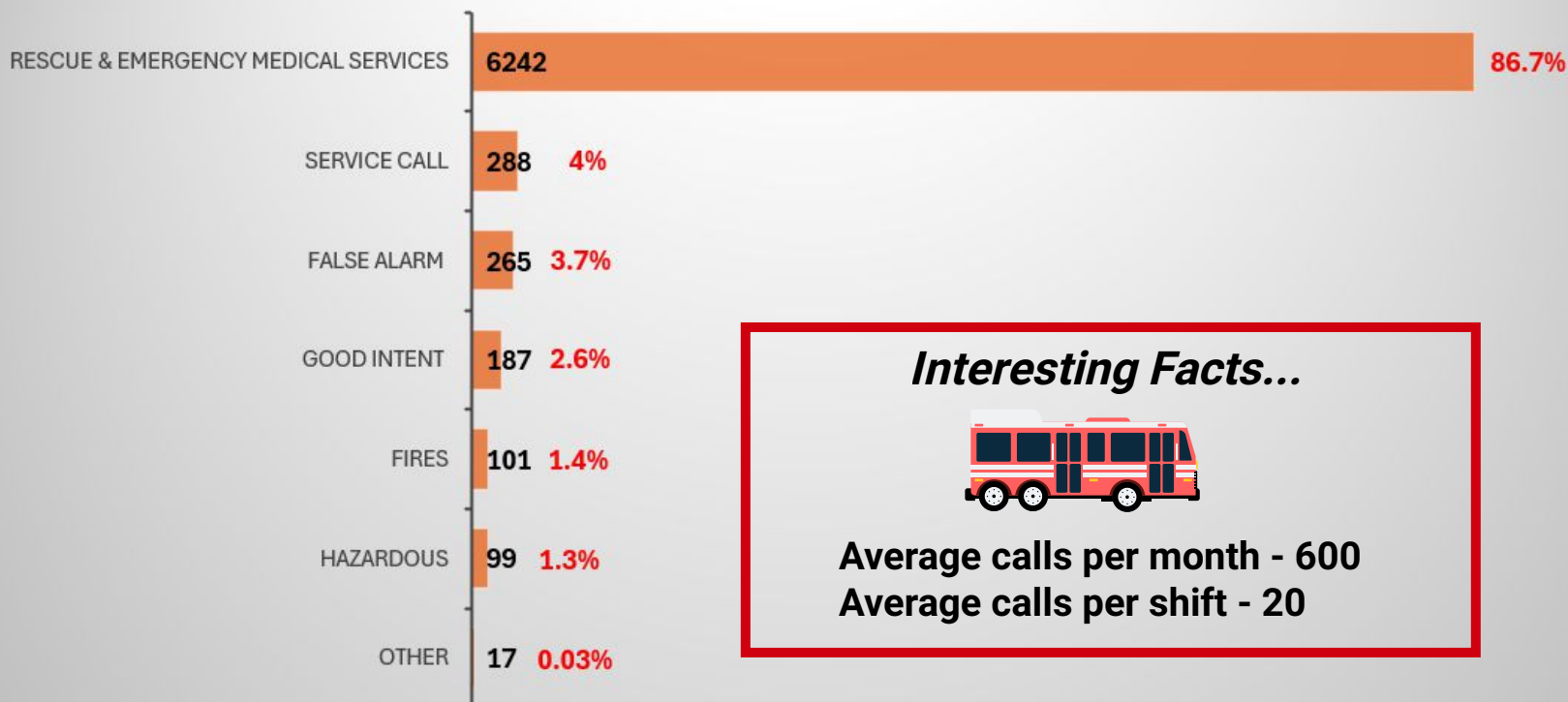
***Busiest Day**

Thursday's

***Busiest Month**

July

Total Incidents - 7,199



Interesting Facts...



Average calls per month - 600
Average calls per shift - 20

OPERATIONS - STRUCTURE FIRES

Item # 5.

33

FIRES WITHIN A
STRUCTURE

8

FIRES CONFINED TO
OBJECT OF ORIGIN

10

FIRES CONFINED TO
BUILDING OF ORIGIN

10

FIRES CONFINED TO
ROOM OR FLOOR OF
ORIGIN



0

FIRE INJURIES

0

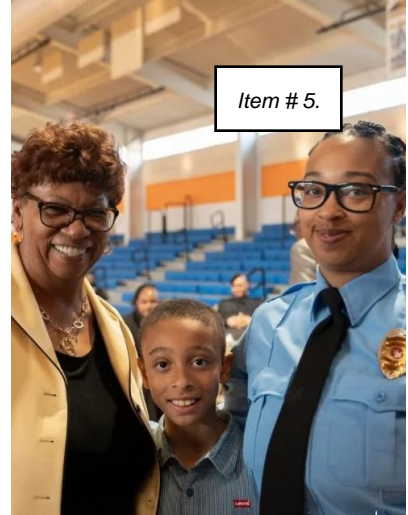
FIRE FATALITIES



TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED
\$8,878,085

TOTAL PROPERTY LOST
\$1,485,216



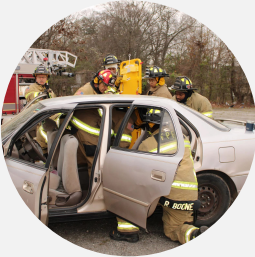


OPERATIONS - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Item # 5.



EMS INSTRUCTOR SMITH



FPFD's EMS Division led all categories of emergency responses in 2024, transporting over 2,000 patients to local hospitals.



Under the medical direction of Dr. Edens and EMS Instructor AJ Smith, the EMS Division has:

- Completed new and updated medical protocols for EMS services.
- Completed and updated EMS Licensure for Ambulance service with the State Office of EMS.



EMS Division Training Included:

- Completed EMT-B Course (initial education)
- Completed AEMT Course (initial education)
- Completed Recertification Training for all on shift personnel (continuing education)
- Completed multiple CPR/AED & Narcan training for city employees



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Transport Destination Summary

Patient Refusal of Transports	1,515 / 35% of Patients Seen by EMS
Southern Regional Medical Center	970 Patients / 47.9% of Annual Patients Seen by EMS
Piedmont Henry Hospital	482 Patients / 23.8% of Annual Patients Seen by EMS
Grady Memorial Hospital	270 Patients / 13.3% of Annual Patients Seen by EMS
Emory Midtown	255 Patients / 12.6% of Annual Patients Seen by EMS
Piedmont Fayette	50 Patients / 2.5% of Annual Patients Seen by EMS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Item # 5.

Statistics on STEMI, Trauma, Cardiac Arrest and ROSC for 2024

2024	Totals
STEMI	6
Stroke Alert	21
Trauma Alert	766
Shooting/Stabbing	31
Overdose	17
Cardiac Arrest	33
ROSC	2
*Percentage	6%

**Note: The National ROSC Average is 10%.*



OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Item # 5.

DIV. CHIEF KING



LT. BUSBY



Training

The FPPD Training Division carried out various activities to meet the department's training needs--delivering enough in-house training hours to meet all Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC) training requirements and Insurance Services Office - Class One (ISO-1) training standards. Incumbent members and new hires received: classroom instruction, hands-on skill practice, practical application opportunities and evaluation. The Training Division facilitated outside training for members to meet job specification requirements and attend additional classes. They also hosted outside agencies such as local FDs and FPPD on joint training initiatives.



Outside Training/Certificates

- Processed 196 individual training requests
- Performed 1,200 required training hours
- 60 GFSTC certification renewals
- 5 new GFSTC certifications

In-House Training

- Completed 1 Recruit class (5 candidates obtained Firefighter 2 Certification)
- Pressurized Container Class
- Crash Victim Extrication Class
- Vehicle Stabilization, Extrication and Victim Removal
- Vent-Enter-Isolate-Search (VEIS) Training
- Live Fire Training





Item # 5.







COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Item # 5.



DC HALCOME



CAPT BATTEN



INSPECTOR OGLESBY



EDUCATOR GALLMAN



ILD CANINE - ALLI



1037

Fire Inspections



340

Violations Found



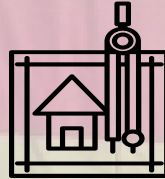
281

Re-Inspections



73

Business
License/Certificate of
Occupancy



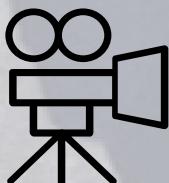
72

Plan Reviews



22

Fire Alarm System
and Fire Protection
System Inspections



1

Movie Set Special
Effects



8

Smoke Alarm
Installs



29

Fire Investigations



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Item # 5.



SCHOOL EVENTS

Real Men Read
FPHS Law & Justice Class
FPHS Food Giveaway
Education Station
Little One's Daycare

CAREER DAY

Unidos Dual Language School
Edmonds Elementary
Huie Elementary
Fountain Elementary
FPHS
Clayton State University



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Attended over 35+ events to include: Block Party's for the wards, FP Spring and Fall Festivals, Kroger Family & Friends Event, Bingo Night at the Senior Center, Hispanic Heritage Festival, Food Truck Fridays, Forest Park Day, multiple Parades and more...



COMMUNITY FIRE & LIFE SAFETY TRAINING

Treehouse Foods
Senior Center "Be Red Cross Ready"
Ashton Walk
DHL

Gillem Enclave
Governors Terrace
Forest Station
Waste Management



SPECIAL INTEREST EVENTS

911 Ceremony
Future Girl Firefighter's "Camp Believe"
Christmas Toy Collection
Shop with a Hero



The FOREST PARK LIBRARY presents the

FOREST PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

CELEBRATING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK —
Smoke Alarms: Make Them WORK for you!
With Public Safety Educator Anthony Gallman



In celebration of October's Fire
Forest Park's Fire & Emergen
program designed for children
entertain young minds to
Come and see the surpris



Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services

2024 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Nov. 18 through Dec. 14

the holiday season is here, and the men and women
of the Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services
Department are collecting new unwrapped toys to
help bring joy to families in need.

All donated unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the following localities:

Fire Station 1	Fire Station 2	Fire Station 3	City Hall Location
4539 Jonesboro Rd.	785 Linda Way	2090 Anvil Block Rd.	745 Forest Park

For more information, contact Anthony Gallman
at agallman@forestparkga.gov.

We Are #OneForest

DATE:
Wednesday,
October 16, 2024

START TIME: 4:00 p.m.
END TIME: 5:00 p.m.



SATURDAY AUGUST 3RD 2024

Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services

FOREST PARK FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES PRESENTS

Item # 5.

DEPARTMENT
PRESS AND COMMUNITY
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

comprehensive update highlighting the accomplishments
of the men and women of the Forest Park Fire and
Emergency Services Department. Attendees will also be treated to a
breakfast for all to enjoy.

For more information, contact Chief Latosha Clemens at
lclemens@forestparkga.gov

PANCAKE
BREAKFAST

BEGINNING AT
8:30 A.M.



Be Red Cross Ready: Home Fires

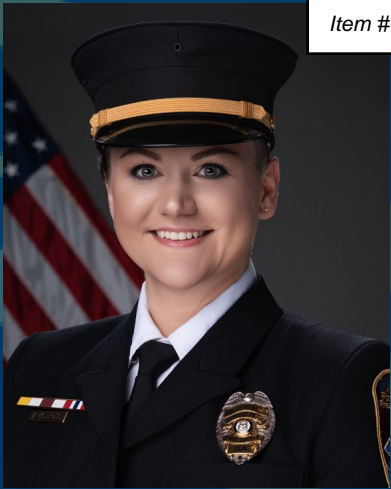
Home fires are the most common type of disasters in Metro Atlanta and can cause deaths, injuries, and property loss within minutes of breaking out. Home fires occur every day, but we can take action to prepare. Join our presentation and learn how to prepare to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your home.

March 5, 2024 at 11 a.m.
5087 Park Ave.
Forest Park, GA 30297

In partnership with:

Page 63

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



DIV. CHIEF ARMSTRONG

Forest Park's Emergency Management Agency is responsible for coordination, planning, and liaison activities with municipal, state, federal, private sector, and non-governmental organizations to maintain the City of Forest Park's ability to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from disasters while maintaining our eligibility for disaster assistance and reimbursement at the maximum level allowed.

Georgia experienced multiple weather events in 2024 that resulted in \$10-20 billion in damages. In 2024, the National Weather Service issued:

- 298 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings
- 39 Tornado Warnings
- 74 Flash Flood Warnings

Other important activities and accomplishments for 2024 include:

- Participation in disaster exercises with local agencies
- Coordinated various grant applications
- Obtained equipment to enhance operations
- Coordinated maintenance and testing of the outdoor warning siren systems
- Assisted the Training Division with NPQ check-offs
- Activated EOC for TS Helene; monitored other weather events

FUNCTIONS
PROVIDED OR
COORDINATED
BY EMA

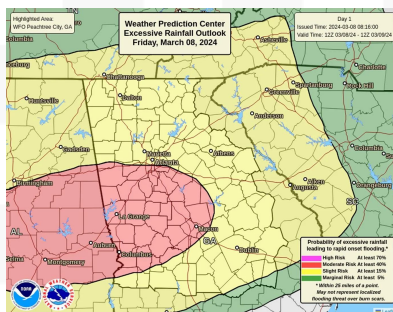
Emergency/Disaster Response Training	Emergency Operations Center	Grant Procurement	Community Outreach
Planning	Severe Weather Response	Local Emergency Planning Committee	Hazardous Materials Coordination & Response

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



MAJOR EVENTS IN 2024:

MARCH
SEVERE
WEATHER
EVENT



APRIL EMAG
CONFERENCE



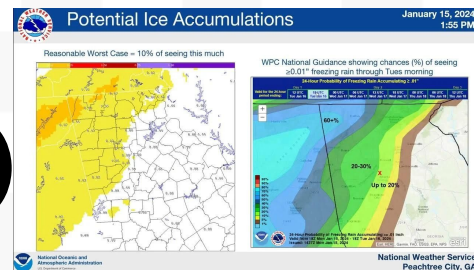
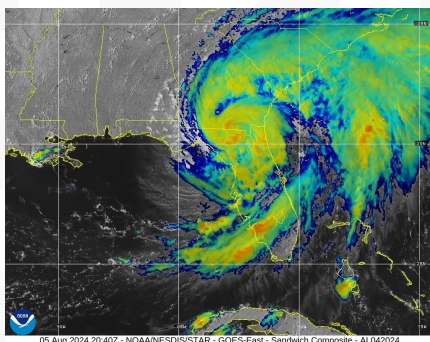
MAY
FIRE/POLICE
TABLETOP
EXERCISE

Exercise Briefing
5/24/2024
Forest Park EMA

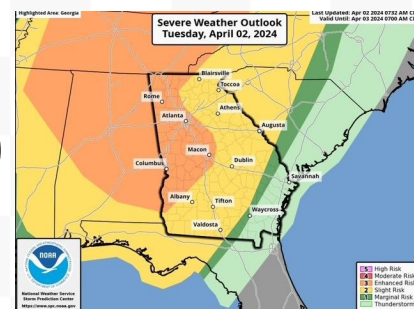
5-Live Music
Festival
Tabletop
Exercise (Ttx)



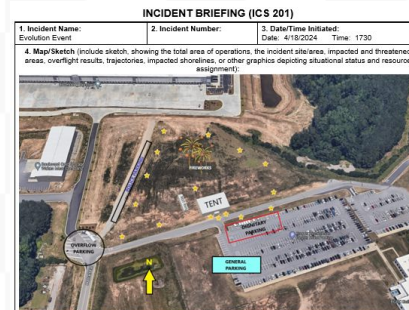
AUG.
HURRICANE
DEBBY



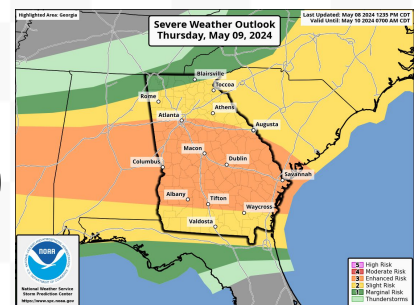
JAN. WINTER
STORM



APRIL
SEVERE
WEATHER
EVENT

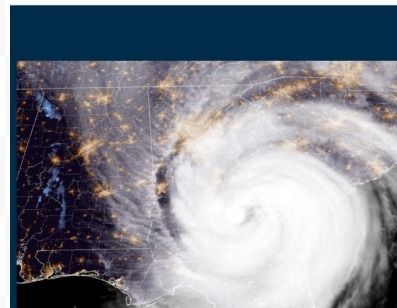


APRIL
EVOLUTION
EVENT



MAY
SEVERE
WEATHER
EVENT

Hurricane Helene September 25-27, 2024



SEPT.
HURRICANE
HELENE
EOC
ACTIV



EMA - OUTREACH & EDUCATION



Our disaster preparedness information centers around hazards specific to the City of Forest Park area and strongly encourages personal disaster preparedness:

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – a national curriculum that teaches residents basic disaster preparedness skills.
- Community Preparedness – providing disaster preparedness information through virtual or in-person presentations.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) - Bringing community partners together to better protect Clayton County by improving our ability to mitigate emergency situations.



Getting the right information to the right people at the right time:

- CodeRED – an electronic emergency notification system that enables public safety personnel to notify residents and businesses of emergencies that may require action.
- Ring's "Neighbors" – a free app designed to help communities connect and stay informed about what's going on around them, whether they own a Ring device or not.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VISIONARY CITIES

CITY LEADERS ACROSS THE STATE BRING POSITIVE CHANGE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

What does it take to be honored as a visionary city? The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) says visionary cities are ones that create positive change through effective civic engagement and collaboration. These cities have hardworking, innovative leaders who strive to make their communities a better place, not just for those who currently live and work there but for future generations. The leaders of this year's nine winning cities look beyond their borders to interact with county, state and federal entities on projects that make a significant impact.

This is the sixth time the GMA and *Georgia Trend* have teamed up to honor communities with Visionary City Awards for various projects that benefit their region. This year's projects include helping at-risk youth through sports and workforce training, running a camp to inspire girls to become firefighters, promoting public service, boosting agriculture jobs, encouraging health and fitness, renovating a classic theater and bridging divides, literally and figuratively.

"This year's Visionary City Award winners remind us how local leaders can drive progress and inspire transformation," says Larry Hanson, CEO and executive director of GMA. "Through their initiatives, these nine cities demonstrate that meaningful change happens when collaboration and innovation take center stage. Their dedication enhances the quality-of-life for their residents and sets a powerful example for communities across Georgia. GMA is honored to partner with *Georgia Trend* in celebrating their outstanding contributions to building a brighter future for our state."

The Visionary Cities are grouped by population: small (fewer than 4,999), medium (5,000 to 24,999) and large (more than 25,000). This year's honorees join past award-winning communities across the state whose projects continue to make a positive impact.

— Kathleen Conway

georgiamunicipal.com 24 February 2025



Item # 5.



CITY OF FORESTPARK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Park Fire Department Receives 2025 Visionary City Award
Statewide Recognition Celebrates City's Annual Girls' Future Firefighter Camp



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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Item # 5.



Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services

2336 Anvil Block Rd., Forest Park, GA 30297

www.forestparkga.gov/fire

Page 70

File Attachments for Item:

6. Procurement Division Update Presentation-Procurement Division

Background/History:

Mrs. Adams will present a procurement presentation update to Mayor and Council.



CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Title of Agenda Item: Procurement Division Update Presentation

Submitted By: Procurement Division

Date Submitted: 04/02/2025

Work Session Date: 04/02/2025

Council Meeting Date: 04/02/2025

Background/History:

Mrs. Adams will present a procurement presentation update to Mayor and Council.

Action Requested from Council:

Cost: \$

Budgeted for:

Yes

No

Financial Impact:

File Attachments for Item:

7. Recognizing our Telecommunication Operators for Telecommunicators Week- Police Department

Background and History:

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is celebrated annually during the second week of April (April 13, 2025 - April 19, 2025), to honor public safety telecommunicators for their crucial role in public safety.

NPSTW is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel across the nation but more specifically in the City of Forest Park who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telecommunicators are the "first, first responders," often serving as the crucial link between the public and emergency services, handling thousands of 911 calls annually.

CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Title of Agenda Item:
Submitted By: Chief Brandon Criss

Date Submitted: April 3, 2025

Work Session Date: April 7, 2025

Council Meeting Date: April 7, 2025

Background/History:

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is celebrated annually during the second week of April (April 13, 2025 - April 19, 2025), to honor public safety telecommunicators for their crucial role in public safety.

NPSTW is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel across the nation but more specifically in the City of Forest Park, who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telecommunicators are the "first, first responders," often serving as the crucial link between the public and emergency services, handling thousands of 911 calls annually.

Action Requested from Council: Presentation
Cost: 0

Budgeted for: _____ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Financial Impact: Not applicable

File Attachments for Item:

8. Council Approval to Approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding to continue sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property- Planning and Community Development Department



CITY OF
FOREST PARK

City Council Agenda Item

Subject: Council discussion to approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding for the continuation of sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property.

Submitted By: SaVaughn Irons-Kumassah, Principal Planner, Planning

Date Submitted: March 10, 2025

Work Session Date: April 7, 2025

Council Meeting Date: April 7, 2025

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park's Planning & Community Development Department, along with the Public Works Department, recently held a predevelopment meeting with representatives from Clayton County to review the specifications and scope of the proposed pocket park/skate park project. Clayton County plans to develop a pocket/skate park at 851 Alpine Way, which will feature an open multipurpose area, restroom and maintenance facilities, a gathering and picnic pavilion, a tot lot (small playground), parking lot, a 10-inch-wide pedestrian trail, a fenced-in skate park, and a parking pad designed for two community mobile medical units.

The mobile medical units aim to provide essential healthcare services in underserved areas where access to healthcare is limited. These units will offer a range of services, including preventative and primary care, specialized care, health education, and cost-effective health solutions. Their presence will enhance healthcare availability, especially in regions with limited infrastructure, ensuring critical medical services are more accessible to those in need.

As part of the project, City staff have requested that Clayton County install sidewalks along the park's frontage to enhance accessibility and connectivity. Additionally, staff are seeking authorization from the Mayor and Council to allocate City funding for infrastructure improvements, including extending existing sidewalks from the daycare center at the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property.

Should the Mayor and Council approve the request for the pocket/skate park and funding for sidewalk improvements, Clayton County will proceed with the park development, while City staff will begin installing sidewalks to improve accessibility. This will help promote active transportation, ensure safe pathways, and contribute to the overall quality of life for residents. By providing convenient and accessible routes, the City encourages healthier lifestyles, fosters community engagement, and ensures that all residents, regardless of mobility, can fully enjoy the park and its benefits.

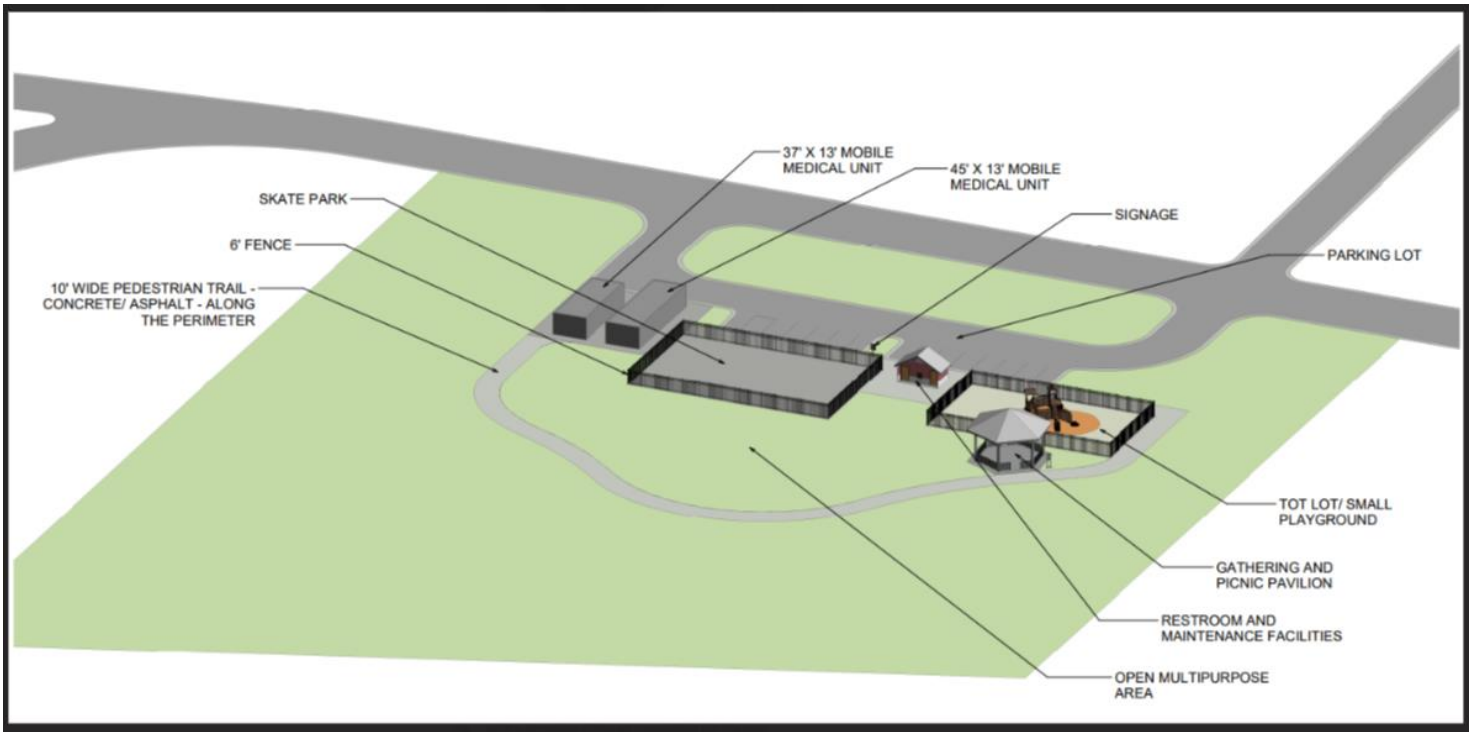
Cost: \$60,000.00

Budgeted for: _____ **Yes** ☒ **No**

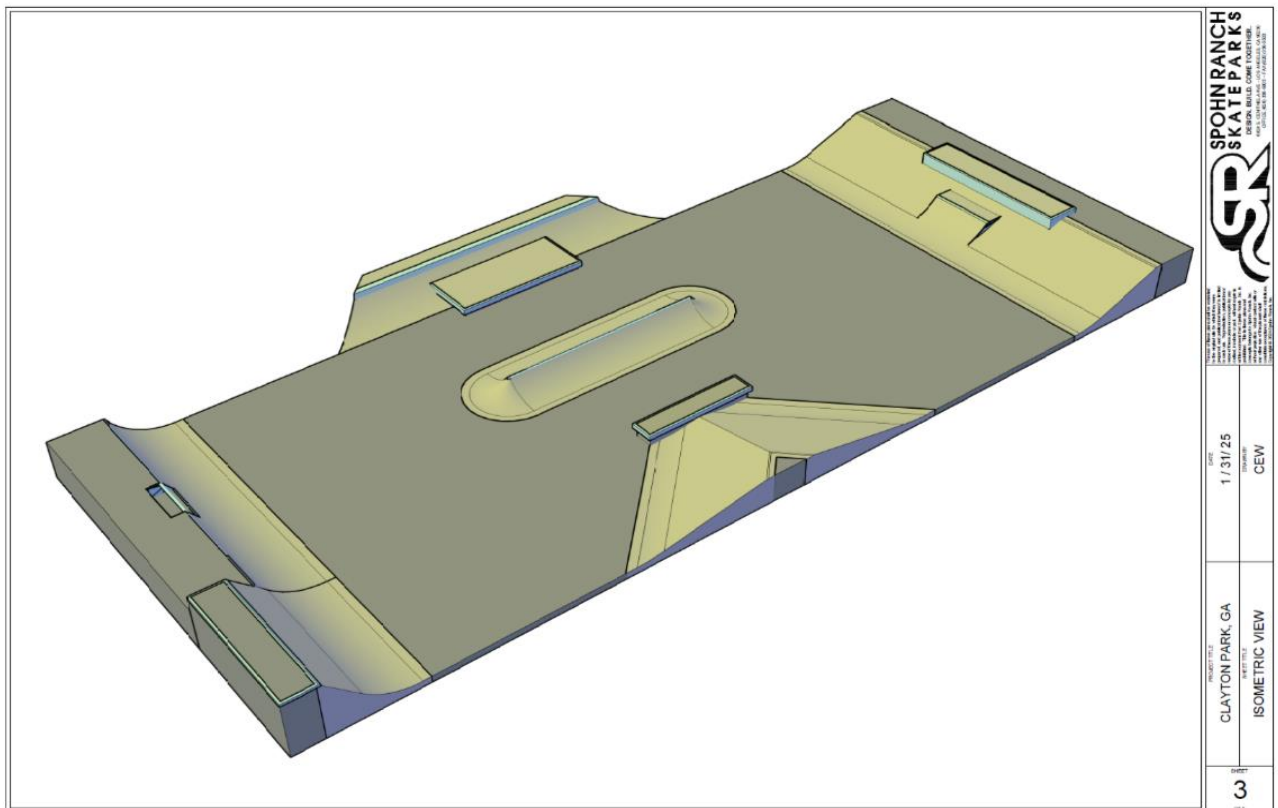
Financial Impact:

TBD: Capital Improvement Project.

Action Requested from Council: To approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding for the continuation of sidewalk improvements.



Pocket Park/Skate Park Referenced Layout/Site Example



Skate Park





Example: Mobile Medical Unit

File Attachments for Item:

9. Council Approval to End Service with Shotspotter- Police Department

CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Subject: Council Discussion and Approval to End Service with Shotspotter

Submitted By: Brandon Criss (Police Chief)

Date Submitted: March 31, 2025

Work Session Date: April 7, 2025

Council Meeting Date: April 7, 2025

Background/History:

During a City Council Work Session on September 6, 2022, at 6:00 PM, the Forest Park Police Department presented a proposal to implement ShotSpotter, a gunshot detection system. Following the presentation, the governing body unanimously approved the initiative. Since its implementation, however, the Forest Park Police Department has observed inconsistencies in the system's performance. As a result, the department recommends terminating the current agreement and exploring alternative solutions with other service providers. The project was initially funded through ARPA funds, and there are no remaining contractual obligations.

Cost: \$	Budgeted for:	Yes	No
0	_____	_____	_____

Financial Impact: 0

Action Requested: Council Discussion



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, September 06, 2022, at 6:00 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) 366.1555

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 by Mayor Butler at 6:00pm and she read the Mission Statement.

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		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Shalonda Brown HR Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Director PBZ, Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, Bruce Abrahams, Economic Development Director, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, Nigel Wattley, Deputy Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Rec/Leisure Director, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager**COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:**

- Please keep the family of Former Ward 3 Councilwoman Sandra Bagley, who passed away on August 30, 2022, in your thoughts and prayers.
- Councilman Dabouze Antoine in cooperation with BlackPush, Inc would like to invite everyone out to a Gun Violence Round Table on Saturday, September 10, 2022, at First Iconium Baptist Church located at 542 Moreland Ave, SE, Atlanta, GA 30316 from 11:00am – 2:00pm. The roundtable's discussion will highlight stories of survival as well as proposed actions needed to ensure a safer America for all its citizens.
- On Thursday, September 8, the Forest Park Police Department is hosting a Community Meeting at the Liberty Ministries Family Worship located at 654 Main Street, Forest Park, GA. This event is open to the public and all are welcome.
- On September 11, 2022, Recreation and Leisure will host the "Ultimate Tail Gate Experience" for the Falcons vs Saints game. The event held at Starr Park and will kick off at 11:00am.
- On September 24, 2022, Recreation and Leisure will host its "5K Fun Run/Walk" event at Starr Park and this event kicks off at 8:00am.
- Every 2nd Friday from 5:00pm – 9:00pm join the Senior Panthers in Action for "Bingo Night" at the Forest Park Senior Center, 5087 Park Ave. Forest Park, GA. Join them for a great game, more fun and prizes.
- On September 29, 2022, from 9:30 am – 11:00am, the City of Forest Park's Economic Development Department invites you to breakfast-on-the-go networking event with local business owners and city officials. This event held at 696 Main Street and will have refreshments provided by our local vendors. For more information, please contact our Economic Development Department at 404-366-4720, option "6".

CITY OPERATIONS:

- **REMINDER - ONE CALL TO CITY HALL** – the City of Forest Park has officially migrated our city telephone vendor, and now have one number for residents to call. Now anyone can contact the main city hall number **(404)-366-4720**. Please ensure you listen to the prompts to get to the correct department to assist you.
- The City of Forest Park's second round of Federal ARPA Funding has been approved. Staff is working on a survey to receive the community's input to help us develop a list of priorities to bring forward to City Council for funding approval. We are working to have this survey ready for distribution by the next council meeting September 19, 2022.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT/SHOUT OUT:

- On Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 7:02 am the Forest Park Fire Department's own Sarah Hudson welcomed a new baby girl.
- **CONGRATULATIONS** – Human Resource Director Shalonda Brown who obtained a Workplace Mediator and Trainer in Conflict Resolution Certification from Eckerd College and Mediation Training Institute.

COVID-19/MONKEY POX UPDATE: EMS Coordinator, Andrew Gelmini

Between 8/29 – 9/04 there were 270 new positive cases in Clayton County, a decrease from last month's numbers with only 17 hospitalizations and zero deaths. Case breakdown still shows approx. 58% of Cases to be female and 42% Male with any remaining to be unknown sex.

Forest Park continues to make up 8.7% of County cases. Forest Park shows tracking 21 new cases last week. The 30 to 39 age group shows the highest percentage of positive cases

We have showed a small improvement with vaccines from last month staying at 56% of County residents have received at least one dose of vaccine and 50% are fully vaccinated. 20% of vaccinated citizens have received the additional booster dose. The 35 - 64 age groups show the highest vaccination rate.

The CDC continues to encourage and recommend vaccination and boosters for Covid 19 which are available through several means. The current recommendations for vaccines are anyone 5 years and older. The current recommendation for boosters is at least 5 months after receiving the final dose of the first series for Moderna and Pfizer or 2 months after receiving the single dose Johnson and Johnson. A second booster dose is currently being recommended to people 50 and older with underlying medical conditions and should be administered at least 4 months after prior dose was received.

To locate a vaccine site. You can text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233 to find local vaccine providers. Contacting your Primary Care Physician or local pharmacy to see if they are giving vaccines and boosters or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). The Clayton County Health District is giving vaccines based on availability and are rotating their locations to allow for easy access. They are requesting people wishing to receive the vaccine or booster to call and make an appointment at (678) 479-2223 or visit www.claytoncountypublichealth.org. All this information is also available on the city website under the fire department tab under Covid 19.

Monkey Pox shows an increase in cases this month now totaling 1,445 cases in Georgia. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), monkeypox is a "rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal." Visit the Georgia Department of Public Health's monkeypox page for details about virus spread, prevention, testing, vaccinations, and treatments in the state. [Dph.georgia.gov/monkeypox](https://dph.georgia.gov/monkeypox)

PRESENTATION(S):**1. Presentation – Landmark Consulting – Chief Executive Offices****Background/History:**

Landmark Consulting is a portfolio management firm that specialized in reporting of Federal Programs.

City Manager – The reason he asked Landmark Consulting to come in is, because of the promotion of Mrs. Gardiner, to Planning and Community Development. The city would need an organization to come in and help with grants and reports. He stated that Mrs. Lashawn did a wonderful job, and she did it all by herself. Landmark was asked to come in to see, if this were something that council would like to pursue.

Debra Henson, Regional General Manager – Has worked for the City of Atlanta, and recently was the Assistant General Manager, for the Department of Aviation, where she had the department of facilities and

know Forest Park well, because her team cut the grass all around. She has also worked with Watershed Management for six and a half years, which is how she knows Dr. Cooper.

Landmark is an engineering firm that does four things well. One is compliance work where they report on federal, state, and other fundings, which her team will inform you of. She stated she came up with Landmark, because she knows what it is like to work in state government, to have no reporting and to get audited, but not have all the paperwork needed for audit.

Keely Thibodeaux, Senior Principal – The firm provides grants management, compliance service and project control, which is more on the finance side. Program management is managing a series of projects that comes from allocation of the federal grant fund. The firm practice architect and she is a licensed architect here in Georgia.

They combine their knowledge on large scale building programs and have always worked on large-scale capital programs in the City of Atlanta, City of New Orleans, and other places. They use federal funds to get those programs, buildings, and infrastructure built, where they manage the funds and manage the projects too.

There are three types of funds: entitlement funds, competitive grant funds, for infrastructure and other federal sources and formula grants, which FEMA is an example of. In the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act, you can expect to receive what they have for the state of Georgia, either directly or through the county, for roads and bridges and improving sustainable transportation, EB chargers, high speed internet for small rural areas and a variety of other things.

The pre-awards service offers a clearinghouse for grants management opportunity, where they search for opportunities with requirements met by the city. They will present it, and the city will decide if it is something they would like to move forward with. If a decision is made to move forward with the proposed grant, they prepare the grant application and proposal, and work with various departments and senior leadership with tracking until the applications get funded.

Post-award services are after you have been awarded, the monitoring and oversight of all the funds and tracking if they were spent, for which they were given. Each grant provides some administrative fees to manage it according to the way they like to receive the reporting.

Cedric Pippins, Principal – The portfolio you are seeing is a dashboard used to manage all your grants and funds coming in. They manage the programs, track costs, and bring the information into one place, so the leaders can make decisions. It also helps with managing audits and risks. His background is in project controls, managing budgets and cost and reporting and providing transparency to leaders and team members, collaborating to make good decisions.

The system dashboard will provide accurate and real-time reporting, transparency and coordination and cost savings. They manage millions of dollars daily for the City of Atlanta, opera, and cares funds, track cost for all programs that are eligible, work with finance to gather data, centralize the information, track all the cost, and manage risk as it goes through the life cycle. By the time an audit happens you will be prepared, the documents will be in place, as well as the reporting and costs and you will be able to manage it daily.

The Code and Financial Recovery Compliance provides administrative framework and organization and internal control, which is important advisory services, risk reduction monitoring and compliance, program solution and disaster fund management.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antione – Experience and trust is what I am looking for, so I am in favor of it.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Is this temporary or are we not going to have a grant writer anymore?

City Manager – For the time being, they would serve as the grant writer, and they can look at it on an annual basis to see if it were something council would want to continue. Can you talk about how you are paid?

Keely Thibodeaux – All of the grants have administrative fees that are a part of receiving those funds. Stated they are paid out of the administrative fee from the grant dollars.

Councilmember Gutierrez – So like an attorney if you get the grant then you get paid?

Keely Thibodeaux – Once the grant has been received, then the administrative fees kick in. If you are talking about a competitive grant where we would develop a proposal, there is a separate fee structure for that, and it is based on a level of hourly effort.

Councilmember Gutierrez – If approved will they come back with the pricing?

City Manager – Tonight I am not asking for approval, I wanted them to give the presentation and if council chooses to move forward with discussing this, then it would come back before council for approval on how to move forward. Would it be temporary or permanent depends on if that is what council wants.

Mayor Butler – You will be doing reporting for auditing purposes correct? If there is a discrepancy who has the liability?

Keely Thibodeaux – It would depend on what the discrepancy is. We have a responsibility to make sure that we have prepared everything accurately and support you all through the audit process. We manage the audit process with our clients, by answering all the questions and making sure everything goes smoothly.

Our whole design is around knowing what the requirements are and planning the program from the very beginning. The tools in the dashboard are lessons learned from years of doing this, which started 17 years ago and having perfected it over time. The record retention and accounting used in our system supports that effort.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Where can we see your work?

Keely Thibodeaux – The City of Atlanta is a local client; you can contact them as a reference, we have been managing funds for them for the last 2 years. Douglas County is a new client that is also local, you can contact them, and we can provide you with other references as well.

Councilmember Antione - The management analysis was doing the same thing this company is doing?

City Manager - Lashawn, was doing what they are going to be doing, but they will be doing it on a larger scale. Lashawn did a search, but one person can only search so much. Now we will have a whole company that is searching, and obtaining the Lap Certification, which leads to more federal funds. Now we need someone that is going to go after those funds and making sure we are remaining compliant, because they are very detailed in what they are expecting.

2. Leadership Clayton Class of 2022: Food4Clayton- Planning & Community Development

Background/History:

Food4Clayton is a 6-member group from the Leadership Clayton Class of 2022. Our group project consists of providing a resource that Clayton County residents in need of food can use to locate agencies and nonprofit organizations that provide such services.

With assistance from local partners, we have created a map tool, that residents can download a link or QR code that provides the name, addresses and transportation access to the agencies and nonprofits.

Lashawn Gardiner – They are one-third of the 2022 leadership class, and their six members consist of: Lashawn Gardiner, Caroline Angelo, Chief Kevin Roberts, Stephanie Oliver, Sydney Bourget, and Derrick Gilchrist. One of the things that they had to do as part of the Leadership Clayton was to develop a project, they thought would benefit the community and be sustainable.

After looking at food security and doing some brainstorming, they came up with Food for Clayton as the name of their group. Food insecurity, defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, is a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active and healthy lifestyle. Low income, nor limited access to transportation, lives more than a mile from a grocery store. Low-income populations, plus low access to fresh affordable foods one mile or more equals the acronym LILA. Food insecurity in Clayton County in 2019 consisted of 11.6 %, over 32,000 residents and in 2021 it increased to 19.9 percent of over 56,000 residents.

Kevin Roberts – He is excited about this, and the task put before them to create an impact on the citizens of Clayton County, in the city and unincorporated part. The purpose is to address food insecurity, by connecting people with local food resources. The mission was to create a food map to connect people with the local food resources in and around Clayton County.

They created a food map to do this, and it contains information about the different entities in the community that provide food for community food sources CFS's. The map will outline this and be accessible via website, a QR Code and a link for access. You mentioned something in your mission statement about collaboration, and everybody in the city and unincorporated Clayton County, struggle with food insecurity.

We have overcome that barrier through our partnership with Clayton County Community Development. The food map will be maintained through ARCGIS, and regardless of whom is here later down the road, they will still be able to add food resources to the map, if there is a community development agency in the county. The database is simple, it contains the name of the organization, address, website email, phone number and service description. He stated he was excited and would like for everyone to share this information.

Caroline Angelo – Is excited about the project, and works for Atlanta Technical College, and is aware of the need for food for the residents in Clayton County. They have a food pantry at the college, and sometimes have trouble keeping it stocked, because many students need a little something to eat before they take a test.

With a food map like this you will be able to click on the red hearts and on the side, it will display the address, the city and zip. Also, if there is something special that is needed like proof of residency, be over 18 and things of that sort will appear in the note session. When used on your phone, it will ask if it can search your location, and once it pops up, it will show the locations closest to you. The direction will appear on the side, to show how to get from where you are to where the food is.

We have rack cards printed in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Each card will be distributed as a PDF file to government entity, recreation centers, churches, schools, and libraries. They will be handed out at community events, the Mental Health Fun Run on Saturday, the Lovejoy Fall Festival, and other events. On the back is the QR Code that can be scanned, there is also a link, and as of today it will be added to the Clayton website under resources. Our big goal is to get the message out, and we ask that you share this. Plenty of people are in need, and we want to make sure that they know this map exists. There are a lot of organizations trying to get the food to the people, and we need help trying to get the people to the food.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – Went to an event at Forest Park Middle School, and the kids listed six things that were top of the line to really focus on. They are getting a new middle school and at the top of their list was food insecurity. One thing they shared was the local grocery store closest to them is Piggly Wiggly. They pay more for milk and other things, opposed to going down the road to Kroger. This is a huge issue in our community, so we need to point people in the direction, where they can get the most for their money.

Councilmember Antione – Teaches government and has initiated a group project for them to collect canned goods, bring them to class and take them to Mrs. Kimberly, parent liaison room and drop them off. He states, he is from a country that needs food and suggested they help his country out.

Lashawn Gardiner – Mentioned their first event was at Forest Park Fun Day, and they handed out several rack cards, to the people there.

Councilmember Gutierrez – This Clayton Leadership Program is amazing. There is another resource called Findhelpga.org, and it is a similar program that is specifically for food. He loved the logo they created for their website. Stated they could add something like this to the city website, under resources, so people could easily access it.

Lashawn Gardiner - Wanted to ask, if they could place it on the city website or social media platforms.

Councilmember Wells – Think it is a great idea and is what she calls collaborating with the community, getting out and getting involved. There are a lot of people in need, and they do not know where to go. This is a wonderful thing and if she can assist them in anyway feel free to reach out to her.

3. FUSUS Real-time Crime Center Camera– Police

Background/History:

The Fusus Unified Intelligence Platform is an open ecosystem that integrates and enhances all public safety and investigation assets. It unifies live video, data, and sensor feeds from virtually any source, creating a Real-Time Crime Center in The Cloud.

The Fusus platform makes it easy for community members such as businesses and schools to share their cameras with local law enforcement, and the option to only do so at the click of a panic button. This means they do not have to sacrifice their privacy to ensure greater safety in our city and neighborhoods.

This is a public safety ecosystem around Atlanta that includes over 20,000 cameras and is slated to double within a year. All cameras are combined with other public safety utilities like video management software, drones, departmentally issued cell phones, gunshot detections systems, License Plate Readers, and

integrates all this information with the Department's 911 computer aided dispatch (CAD) software. The FUSUS platform has enabled law enforcement agencies to rapidly and effectively respond to, and solve, a variety of crimes they may not have otherwise been able to, including shootings, homicides, and car jackings. Using this Network around Metro-Atlanta will enable our department to partner with agencies like Atlanta Police, Fulton County Sheriff, Fulton County Police, Cobb County Police, Henry County Police and soon Clayton County Police and Dekalb County Police. Partnering with these agencies gives us access to all their video resources and ALPR's (license Plate Readers) across the Metro Atlanta area for investigative resources at no additional costs than our platform.

Jim Price, Public Safety Advisor – Retired in 2018 from Gwinnett County PD, after 29 years. He has been with FUSUS over a year, and they are a Georgia based company, located in Peachtree Corners in Gwinnett County, and the company is about two and a half years old. They were contacted by the chief to come and explain what it is they do.

FUSES has about 130 agencies across the country, they do not sale cameras, are compatible with over 200 different camera systems or LPRS and integrate everything into a single pane of glass. Instead of having to log onto 2 or 3 different platforms, they store data in one place. End to end service provider, training 24/7 365 days and are in-house, manufacturing, customer support and engineers in Peachtree Corners.

Built by law enforcement for law enforcement 70 percent of the company is either retired law enforcement or military background. They are looking to have about 12-15 agencies in Metro Atlanta, by the end of the year. What this means for Forest Park, is that everyone with a FUSES platform will be able to share with one another, what they have on a platform for no additional cost. They bring in license plate readers, city own camera systems, drones, robots, and the important thing which is the private video.

The private video is when all businesses will have the opportunity to join this platform. They will build a registry for the city, and the residents and businesses will have several factors they can go in. The first step is for them to say, I have cameras and would like to cooperate with the city police department if there is ever an issue around me. This costs nothing; they register their cameras and become a little dot on the operational map. If an incident occurs and there are cameras, instead of the police going through the neighborhood or the businesses when a crime occur, asking if there is video, if they are in the registry, we can send an email to residents or businesses about the crime and request them to share the video via a link immediately.

The second part of this is a business can say, if something happens at my business and I call 911, I want you to be able to see what is going on here. They can register and purchase a device that sits at the location and connect the video live to the police department, as they are responding to an emergency call for service. This helps the police to know what they are going into, and if it is still in progress, because it will be live. They will be able to see the perpetrators, see them leaving the scene and what kind of vehicles they are getting into. This will help to find the right person faster and eliminate complaints.

The information will be available via phones, computers and the dispatch centers which gives you a variety of resources to see things live, and to be able to move on it immediately. Once the donor releases their videos and the police department receive it, they can decide who they want to see it. These cameras can be audited to see who is watching, how long they have been watching and is available to the administrators. This will help make the community feel safer, help officers use their time wisely, and help with catching the perpetrators and not innocent people that match the description.

Councilmember Antione - At the last meeting, we had a company called ShotSpotter speak on gun shot detection. How would that work together.

Jim Price - Yes, there are three different major companies that we integrate with that do gunshot detection. For example, Atlanta made sure they put cameras close to their gunshot detector, if there is not a camera nearby then all you will get is a gunshot alert. With cameras, LPRS and the gunshot detector you get other descriptions that are needed and FUSUS integrate all this into one platform.

Councilmember Gutierrez – This is essential, and it is great that all these different platforms can work together. It is impressive and it is needed.

Councilmember Wells – Appreciates his presentation and thinks this is something that the city needs and can benefit from. At the last meeting someone spoke, and it sounds like the same thing, she wants to know the difference?

Mayor Butler – The presentation at the last meeting was ShotSpotter and Omnilert and they are both gun detections companies. One uses audio and the other uses video. This is a camera system that can connect it all in one platform.

Jim Price – Stated they are a software platform, which connects everything to work together.

Mayor Butler – Including those two entities as well.

Councilmember Mears – How far out do this go, do we determine where they will go, or will this go in the city? How long will it take to bring the field officers up to speed with this system.

Jim Price – We are an internet-based platform, and we can have it up in 35-40 days, if we do not hit any snags with your software companies. The system is also very user friendly, but we will do all the in-house training for you which is part of the platform fee.

Councilmember Mears – His biggest problem is, a lot of the crimes are in the outlying areas not around main streets, but in the neighborhoods. So how hard will this be to incorporate into those areas and for the officers to get that information?

Jim Price – It is all based on where you would like to put cameras and the community response to the register we set up. It all depends on the feedback you receive and how many cameras you bring into the system.

Councilmember Mears - Who determine where the cameras go?

City Manager - That will be determined by the city, and whatever vendor is used to implement the cameras.

Councilmember Mears - Stated he is for anything that will make the community safe.

Councilmember Wells – How much will it be to get started?

Jim Price – There are several different packets. It is based on the number of inputs you are bringing into it. The basic package is for 150 inputs, then there is a pro packet with 500 input and the enterprise package of 1500 input. The basic package does not give you the registry program, like the pro package, which is the medium of 75,000 a year, and gives you everything that was talked about today.

Councilmember Mears- Is that yearly?

Jim Price - That is yearly.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Council Discussion of Amending Ordinance on Text Amendments—Planning & Community Development Department

Background/History:

The Planning & Community Development Department is proposing two text amendments to the Code of Ordinances. PC-2022-07 (TEXT) includes an update to Article P. Exterior Finishing Standards and Requirements – Residential Dwellings. Also included is an update to Article E. Tree Protection Plan. On August 18, 2022, both text amendments were approved by the Planning Commission Board.

An update to Article P. Exterior Finishing Standards and Requirements – Residential Dwellings Ordinance Sec. 8-2-160, Section 8-2-161, and 8-2-162 has been proposed. This update creates a standard for residential design. The previous ordinance was not explicit in its requirements, leaving too much room for interpretation. This update will clarify the requirements.

An update to the Tree Protection Ordinance. The purpose of the update to this Ordinance is to Provide standards for the conservation or replacement of trees as part of the land development and building construction process within the city. The previous ordinance was not explicit in its standards, leaving too much room for interpretation. This update is more specific with its standards.

LaShawn Gardiner, Director of Planning & Community Development – I will start with Residential dwellings Sec. 8-2-160, gives more specifics on the type of exterior finishings that can now be provided on the front side of construction of single-family residential dwellings, that one change. It also added, additional language that was a little bit more specific in terms of what materials will be prohibited. Item B and Item D gave exceptions for the type of products, which could be used based on the situation with the residential structure and added Section E, which talks about the architectural design features on single family attached and/or detached dwelling units. Section B – Windows and Doors – two additional elements were added which lists the prohibited materials which would be metal, vinyl and wood sidings and metal canopies; and a list of exceptions, such as, if a resident's home is already constructed with some type of vinyl, then if they are only replacing it, they could replace it with what has been damaged. There are the changes for the exterior finishings standards that was added for residential dwellings. Article E – Tree Protection Ordinance the revisions give a little more teeth adding language where 20% of an existing tree caliber should be maintained and it speaks to the tree replacement, that a developer or landowner would have to comply with when developing particular land and it also goes into a tree recompense pool that a person or company could pay into.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine – We are talking about the tree protection ordinance, in the state of Georgia there is a big concern around if a tree on your property falls on another tree in another's property, you are responsible. Does that cover that in this? If not, where is it address?

LaShawn Gardiner – That subject you are inquiring about, does not come under this statute. I would need to look in the code, but for purposes of what we are doing with the text amendments, it is only talking about

the percentage of the tree canopy that exists in the city that would have to be replaced or the person will have to pay into the tree protection recompense fund.

Attorney Williams – CM Antoine, what you are referring to is part of general case law, which is developed over the decades and this ordinance does not address that all, it only addresses when developers are developing their land and what they need to do to preserve a minimum level of tree coverage on that property.

Councilmember Gutierrez – What is the tree recompense?

LaShawn Gardiner – If a developer developed and a certain percentage of trees were cut down, they would pay the city a particular amount. This would go into a fund and the city would have the authority to replant trees on city property or where there is a need.

Councilmember James – Speaking on the single- family dwelling first. Is this in reference to remodeling your home or just new development?

Lashawn Gardiner – If you are remodeling your home, it will be on a case-by-case basis, and you will be able to use existing material that is currently on your home, and this covers the exterior.

Councilmember James - Plans to remodel, and on the front of her brick home she wanted to build a wraparound porch and needed to understand the language of the material.

Lashawn Gardiner - The section you are referring to Section A, the exterior finishing, in the original section it stopped at fully constructed stone or stucco. For this purpose, it adds additional types of materials that can be included.

Councilmember James - Has there been cases that come up that made the planning department, consider making it more defined? Is there a particular issue that brings this to the table or is it more proactive?

Lashawn Gardiner- Not to my knowledge, I would have to say it is more proactive.

Councilmember James- This question involves the tree. We have developers coming, one on Main Street, the apartment complex Forest Manor. Behind there is full of trees and the owner is planning to develop that area, and most of the trees will have to come down. The whole complex is old and when they initially started, they planned to build a whole apartment complex, about 30-40 years ago. Now he plans to make them town homes or condominiums. With this new update when he starts to remove some of the trees, will he have to pay a fee for those trees?

Lashawn Gardiner- He do not have to pay that fee; he can designate a number of trees; he decides to leave on there, before he clear cuts it. Those are things we would need to discuss, with the developers prior to doing the full site plan review process and explain these code sections to him.

Councilmember James - Do this affect the people that have already cut their trees, is this grandfathered?

Lashawn Gardiner – This will apply to anything moving forward.

5. **Council Consideration of an Amendment to the Elections Ordinance Barring Persons That Have Violated Election Laws from Serving as Election Officials – Legal**

Background/History:

It is proposed that the City's election ordinance be amended to include the following language:

No person may serve as an election official in the City of Forest Park if such person has been found to have violated the election laws of the State of Georgia or any other state of the United States of America. In addition to the final adjudication of any court of competent jurisdiction, a factual determination of the Georgia State Elections Board shall be conclusive as to whether a person has violated the election laws of the State of Georgia.

This provision is intended to enhance trust and confidence in the City's elections by prohibiting persons who have previously been found to have violated elections laws from serving as election officials.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Mears – Is the one that implemented this and feel that they need to put more emphasis on people background checks, which are being put into these positions. Just for clarity and to show the people in Forest Park, that things are right. Anything that has happened in the past, can happen in the present. This should give the people in Forest Park, a little more confidence that the elections are going to be honest.

6. Discussion and action regarding guidelines for Usage of Discretionary Ward Funds and Capital Outlay Funds – Chief Executive Office

Background/History:

We have been asked to review and prepare a set of guidelines regarding the usage of the discretionary funds and Capital Outlay Funds each Councilmember is entitled to spend in furtherance of their duties as a member of the City Council. The City Manager is seeking council's direction on the guidelines presented.

City Manager – These are the guidelines that was requested and are this year budget talks. I am aware that there are guidelines for council, and so we are presenting those with a few requests, to figure out how each council member will be able to use the ward and capital outlay funds. Then we can release those funds back.

Councilmember Gutierrez - What is the timeline on this?

City Manager – If it is approved tonight, the funds can be placed back in tomorrow. The direction from council, was after guidelines were presented and approved, the funds will be released.

Councilmember Wells- Right now has the ward money been taken away?

City Manager - No, you have the ward money we are talking about the capital outlay money.

Councilmember James – You mentioned we already have some things in place, but what are the differences that were outlined. Can you tell me what the differences are?

City Manager - The only thing that we ask, are the funds that are donated to the city is donated to the vendor via the councilmember and checks not be written to the city, because that is an accounting nightmare, for finance to try and keep up with. When councilmembers get those funds from individuals and for transparency that money can be written out to that vendor that has to be paid. This will take council aides, out the equation of soliciting funds for the council. They will not be asked to do that but be there to follow-up for them on those items.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I thought we were talking about capital outlay funds, what do this have to do with that?

City Manager – It is the same thing the ward money and capital outlay funds were put together. The ward money is used how you deemed them necessary as stated in the document. The capital outlay funds are used as it is spelled out in the document. If you want to use your ward funds for a program that is fine, if it comes to having someone donate to your ward funds to be used for a program that is a nightmare for the finance department, because there is no separate line for that to be added to.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Thought it was just capital outlay related. It makes sense if it is outlined.

Councilmember Wells – We have council aides to aid the council, and the things that the council have going on. You all take the money away for the events, then we get sponsors. Now you are saying that the council aide, cannot assist the council in getting sponsors, is that what this is about?

City Manager – No, it is not that they cannot aide in getting sponsors, they should not be the one initiating calling sponsors, on behalf of the council.

Councilmember Wells – What does that have to do with the discussion of regarding guidelines for usage of discretionary funds?

City Manager – Most ward funds that council have been discussing with me have been used for different programs that they would want to receive donations for. So, if a councilmember has received donations from someone and they ask the council aide to follow-up is one thing, but to call these people to get donations is not what a council aide should be doing. They should not be raising funds for council.

Councilmember Wells- Is that something a council aide cannot do?

Councilmember Gutierrez - Are you saying they cannot initiate, but we can?

City Attorney – A major part of that is to eliminate unethical shortfalls, on the part of the staff. Council members and the mayor are free to go out and solicit and if there is a follow-up, this business agree to contribute, then the staff can finish the process. They can collect goods donated or arrange for vendors to be paid. They just will not be initiating anything and that is to avoid any issues with city staff soliciting funds on behalf of any issue.

Councilmember Mears- Stated, it sounds good, and he understands.

Councilmember James – My very first event was recognizing the teacher of the year, and I solicited donations from the public, because I knew I could not use city funds to feed the teachers. At that time, I was told I could have a line item that said teacher appreciation, and whatever donations that where made they wrote it to the City of Forest Park, and it went to that line item. I was able to get a check for whatever catering company was used. What I am seeing now is, it is better not to do it that way, because of accounting issues.

City Manager – It not only could make for accounting not to be correct but having to keep up with six different councilmember accounts, different events and different people giving this and that will be a nightmare for finance who is already overburdened with the daily processes we must do.

If council will be soliciting donations, based on the program being done, if you are doing a dinner that will be paid for with sponsorship, they can just write the check out on behalf of the councilmember to that vendor.

7. Discussion regarding the City's Sanitation Contract – Legislative Offices

Background/History:

For City Council's discussion and direction around the city's sanitation contract.

Councilmember James – The sanitation services we have an RFP is out and we are seeking to get a new contract. I propose to council, to cancel the RFP and work with the company that we currently have. We have Waste Management, which is already in the community, and they have had their issues during covid, with staff and things of that nature, otherwise they provide the services that are needed. I think it would be more costly to the city to continue to go with the RFP process and to try and get a new bidder. I do not think it is an effective use of the city's resources and funds to continue to go forward with an RFP. Again, my suggestion to council is to cancel the RFP process, and to work with Waste Management.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antione – Is curious to see what Mr. Geeter, has to say about this, because it is easy for us to say cancel something, when there is a lot more work to be done.

Arthur Geeter – I would like to really understand the question, because the RFP is already out.

Councilmember Antione - Councilmember James, would like to cancel it and start a new process. How do you feel about that?

Councilmember James- I did not say start a new process. I said cancel it, and work with the company we have.

Arthur Geeter - A lot of work when into this RFP. We identified the scope of the work that public works has been doing with Waste Management. The reason they were going out is to try and get a better situation, in terms of the numerous complaints. It is my understanding that the company has not been forth coming in trying to clear up some of these complaints. The competition is healthy, and we are trying to see if we can get a better deal.

The RFP went out to 11 different companies, which is listed on the Georgia Procurement website, so all the businesses had the opportunity to participate. If you want to go into a negotiation with Waste Management about the issues that is something different. We extended the existing contract because that contract ended in July. The contract that we are in now ends in December of this year.

We need to decide, because soon no one will be picking up the trash. I have expedited the timeline of the RFP, and will start receiving the proposals in October, and the evaluation committee has already been set. We only received 2 proposals last time and was in negotiation with the top opponent at the time. Again, a decision needs to be made, because come December 31st we want have anyone.

Councilmember Gutierrez – You stated competition is health, and it is capitalism we cannot just settle and let people feel as though they can treat us however, they want. I think the complaints are valid, I have spoken with the people in public works, but I have not had any community complaints. Honestly, I am very happy with Waste Management. We are paying for these services and need to figure what is going to be

better. I do not agree with Councilmember James, on cancelling this especially after putting all this work into it.

Councilmember Wells – I agree with Councilmember James, because of the complaints and the citizens pay for it not public works. The community is what matters, and that is what we base our decision off. I am not a fan of Waste Management transfer station, being in the middle of Ward 4, but as far as the complaints I would like to see them. I am in the community and my ward daily and I do not get complaints, about the trash pickup. Things are going to happen, because that is normal, but I would need to see these complaints before we decide to start over.

Councilmember Mears – I agree with most of the board. The transfer station is owned by them and that gives them the heads up. Like you stated we only had two companies to respond this last time.

The people that are here we need to be able to work with, and they need to get on board with answering complaints. I do not have many complaints in my ward. Whatever the council decide I am, in agreement with, but we must be careful not to get a higher rate and to decide within the time frame.

Councilmember James – I have been able to sit in on a meeting with public works, the city manager, and Waste Management. We talked about the customer service and having a platform online for our residents and a phone number where they can call Waste Management directly, instead of calling public works.

This will cut out a lot of the internal complaints we get. They are a multibillion-dollar company, with a piece here in Forest Park, so they can handle the phone calls. We can get the information about the calls, which is something that is beneficial to us, and there is a lot of benefits that we can utilize by keeping the lines of communication open.

The contract ends in December and right now we are in September, even if the RFP ends, and in October we start getting people in. When we start getting them in that bids on it, the process is not over at that point. We must look at what they are bidding how much they are offering. Then by the time we get to December, we do not have anyone or must pay this huge extra cost to our residence is just not fair, so we need to continue with what we have and offer a long-term contract with Waste Management.

Mayor Butler – I do not care who acquire our business. However, I do care about the process we establish being followed and followed through completely. Starting a process and then stopping things in the middle do not rest well with me, and that is where I stand on this issue.

Councilmember Wells – How much are we paying month to month as of now without a contract.

Bobby Jinks – We are paying 507, 382.20 a month. Not including all the other restrictions, that they are trying to push on us, that they claim was added on to the extension when we only extended the contract and the price. If you have seen the brochure, you will see the stipulations.

Councilmember Wells – Thanks for the information. I am just being transparent and not saying I do not care, because I do. This is going to impact the people, and I feel like it is an issue with Waste Management and public works. You all need to try to communicate and figure things out. Continuing the process is okay, but I do not agree with changing companies.

The transfer station is in the middle of a residential area, and that is not going to change. This is what is impacting the citizens the most and no one is talking about that. We are going back and forward about this trash; we just want the trash transferred.

Councilmember Mears - What are some of the reasons that we have such a low turnout on our services. You stated it was only about two.

Arthur Geeter - Yes, we only received two proposals

Councilmember Mears – Even with the amount of money, did they give you a reason why?

Bobby Jinks – Waste Management, has bought everyone out except maybe 3-4 people.

Councilmember Mears - We do not want to wait around and get in a situation where we are locked in and do not have anywhere to turn, because when they get a lock on you, they going to squeeze you. We need to figure this out so we can have some sort of leverage. We need to be able to negotiate. The transfer station is not going anywhere so we need to come to some sort of agreement for the betterment of the people of Forest Park.

Bobby Jinks – One of the things were calling and making an appoint for bulk removal and organic material. Do you think the citizens would be willing to go on the website instead of having them burning fuel going down every street, if so, that should be a large discount to the city. It should lower the price instead of going up.

Councilmember Mears - That is a good idea. But in my ward, we have had training, brochures, videos, and people still do not know how to put the garbage out. That would help a lot, because I know that you all get a lot of calls with people saying you all missed their trash when it is not you all fault.

Bobby Jinks – What I had in mind was to do the mailing and partner up with code enforcement, since the rental program has been passed. When they change tenants they can give them a sanitation packet, with all the rules and regulations.

8. Discussion regarding a Public Safety Increase – Legislative Offices

Background/History:

For City Council's discussion and direction around a Public Safety Increase.

Councilmember James - I asked Dr. Cooper what the numbers would be to give our police department, except for the chief and deputy chief, a 15% increase, and our fire department except for the chief and deputy chief, a 10% increase. Do you have those numbers Dr. Cooper, and is this something affordable for our city?

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

City Manager - Based upon the numbers it is affordable, but there are other undue consequences that we have been trying to address with pay. We are talking about pay compression, salary inversions throughout the city not just with police and fire. When you look at the current structure in the county of the police department, right now Forest Park is the highest paid department in the entire county. The only people paying more than us is the county. With the additional pay that would increase the pd budget and the fire budget substantially and would put us at that higher level, but this does not include the other incentives that police and fire already get that other employees do not get. I am not against any employee getting pay increases or moving forward, but if we are going to address pay inequities, we need to address it city wide, and not with just public safety.

Councilmember James – Being the highest in the county do not mean to much because of our county. There is a big push in the country for public safety. Florida gives a big 5,000 signing bonus for police officers, and they are looking for people to move to Florida. There is a big competition going on for public safety people. No disrespect to any of our city employees, but I feel like our police department put their life on the line every day and having to face the mental health climate and other things, compensation is not something they should be concerned about.

We want to maintain and keep those that we have. With the new generation of officers if you pay them a couple of hundred dollars more they are gone. We want to let them know we are appreciative of them and want them to stay. If we can afford this, I would hope that council would agree to move forward with making this happen for the public safety department.

Councilmember Antione – Stated he is for the salary increase across the whole board. He is in favor of reviewing the number to see how it would affect them. There is a lot of revenue that is supposed to be coming in to offset everything, but he would like to see the numbers and make sure it is the right thing to do. He would like to do raises across the whole board and need to see the numbers to make a good decision.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I love giving money to the employees, because they are the motor in the city. I spoke to Dr. Cooper, about it and rely heavily upon his leadership and department and want to do what is right. He stated, he would like to see the numbers to analyze the situation to make the right decision, and that it is very competitive right now. He would like to get to the bottom of what is going on to make sure that pay is the factor with so many vacancies. I am on the fence about this but do think it needs to be across the board.

Councilmember Wells – I am for whatever makes sense, and I am a cheerleader for all our employees, but I am not in favor of that. If it is across the board then yes, but I do not feel like one department is more important than others. We had an employee leave from public works after years for one dollar, and we just gave raises. Now we come back to talk about a 15 percent raise for two departments and I do not think that is the right thing to do, it must make sense, for me to vote on it.

I never go against our employees getting anything because I feel like they deserve more than they get, but the city is not rich. If we are going to do this let us do it across the board and be fair, because no group of employees is more important than the other. They all serve the people; they all serve the community, and they all are public servants. If we do an across-the-board raise, I will be more inclined to speak on that, but not for just public safety.

Councilmember Mears – Stated he was raised in the union earning 1.97. He was told if he wanted to move up get smart. It was on a merit basis, and if you wanted top money you had to go to school or get training. We have a good starting, we need some sort of merit system, or incentive so when people come in, they can get smarter and more money as they move up. These young people are jumping from place to place getting all the money they can get. I feel if you give a person the opportunity to educate themselves and get more money, would be better than just giving them money.

Councilmember James – Asked Chief Clark to speak on what a pay increase would do for his department.

Councilmember Wells – Thinks it is more than money because they know what the pay is before they take job, but once they get on the job they want to leave.

Chief Clark – I spoke with one of my millennial supervisors and everybody said they want things they want money. Chief if you do not give us things and money and someone else do, we are going to leave and bad mouth you and the department. When you look at places like Stockbridge, Sandy Springs and even East Point, it is like we are all fishing in the same pond. If we do not keep up with that these millennials have said will leave. When I started, we looked at retirement, the millennials look at things and money, and if we cannot compete, we are going to lose officers.

Mayor Butler – There is a quote, from Richard Branson, who owns Virgin Records. He says, “train employees so well they can go anywhere, but treat them so good that they want to stay.” I also understand since the last pay increase, there was an increase in applicants, but the money is not going to keep them here. We know that, because several people have resigned or retire for whatever reason they choose to do so.

I think we may be having a bigger problem, which may need to be addressed as a council, which I would like to address in executive session, to try and get down to the bottom of why we are having so many people leave our police department. We will discuss this in executive session because, it is a concern.

9. Discussion and Appointment of Development Authority Board Members – Chief Executive Office

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park’s Development Authority was established to promote the development of trade, commerce, industry, and employment opportunities in the City. Development Authority members are appointed by City Council, and currently has two of its members whose terms expired August 30, 2022. The expiring members can be replaced or reappointed to serve as a member of this board.

Under the criteria for the Development Authority members shall be taxpayers residing in the county or municipal corporation for which the authority is created. The City Manager is seeking the direction of the City Council as to how they would like to proceed in this matter.

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 Work Session of September 6, 2022, at 8:00pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk’s Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 404-366-1555.

File Attachments for Item:

10. Council Approval to Decommission K-9 Krypto and to accept the Donation of another Bloodhound-Police Department

CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Subject: Council Discussion and Approval to Decommission K-9 Krypto and to accept the Donation of another Bloodhound

Submitted By: Brandon Criss (Police Chief)

Date Submitted: March 24, 2025

Work Session Date: April 7, 2025

Council Meeting Date: April 7, 2025

Approximately one year ago, K-9 Crypto was donated to the City of Forest Park by the Jimmy Ryce Foundation. Since joining our department, efforts have been made to acclimate her to the demands of police work. Unfortunately, Crypto has continued to struggle with a fear of loud noises and unfamiliar people—two critical factors for a successful working K-9.

After careful consideration, and in agreement with the Jimmy Ryce Foundation, the City of Forest Park will return K-9 Crypto to Hurricane Creek. There, she will be placed in a loving home more suitable for her needs. In her place, the city will receive a new Bloodhound, who will be trained by Hurricane Creek at no additional cost.

The Forest Park Police Department will assume all costs associated with the training, equipment, and healthcare of the new Bloodhound.

Cost: \$	Budgeted for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
0	_____	_____	_____

Financial Impact: 0

Action Requested from Council: Vote for Approval