



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, July 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Forest Park to enhance, strengthen, and grow our city by collaborating with our community to provide the highest level of service. Striving to be recognized as a diverse community that values and respects all members. We will strive to provide fair, professional, and courteous service through transparency and open communication. As we work to achieve this mission, we will have integrity beyond reproach while employing fiscal discipline and innovation. In this work there are no praises and raises for mediocrity.

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

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

AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

DISCLAIMER: For in-person attendance, all CDC requirements of Masks and Social Distancing is recommended.

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

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

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

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

INVOCATION/PLEDGE:

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:

PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Proclamation for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America – Legislative Office**

Background/History:

Councilmember Gutierrez would like to present a Proclamation to the Forest Park High School, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- [2.](#) **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2022 and July 5, 2022 - City Clerk**

NEW BUSINESS:

- [3.](#) **Council Approval to Authorize to Award a Contract to BRTU Construction, Inc. for the Construction of a Complete Streetscape and Roadway on Mainstreet in Forest Park, GA- Department of Planning & Community Development**
- [4.](#) **Council Approval of Purchasing FLOCK LPR (license plate reader) - Police Department**
- [5.](#) **Council Approval to Adopt Technical Fee Ordinance - Legal and Finance**

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 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:

1. Proclamation for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America – Legislative Office

Background/History:

Councilmember Gutierrez would like to present a Proclamation to the Forest Park High School, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)



CITY OF
FORESTPARK

City Council Agenda Item

Subject: Proclamation for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America – Legislative Office

Submitted By: Michelle Hood, Deputy City Clerk

Date Submitted: July 14, 2022

Work Session Date: N/A

Council Meeting Date: July 18, 2022

Background/History:

Councilmember Gutierrez would like to present a Proclamation to the Forest Park High School, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

Cost: \$

Budgeted for: _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Financial Impact:

N/A

Action Requested from Council:

Present proclamation



CITY OF
FORESTPARK

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national career and technical student-led organization that offers extracurricular resources and opportunities for its members to pursue careers that support families, and;

WHEREAS: Participation in FCCLA gives students the chance to expand their leadership potential and develop key skills such as planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision making and interpersonal communication – all skills that are deemed necessary at home and in the workplace, and;

WHEREAS: FCCLA provides credentialed chapter advisers who are certified professionals charged with delivering exceptional guidance, while also assisting students with their character development, education goals and career exploration, and;

WHEREAS: The Forest Park High School FCCLA Club is commended for helping local students gain real-world experience by participating in various community projects, workshops, and regional and national competitions for scholarships, and;

WHEREAS: Students in the club also learn about the importance of parliamentary law, as well as how to plan for business meetings, prepare minutes and display effective leadership while amongst fellow peers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Forest Park do hereby recognize the members of the Forest Park FCCLA Club for their outstanding accomplishments and willingness to make our community, state and nation a better place.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand on this 18th day of July 2022 and have caused the Official Seal of the great City of Forest Park to be affixed hereto:

Angelyne Butler, MPA
Mayor

Councilmember Kimberly James
Ward 1

Councilmember Dabouze Antoine
Ward 2

Councilmember Hector Gutierrez
Ward 3

Councilmember Latresa Akins-Wells
Ward 4

Councilmember Allan Mears
Ward 5

File Attachments for Item:

2. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2022 and July 5, 2022 - City Clerk



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, June 21, 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.

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The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

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

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Butler and she read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL -DEPUTY 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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4 -		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5 -Via Telephone		✓

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Darquita Williams, Deputy Finance Director; Tarik Maxell, Director of Recreation & Leisure, Arthur Geeter, Purchasing, Michael Brunson, Deputy Police Chief, Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works, Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, PIO Officer, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst and Shalonda Brown, Director of HR

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

- Please be Reminded – Per the State of Georgia, EPD, and the City of Forest Park Fire Department we are under an outdoor burn ban. The summer open burn ban runs from May 1 – September 20 and includes 54 counties in Georgia. The burn ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris. This rule is in addition to the year-round state ban on the burning of household garbage.
- The Atlanta Regional Commission is currently in the process of updating the Comprehensive Economic Development strategy for our region and would like your participation. You can participate by visiting the City of Forest Park's website at www.forestparkga.gov and clicking on the banner at the top of the page *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Survey (Atlanta Regional Commission)* to complete the survey.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Survey (Atlanta Regional Commission)

CITY OF
FOREST PARK
Georgia

BUSINESS COMMUNITY DEPARTMENTS GC

- The Comcast RISE investment fund provides monetary grants to help small business owned by people of color or women grow as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic. 500 grants totaling \$5 Million will be distributed. Some of the business in the City of Forest Park that has been granted funds at Cakes by Lameeka, Little One Learning Center, and Powertrains Freight Systems. For more information or to apply for these grants please visit www.ComcastRISE.com

CITY OPERATIONS:

- On August 6th, from 12 noon – 6:00pm, the City of Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services will host an Open House at Station One (1), located at 4539 Jonesboro Road. Bring the whole family out and enjoy the day's festivities.
- Our Champions of Forest Park video series showcases key community stakeholders sharing why they believe "Forest Park is on the move." To view the series please visit www.forestparkga.gov/bc-dda
- As we continue to move the city forward and re-brand, we are updated our city crest/logo on our city vehicles, buildings, as well as our City Flag.





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT/CONGRATULATIONS:

SHOUT OUT

- HUGE Thank you to Mr. Bobby Jinks and Ms. Tonya Thomas for getting these projects completed. Thank You Mr. Brad Monroe and his team for the work installing our new crest in this chamber, as well as installing our city flags at all our city buildings.

COVID-19 UPDATE: EMS Coordinator, Andrew Gelmini - Removed until July meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sanitation Contract – Waste Pro Services – Chief Executive Offices/Public Works

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to procure contractual services for citywide, commercial, and residential sanitation. Results of the process ranked Waste Pro USA as the top vendor to which contraction negotiations were initiated. Staff presented a negotiated contract to Mayor and Council during the June 6, 2022, Meeting, where council expressed concerns over the elimination of recycling, recycling education, as well as concerns over commercial rates. At that time City Council voted to table the contract.

Staff took this direction and conversed with Waste Pro USA regarding council members' concerns. The attached document highlights how these concerns will be addressed, and the City Manager is seeking council direction as to how they would like to proceed in this matter.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

City Manager - When I came on as city manager in March 31, 2021, there were several complaints from council and residence about the services we were receiving amongst other things with our current vendor. At that time, we were working with a lot of issues and concerns. They continued, so we went back to the current vendor and gave them an opportunity to discuss with us these concerns and to renegotiate. There was an automatic renewal if we did not cancel within a certain period.

We did go back to our current vendor requesting to speak about that to add some of the things I heard from council as far as performance. With performance, I guess you can say fines and different things for failure to perform. We went out and spoke with them, they declined to do that and said they would participate in the RFP process if we chose to go that way. We did and we informed council that we would be seeking an RFP process for waste services.

Waste services is handled through public works with two of the staff members. We sat down with our procurement manager and went through all the stipulations that we would be looking for with the contract and different things we would be asking for. We put the RFP out and we only had two bids come in. However, in the beginning when that process starts you gather the information, put the information in the form of a request for proposal, send it out and post it publicly for anyone in the business to apply and submit their information on what services and how they would do their services in the city.

Once that happens there is a deadline for those and they are then collected by procurement. Procurement puts together a panel, this consist of the individual that handle the sanitation, me and the public works director. You review not only the proposal of services, but you review the financials, and everyone gets a score and based on that accumulated score you come out with a ranking for the top. Under the procurement rule what you do is once you have the ranking you start negotiating with your top person to work on a contract.

If you cannot come to an agreement with the first person in the contract, the procurement rules if I am not mistaken, Mr. Geeter, correct me; the rules do allow for the contract negotiation to cease and you move on to the second, third or until you either get a contract or decide there is no one and to close it and go out for a new procurement.

That brought us to the last meeting where we spoke with the winning bidder about it, which was Waste Pro. Council did express some concerns about recycling, recycling education and some of the commercial rates and different things of that nature. When council voted to table that, staff and I decided to go back and address this with Waste Pro and we did. We addressed the concerns with Waste Pro, and we did come back with a very suitable contract for council consideration, and that is where we are this evening.

Councilmember James - Yes, just to update just a few things. There were eleven people the RFP was sent out to and eight came to the Prebid to submit their bids. So, the process went through fine, the problem I have for mayor and council is that I am not understanding how the one company that won the bid. When you look at it, they were much higher when comparing apples to apples. They were much higher in residential and commercial. I understand we went back to the drawing board to renegotiate somethings.

Based upon my research I am going to ask that we vote no, and my decision is based upon the lower rate we will have with the other contractor. The communication that I have had with residents and other municipalities regarding the facility we have in our city right now and part of the RFP has to do with securing incentives for minority-based businesses that are in the community. That is something that I do not think was addressed and based upon my own research and finding out the scoring I do not see how they won with the financial end of it when they were much higher. I feel a way about this so I will bid no on this.

City Manager - I would like to say this Councilwoman James, one thing about the scoring is the financial piece is just one of the five or six categories someone is scored in. So, you technically score low in one category and still win the bid, because you scored high in the others. So, the financial is just one piece in the whole scoring and I just wanted to make that clear.

Councilmember Antione - I am sure with the qualified vendors and experts that we have, they know how the process works and I respect everybody opinion. They would not present us with the final plan of the final vendor if they did not go through the channels of process. This is the right decision, and we need to act on it fast, because our citizens deserve qualified vendors and trash companies. I am in support of what the city manager opinion is about this.

Councilmember Gutierrez - I never had any complaints about Waste Management, but I am not happy that they are in a residential area. If Waste Pro comes, they are going to be in the same space that our community lives in. This is a long-term problem we need to address as a city. The financial piece is one part of it, and it is a big part of it. The biggest decision we make up here is the budget, and we cut a lot of things out of our budget, because we want to be fiscally responsible. If it is not broken why change it. I am in the air about this because I do know there is miscommunication between the gentleman at waste management and our city at times and they waited awhile to submit their bid right Dr Copper, but I do not have any complaints with Waste Management.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - I feel the same way. I have complaints and I think I have been very vocal about my complaints and adding another company. That would make me, and other residence have more complaints. It is going backwards when we say we want to get rid of waste management, and we need to be getting rid of the transfer. We need to be communicating with them to see if we can come to a mutual agreement to remove the transfer station out of a community. That is my issue with waste management. This do not help because if Waste Pro is servicing our community, they will be using that transfer station even more and that is a slap in the face to the residence. So, I am not going to vote to bring in another trash company. I do have my issues and concerns, but it is my main one and has fallen on death ears because no one has done anything about it, and I have been talking about it for years.

So, I am not in favor of another trash company. I know we get complaints that they may be a day late, but I feel it can be worked out. I am willing to work with them and I wish they would work with the city to find another property, so our citizens can live in peace and not in the middle of a transfer station.

Councilmember Mears - The city manager and public works director oversees finding these people and I think we should go on their recommendation. We should go with who they think will do best by the city.

Mayor - Mr. Geeter can you come up. Mike you two, maybe able to tag team this thing. The way I am processing this. There was conversation had with Waste Management pre the RFP. The RFP went out and each company presented their scope of service that they were going to provide to the city. So, the matrix that each person chose to be on this panel are based on each company scope of service. Some items were addressed and somewhere not, but it was up to the company to address those scope of services, correct.

Mr. Geeter - Based on the scope of service that public works put together. That is correct

Mayor - Now that the RFP process is technically still open. If we shut this down and vote against Waste Pro what are the legal ramifications, that we are putting ourselves in? I also want to make sure we are protecting the procurement process integrity. I do not want there to be any misconceptions that this process was flawed, just because we may not agree on who the outcome was. Can we even discuss what those fees are and that they will be increased regardless? Can you speak about the procurement integrity process?

Mr. Geeter - I followed the procurement code of the RFP process. The scope of service was put together by the user agency, which in this case was public works. We addressed most of the concerns from the citizens, which is included in the scope of services. We look at different facets in terms of penalties when things are not done according to the contract. That was all a part of negotiation.

The original contract cost that was presented to us in the RFP indicated that we would go through negotiation once we have gone through the evaluation process. That is where we are right now. We are still in the negotiation phase, with the top rank opponent.

City Attorney - I agree with that we follow the process that we established. My concern is that if the council have a different preference to either go with the other bidder or to start the process over. To follow the procurement, process the best route is to reject all bids and start over. If that is the will or majority of council major concern. The alternative is to put the current bidder we are negotiating in an unfair disadvantage because their cards are on the table, and we have already negotiated a deal at the staff level. Now that their card is on the table if we go to the next bidder there is a disadvantage. It muddies the water. My suggestion is to go with the staff recommendation or to reject all bids and reinstate the process.

City Manager - It is what the city attorney said. If you look at the current rates that we are paying which are public record. You say the rates they are offering is higher, and yes, they are. However, they are higher on both ends, the rates will not be the same.

Mr. Geeter - The way procurement is now we lucky to get anything we order. The prices of everything have gone up. This contract was getting ready to end. So, we must decide because I guarantee you the existing contract was going to give us an increase. If it was just on fuel alone, we were going to get an increase. So, do not think we were going to keep the same prices from the last three years. So, we are still in the negotiation phase of the process, but we will do whatever the body tells us to do. The number that was given was a number based on the scope of service, they knew they were going to go into negotiation. All opponents knew we were going into negotiation it was made clear in the RFP. I suggest you all review the scope to make sure it addressed everything you all had concerns about. We felt that we captured all the concerns in the scope of service.

City Attorney - One of the things that was brought to you the first time was a contract that did not include recycling. So, you all sent us back to the drawing board on that. To the extent that recycling is a bigger component that you want to emphasize that along would be reasonable for you all would send it back and restart the RFP process. When it was first bid out, it was bid with recycling as an option not as a requirement. That along would be sufficient justification if that is the will of council.

Councilmember James - Mike, you mentioned if we decided to not go with the offer that staff is proposing then we would have to go through the RFP process again?

City Attorney - That is my recommendation. You do not have too but I recommend it.

Councilmember James - So that we have a bit of history of why we are here. I think the negotiation process, according to the email Dr. Copper, sent to all of us. The reason we went to the RFP process had to do with the liquidated damages; for failing to do something that, according to the email, Waste Management did not want to go into the liquidation fees, without renegotiating the contract, correct?

City Manager - No, that was part of the reason we went in, but that was along with the complaints that I received from council and from residence, when we went to Waste Management first.

Councilmember James - I understand that part. The point that I am trying to drive is the reason we went into the RFP process is, one of the reasons was, because of the liquidated fees that they were not happy with imposing. So, my question at the last council meeting when this came before us was, did we talk about those liquidated damages with waste management since that was one of the main reasons. I heard you say we did it pre-RFP, which I understood. My question was post RFP, and I understand Waste Pro was the

top ranked. I had the opportunities for transparency's sake, I had the opportunity to look at how the ranking was done, and it do not sit well with me. Was the negotiation done with Waste Management about the liquidation which is why we are here in the first place.

City Manager - Yes, mam. We spoke with Waste Management prior to any of this happening. We gave them a letter asking them this is what we want to do. They sent us a letter and I sent it to council. In the email they said at this time we will not be looking to discuss this, and we welcome going through the RFP process.

Mayor - So your question is during the RFP Process.

Council Member James - Yes

Mayor - No, Mike can you speak to that. We are not supposed to so that when the process has begun because that is a crime.

Mr. Getter - It is against procurement code.

Mayor - Which could be a crime.

City Attorney - You negotiate with the first until you get an agreement or reach an impasse. The position we took is that it would be inappropriate to be negotiating with multiple at the same time.

Councilmember James - So if we are not in an agreement with Waste Pro, being the first top getter; then we go to the second person. Is that what I am hearing you say that is legally able to do. That was my thing because, at the last council meeting if I am reading my meetings correctly. We said we wanted to see what Waste Management had to offer. So, for us to be back on Waste Pro, let us know what the will of the council is in this moment is to see if we can negotiate with Waste Management, was not done. We just eliminated Waste Pro, from the process and go to the next person that is what I am saying.

City Attorney - To understand clearly what that would have done would be to interrupt the RFP process because we are still in the negotiation phase process were the highest rank at least from the staff recommendation highest rank.

Councilmember James - Is that because we tabled it or is that because we did not vote.

City Attorney - You did not vote it down.

Councilmember James - So if we vote it down then we will be on the second process.

City Attorney - In theory.

Councilmember Mears - We had people there on our behalf during the entire process and we should take their recommendations instead going back and forth about it.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Yes, so Mr. Geeter you stated that you took into consideration what the residents wanted, and I would like to know what that was if they were taken into consideration? Then I want to say, the staff makes a recommendation, but the council is responsible for making the decision and I think some people may forget that. So, I do not see how that would be illegal to change our mind, or not to go with who the staff had chosen. I do not think it is against the law to do because we are the decision makers.

I just wanted to know the issues the residents had that you put into this process, because their issue is the transfer station. So, bring more trucks to work out of that transfer station would not be helping the residents.

Mr. Getter - I would have to get Mr. Jinks to address that question. I would like to say that this contract is for 3 years, so the contract is getting ready to end regardless. It was up to us to send a notice 60 days prior to the contract ending to let them know if we were going to reestablish the contract with them or go out for an RFP.

Councilmember Akins -Wells- I think when we discussed them last time up it had been like 15 years since the price had gone up. So, like you stated everything is going up and I am about being fair. I do not have anything against Alan, I just have something against the transfer station being in the middle of Ward 4, so we must look at those things as well. So, because we get a few complaints or they did not notice this day, we too need to look at the things they have done. They bring the city 10,000-dollar checks and not going up for the last 15 years. If we want to be fair it is time for it to go up. We cannot expect everything to stay the same, but for the last 15 years it has, and we must be appreciative of that. I am not in favor of changing.

City Manager - I would just like to say Councilwoman Wells and Councilwoman James, myself and staff did not go against what council wanted. We took the direction of tabling it with the understanding that you had concerns over recycling, recycling education and over the commercial rates. We went back to the drawing board which is what we were supposed to do. Technically, all we ask is this evening is council give us that direction. Whether we vote up or down and we know which other direction to take after that. We did not go against council the reason it is back is, because we did exactly what council asked. We renegotiated all of that and came back to the table with a different contract. That is why it is back in front of council.

Mayor - I do not know how many other ways to say it. It's not that council cannot change their mind; it is that we are in the middle of negotiations with one particular company, and so to try to negotiate with two different ones, I do not know any other way to say it.

City Attorney - There is an element of bad faith if we negotiate with two people at the same time.

2. Discussion and Direction regarding Veto Message (Line-Item Veto – Police Services – Chief Executive Offices)

Background/History:

Pursuant to Section 2.32(c) of the Charter the Mayor exercised her veto authority and apply said authority to specific portions of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget approved at the June 6, 2022, meeting of the City Council of Forest Park. The specific portions are detailed below.

Police Services

The following line items are **reduced** by the corresponding amounts:

100-31-3210-51-1101 (Salaries)	(\$208,132.01)
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100-31-3210-54-2502 (Capital Outlay)	(\$111,867.99)
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The amounts above correspond to the additional appropriations requested for the Gang and Narcotics Task force. Let me be clear, in principle, I do not oppose the task force. I do, however, oppose funding five additional positions within the Police Department when as of June 6th, 2022, there are thirty-five vacant

positions: ten civilian and twenty-five belonging to sworn officers. The Gang and Narcotics Task force is an assignment. The persons chosen to fill the Gang and Narcotics Task force will include one civilian Public Education Specialist and four sworn, (three officers and 1 Sergeant). Therefore, these five positions can be taken from the current ten vacant civilian and twenty-five vacant positions and assigned to work the Gang and Narcotics Task force.

If there is a special preference needed for this assignment, then Chief Clark has full autonomy to indicate such on the current job descriptions for the current vacant positions. As such, there is nothing that prevents the Police Department from first forming the task force out of existing approved positions. Going forward, once Chief Clark fills his vacant positions, I would be amenable to revisiting amending the budget to provide for additional positions, but only after the existing vacancies are filled and only after due and adequate consideration is paid to the funds that the Police Department already has that could be used for this purpose. More so, at the leisure of the Council, our organizational chart can be amended to clearly delineate the Gang and Narcotic Task force designation.

Attached as Exhibit A is a chart showing the balance, as of June 1, 2022, in the asset forfeiture accounts the Police Department maintains. These funds may be used for the task force, police equipment and training. It is imperative to note and understand, these funds have remained unused for years. While it is true the Police Chief may use these funds at his/her discretion, there is no plausible or legal reason these funds are not being utilized.

See Exhibit A -

By removing these items from the budget, it would be my desire to have the Council consider redirecting the savings resulting from this veto to other critical public safety-related purposes such as: a critically needed upgrade to the City-wide camera and surveillance systems, Omnilert, a gun detection system and a gun buy-back program to aid in removing weapons of war from our city streets. As well as to care for City maintained Cemeteries, and an environmental study of a cleaners, which is a catalyst site within our Downtown Entertainment District.

The City Manager is seeking City Council direction on how they would like for the administration to proceed.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body

Mayor - I want to reinstate the purpose of my veto as it pertains to the additional positions. We had this discussion at the retreat in which the fire department asked for more positions. They had a lot of vacant positions, and I could not agree to give them more positions when they have not filled what was currently vacant. So, that is my stance here. I still do not understand giving five new positions when we have so many vacant ones.

The way I understood everything is there is nothing that prevents those existing positions from being utilized to fill for this gang and narcotic unit. So, unless told otherwise that is why I issued this veto on that. Then the capital outlay there are several accounts that the police department has. It was set to be on the agenda for tonight, but then we found out that Chief Clark was going to be out, so it was removed. We are going to go into more detail about some of those accounts at the next meeting. Again, there is no reason these funds cannot be utilized to offset some of the requests made for this budget year. So, I would like for you to address those items and then we will go down the line if there are other points to address.

Deputy Chief Brunson - As you stated there are currently vacant positions currently in the agency. Looking at it there are about thirty-seven sworn vacancies and four civilian vacancies. Right now, we could

technically create that unit if we had more personnel. What you stated previously regarding utilizing those vacant positions once they get filled to create that task force. Something that is a possibility.

Mayor - Is there anything that is preventing Chief Clark, if there is a specific preference (ex: 10 years in narcotics). You too Mike, is there anything that is preventing Chief Clark, from amending those current vacant job descriptions to specify a preference for this specific unit. You are not just hiring specifically for this unit. You are hiring sworn officers to fulfill an assignment, correct?

Deputy Chief Brunson- Yes.

City Attorney - That is correct. They can amend those to specifically to look for candidates that could fill those positions, which have experience in those areas.

Councilmember James - This is the democracy at work. I do not know if I will have the support of the council, but I know to overturn a veto, you need four votes to do so. I do not know how many have spoken with chief. I know chief is in Israel doing great work and will be back to give us an update on that. In speaking with chief prior to leaving. Speaking on the narcotic side opposed to the gang side. As far as the narcotic side, I have spoken for many years about having a drug unit in Forest Park. I know one of our officers left because we did not have a drug unit. Officer Cash, his father was one of the one and only officers killed in the City of Forest Park and went on to work in another unit because he wanted to specialize in that.

I know that currently, chief has some officers in training now that is going through narcotics and gang training. So, I know we will be able to house some people in that unit. However, with the vacancies that we have, they are simply that; vacancies that we have had. With my conversation with chief, because of the increases in salary, because of the incentives that we have, we have more people applying for positions.

So, I have no doubt that we are working toward those positions getting filled. Since Chief Clark is not here, I am not going to speak for him, and no disrespect to you. Deputy Chief, and because of how the veto process overturn works, we must vote. The first or second council meeting after the veto. So, we have this council meeting and next council meeting to work through it and I know chief will be out today.

If we are seeking for a specialized position that means someone is going to come with experience already. They will be able to look and see that this is a position. If I want to work on narcotic or want to work on a drug unit, whether it is an assignment or whatever you want to call it, it is the chief's discretion to put it out there. I am hoping I get enough support to overturn the veto, so that we can go ahead and move forward with these five positions.

Again, it is democracy and whether we do it or not it is the chief's call. I know this is something we talked about during our retreat about having a narcotic and gang unit. I understand that there is a gang problem, I did not realize it at the time. I did not know that we had a major one, but it was told to us during our retreat that we do have a major gang problem. So, these are things we need. I do not think we should take it out of the budget as far as the asset forfeiture accounts, I am going to defer to talking about that until chief is back. This has been a conversation we have had many times even with Chief Hobbs when he was chief about this account. If it is his discretion to deal with those funds, then I do not want to deal with it until he is here in our presence. That is my position, and I am hoping we can vote to overturn the veto.

Councilmember Antoine - We are talking about fiscally responsible. A significant amount of my residents felt empowered by this decision. What we have here are positions not being filled, so we are talking about being fiscally responsible. Positions are not being filled so you cannot be creating more positions when the prior positions are not being filled.

They mayor is saying, it is not that we cannot go back and revisit it, but as of now there is not enough positions being filled. So, why are we creating more positions when the current ones are not being filled? I am in support with the chief but at the same time I am also being fiscally responsible. So, we can revisit it but right now it is a no brainer. So, let us not do it until we see positions being filled. We want everyone to come to Forest Park and be a police officer. Like in every other department we want every position to be filled. But if they are not being filled, why are we creating more positions. I am with the City Manager on this.

Councilmember Gutierrez - So we have vacancies right now right, deputy chief, but each vacancy serves a specific role, right? So, if we were to go ahead and revisit what we currently have now and make this task force we would be losing from another position right? You would be taking a role away from something to put it into something else.

Deputy Chief Brunson - Yes, right now

Councilmember Gutierrez - So, I understand the vacancies but, realistically when are we going to have 100 percent in the department. With the level of our country and how nationally everyone is struggling, there are vacancies everywhere. I can understand the mayor and I know that she is not against it totally. To me it is like especially as an educator and knowing gangs are just an extended family that at times may not do the right thing, but they are families away from home that our children are getting into.

If we do not have anything specifically advocating for that, I am not talking about Stockbridge PD of Clinton County or the sheriff coming in here and visiting and leaving. With the partnerships that we develop which I am thankful for because we do not have some of these services and I know you all have interrelationships with other departments. To me if something specializes in like Bruce's department but let us just move into bobby's that is the logic that I am getting.

You say a police officer, but he is not a narcotic specialist, or a gang specialist or a person that can counsel youth.

Mayor - Can you address that?

Deputy Chief Brunson - When creating a specialized unit there are a couple of ways to do it. There are officers that are patrol men, patrol officers, patrol women, which have worked in the city for quite some period. During that time through their experience, they gain knowledge on drug dealers and gang members and so on.

So, if we put a poster out saying we are creating this unit then we would look to those individuals. Then there are other individuals that are interested who can go through training and working with those individuals that are already have the knowledge and that is how you build upon that. Through training and through experience both of those things are how you create a unit from within a department.

Councilmember Gutierrez – So the narcotics unit that we allocated money for is not a specialized unit where we would hire people from the outside, it is a unit within?

Deputy Chief Brunson - It would be people that we have theoretically, but we can hire people. We could do a posting and depending on their experience if we got someone that fit perfectly then of it could come that way too. A lot of times it happens organically from within from individuals who already have the knowledge because there are officers that have been on the job for 5 or 10 years.

Well in 5 to 10 years you are going to get to know people you are going to get to know hotspot areas and that type of thing. If you bring someone without then they may have the knowledge but not necessarily the organic knowledge of working in Forest Park for 4 or 5 years where they know people and have relationships. So, what I am saying is that it could happen both ways.

Councilmember Gutierrez - So, by creating this unit we might lose street officers, because we are already low on that.

Deputy Chief Brunson - So, if we get officers in to join the agency which we are continuously recruiting and there are others interested in joining. So, as we get more personnel to come then that assist us in doing those additional things, those specialized things.

Councilmember Gutierrez - It is created within that is what I did not know I had a misconception. I thought we were bringing specialized people in for the narcotics and gangs, but we would be using our own officers and putting them into this unit.

Deputy Chief Brunson - Yes, but like I said it can come from both ways. If we recruit for example, we have our sheet where we have incentives for individuals who already have certification and so many years of experience. It can be a combination of those things, but in many cases, it is an organic process where it is individuals that have that institutional knowledge of Forest Park, who would hit the ground running. They already know, they already have the relationships that they built throughout their time working in the City of Forest Park.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Do you personally think we need this?

Mayor - Need the unit or the additional five positions. I do not think anyone is against the unit itself. We are talking about the additional positions, and right now the numbers changed. So, in my veto it was twenty-five vacant sworn positions, now you are saying it is thirty-seven vacant sworn and ten vacant civilian and now you are saying four vacant civilians that is forty-two vacant positions. Then we are going to give them five more. So, are you asking if he agrees with the unit or the additional five positions?

Councilmember Gutierrez - The unit.

Deputy Chief Brunson - Yes, it is a positive thing. When looking at some of the crime that we have experienced and some of the things that we look at. Violent crime is driven by crews, gangs, or drugs. I have been in law enforcement for 26 years and you see over and over that those things are precursors to violent crimes. That is what we are trying to combat by creating a unit like this. It is a great idea.

Councilmember Atkins-Wells - I am on the fence about this one. It does not make sense to keep giving positions when the others are not being filled. Parts of it I am okay with, it will be whatever the majority chooses. When it comes to the capital outlay, I do not agree with you taking the capital outlay money. You vetoed our capital outlay to so other things with because certain people were misusing it. So, I do not think the capital outlay money away from the police department, I do not think it should have been taken away from us. It was to do things to benefit the community.

Yes, I am going back again to our community we keep taking things away from them. The capital outlay money I do not think that it should have been vetoed. Let the police department use it however, they see fit. We are not a cemetery business and the things listed here like gun detection system, and the buyback program. To me and no disrespect to anyone just seems like things you want to do. Again, we are removing the community from it.

I would like to know if we need a drug task force, can someone tell me what type of drugs are being dealt around here. What is going on in Forest Park, that we need a drug task force. I think that if we had the officers that are needed, we could control some of the crime that is going on in Forest Park. Again, I am on the fence about it. I do not say take away capital out from the police department of the council members, which has been vetoed and taken away as well to do these things. These things can be done anyone so leave the departments capital outlay money along.

Let us turn over the veto of our capital outlay, so that we can do some of the things in our wards and communities that benefit the people. I would like that information. I would like to know how many drug cases are being investigated right now and why we are so adamant about creating this drug force team and if we need it, we will do what is needed to protect our community.

Taking the capital outlay money from us and the police department with which I do not agree. I would like to get more information from Chief Clark. I agree with Councilwoman James as far as waiting on him to get back so that we can get more clarification on which way to go. We keep saying we want the department heads to do this, and we want to go the direction of the staff, give him the opportunity to come up here and explain himself; on what his department needs and what the city needs.

Councilmember Mears - I understand that we already have some officers getting training for this type of situation. I feel since there are so many positions, we should try to fill the positions on the inside first. We have enough qualified people, or we may can hire other people from other police departments that want to come here and join that team. I am for leaving it just like this.

Councilmember Gutierrez - I have a question. So, this is the second meeting after the veto so we could not table this until chief comes back to explain it. Is this the second veto after the meeting.

Mayor - It is the first meeting, so if you all want to come back it could come back at the next meeting in July.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Then chief would be here Dr. Cooper?

City Manager - Yes, he should be.

Mayor - It is 7:00 and we will be entering into executive session tonight and so I am going to ask that we adjourn the work session. Is there a motion to adjourn the work session?

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione

Mayor- Any discussion?

Councilmember Gutierrez - Yes, I wanted to know, to amend the agenda to add something, do I have to wait till we start the meeting.

Mayor - We can add it to the regular session unless Councilwoman James withdraws her motion, there is a current motion to close the work session. So, are you willing to withdraw your motion?

Councilmember James - Are we adding it to the regular meeting or the work session?

Councilmember Gutierrez - The work session, so we can talk about it right. I think it would be a good discussion to have.

Councilmember James - I withdraw my motion.

Mayor - That motion is withdrawn. Councilmember Gutierrez is making a motion to amend the work session to discuss the capital outlay.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Yes, I was under the impression that he was going to be here too.

Mayor - To discuss the veto on the capital outlay. So is there a motion to approve his amendment.

It was moved to amend the Work Session to add discussion on the Line-Item Veto of Capital Outlay.

Motion made by Councilwomen Wells, seconded by Councilwoman James

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antione, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akin-Wells, Councilmember Mears

Mayor Butler - With this budget I also vetoed from the legislative body our capital outlay line item. My veto is as follow: after careful consideration I hereby exercise my veto authority **pursuant to section 2-32-c** of the charter and apply said authority to specific portions of the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 budget approved at the June 6, 2022, meeting of the City of Forest Park, of the city council of Forest Park. The specific portions are detailed below, capital outlays legislative office. The following line items are disapproved: **line item 25-03, 25-04, 25-05, 25-06, 25-07 and 25-08.**

Lastly, as the council will recall a few years I introduced the concept of a legislative capital outlay line item to the budget. These funds were intended to provide each ward with funds for smaller capital outlays that might be overlooked in the normal budgeting process, or if a recipient wanted to use said funds for a larger capital outlay project; he or she would have to spread the cost of said project over the source of multiple years. (ex. If a project cost 80,000 and you get 40,000 each year the project would take two years to complete.) However, that has not been the case.

Our experience with these funds has not met our original expectations. Until we establish a clear policy and process for use of these funds, these respected line items are hereby vetoed. Such a policy and process must include but not necessarily be limited to the following features: clear limitations on what the funds will be used for, prudent planning for implementation of any project, i.e., establishment of a budget, effective project management and clear fiscal management and strict adherence to the city's procurement policy.

By removing these items from the budget, it would be my desire to have the council reconsider directing these savings resulting from this veto to other critical public safety related purposes, such as a critically needed upgrade to our citywide camera and surveillance systems, omni alert, a gun detection system and a gun buyback program to aid in removing weapons from our city streets.

The capital outlay funds, each elected official gets about 47,000 dollars a year. As the veto spelled out, the capital outlay means any project that is to withstand a year or longer. Not like a party or something it is an actual intangible improvement to the city. But what has been happening is that we have projects in mind that, ridiculously exceeds what has been allotted per year.

So, we have staff trying to figure out how to make the project work instead of just saying, I do not know what is being said I just know what the result is. We have people trying to get the project done out of the budgets and line items when that is not the intended purpose.

Again, it is not eliminating this, it is establishing a clear process of how these funds will be utilized, so that it will not put staff in jeopardy. We acquired land for a park and the entire project is going to cost almost 300,000 dollars. You do the math.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - That is something the city should want to put money into.

Mayor - But what I am saying is that it has not been budgeted for. To use the capital outlay and knowing this may take a couple of years, but you know you have these funds coming in. So, let us use it accordingly. I thought that this was being communicated but there was never a clear process. So, my thing is until we do, unless it is overturned this is where I stood on it.

Councilmember Gutierrez - First thank you for bringing something like this to the table because as councilmembers we are the line of bridging and communication within our ward and in the city. I thought it was a great idea. At first, I did not understand it much, just to specify some of the things I have done; the first year I had to pay for an architect to plan of theater park which I wanted to remodel. My ideal for even initiating something like this was the hope of getting some of the major corporations that we have in Fort Gillum to get along and get them to sponsor portions of this park and improve it. We also had some extra money, I do not know if it was SPLOST, I was led to believe, and I do not want to throw any directors under the bus. But it said we can find funding for it; it is a good thing. That is why I went that route into doing that. I have also put benches around the little libraries, and I had some ideas of putting some art around the city, until this happened. I agree with you we need to have something set in place, but I do not want to get rid of it and it gets lost in the wind and then later we must agree on it.

If we could set a limitation until we set these regulations and we just want to use them. Our staff is more than capable of putting some limitations on what we can do and just put it in black in white and then we can continue to do projects. I know Council member Mears fixed his part, Council woman James put some planters around I borrowed that idea and put planters around my ward.

I just have all these identified spaces and would love to bring art to our community and if I did not have this capital outlay money I might not. I might have to go and seek funding, which is another added task, which is not a bad that, but if I had our own city money, we could put our own logo on it and take ownership of beautifying these spaces. So, if we can set these limitations and not get rid of it and then allocate the money to something else. I agree with you and would love to set up some type of buyback gun program and set up cameras too, but like Councilmember Antoine, said we only have enough for some things and that is understandable. I do not want to get rid of something that we already have and besides some hiccups it has been successful overall.

I also bought some soccer equipment for Babb Middle School and Forest Park Middle School and our Kiwanis stadium, where we will start hosting matches. Atlanta is now a World Cup host, which is huge and with the type of talent we have here in our community we could easily have some players in there representing for us, That is my take on it and I would like to garner you all support of the council or even you mayor on setting those limitations, before we completely get rid of it and allocate that money somewhere else.

Mayor - Well, you do have my agreement and we can direct staff to produce a process and bring it back. The sooner they bring it back then the sooner we can get it back.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Yes, I agree with Councilman Gutierrez said. Some of us were using the money the right way. Again, I say things because I am transparent, and I let the people know what is going on. I do not think just because one person used funds in a way they should not have, look at the park on

West Street it looks terrible after capital outlay money was utilized too so whatever. So, some of us do things I purchased a property in Ward 4 to have a park because every ward has a park except Ward 4.

Like Councilman Gutierrez, said as far as these big companies in Forest Park, they may want to sponsor something like that. So, instead of taking it away, I feel like everything the councilmembers can do is being taken away because of people wanting to be empowered and make these decisions themselves. Well, we are elected officials and we can do things. I do not think everything that is given to us should be taken away. It is not taken away from us personally it is taken away from our community.

So yes, a park on Pine Ridge, the people have been talking about, they loved the idea and then boom you veto some of the funds that was going to be used to help bring that park. So, are we really for the community, do we really want to see the community grow or do we just want to put our personal ideas that we personally have that benefit us personally? These are things that bring our community together.

Mr. James Shelby, we discussed somethings and I know Lashawn was supposed to be finding money that would help get these projects initiated. It seems like we are taking more from the community than given back and that is a problem for me. With the capital outlay with the police department let them do what they want to do with the money.

It was a great idea and I appreciate you for doing it like the signs in Ward 4, I think Councilwoman did it in her ward as well, us capital outlay money to put the Welcome to Ward 4 signs, Welcome to Ward 1 sign with plants trying to beautify the city. This is what the money can be used for. We are in the taking away mood not in the giving back mood and we need to get in the giving back mood to our community. These things and this money help impact our community.

I know you have the authority to veto but taking away from the community to clean up cemeteries, we are not in the cemetery business we are in the serving the people business. So, we need to do things to serve the citizens that we work for, the people that put us here. I am all about the gun protection program, that money can come from somewhere else. Let us do the things for the community these are the people that put us here then we get in office and take everything away from them and turn our backs on the because we can. That is not how it should be, you vetoed it and I agree we should have had something in place and maybe when you first bought it should have been done then. Not when people are in the middle of having projects done then oh let me snatch this away, you are not doing this part, you not upgrading this part. It does not make sense to me and going back and forth is not worth it. If you had the better ness of the people and the goodness of the people in mind, then we would not even be going back and forth about a lot of mess.

Councilmember Mears - I agree with your veto, you need to have a plan or budget to go on so you can see how much you are going to have every year. From volunteers and sponsors and budget your parks and things according to your budget. I am getting my park redone, but I am not spending a whole lot on it. You can spruce it up and when more money comes in you can do more for the park.

Mayor - A lot of things do not come up until we are actually in the movement of it all. A lot of the feedback that have come back has been a result, and we should have done something moving forward and we did not. Now that we know we are going to do better and doing that is establishing a process now there is no time like the present to put these things into place so moving forward we are not having these hiccups.

I will say we actually are in the cemetery business and Mike; you can tell us where we are with that cemetery, that the city recently acquired. It would be 730, 732 and 734 Connelly, which was considered the colored cemetery. The council voted to go through that process for it to become ours. In that, there is a lot

of work that needs to be done with it. We always say that there is money out there, but the pot of money is not getting any bigger. Our needs and desires are increasing, and we are working on making sure the city is collecting its share of fees. Starting with sanitation we have found over hundreds of thousands of dollars that had not been collected, we collected hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes that the city had not collected before.

Until we can grow our pot of money, we are going to have to scale back our desires, our needs, and our wants. That is pure mathematics. We cannot make money appear and spending it continuously does not help anything at all. There is no other way to put it and unless there are four votes to overturn this veto stands.

Councilmember James - For clarity, the veto was to remove these items until there is a policy of the process in place? Is that Correct?

Mayor - Correct

Councilmember James - Council Gutierrez, you were saying that you want to have the policies and processes in place, but you want to keep it in. My question is are we able to overturn the veto with the exception that a policy and process be put into place.

City Attorney - If you override the veto the funds go back into the budget. Then it would be a second directive to staff not to spend those funds until you have those policies in place. The cleanest thing to do would be to override the veto if that was the will. Then it would be second directive to the city manager to get a policy in place to bring back before council to get approval before any funds are spent.

Councilmember Antoine - So we are talking about the capital outlay.

Mayor -Yes

Councilmember Gutierrez - So, mayor if we do not override the veto it disappears like later. The city would not make a policy because it is no longer there.

City Attorney - You could always direct the staff to establish a policy then come back and amend the budget to put the funds back in.

Councilmember Gutierrez - So it is just a process that the mayor wants.

City Attorney - If it is the will of the council to have these with the policies that the mayor has recommended then you can do the policies first amend the budget or do it the other way around. But it would take four votes the other way around.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - When I saw the veto this was the first, I heard it. Do not you think if you communicated better with some elected officials, you would get a better outcome. Instead of just using your veto power, which you have the right too, so I respect it. Instead of using it communicate with people because all of this could have been handled.

If you just vetoed because you want to have a policy in place just state that you want to have a policy in place. We could have had something in place before now and we would not have to have the conversations that we have if people just new how to communicate.

Mayor - Councilwoman, none of this is new to anybody. We have had these discussions since the first budget retreat.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Why do not we have something in place.

Mayor - Ask staff nothing came up.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - You are here every day, Angelyne, you could not direct staff to put some type of process in place instead of saying let me veto it. That way it is taken away and we would not have to have these useless conversations that we are having. It could have been communicated. Let us put a process in place, so we can keep this capital outlay money going. We can continue to do the things in our community what the people elected us to do and then we would not be here.

So instead of overriding it could you just remove your veto and say I or we direct staff to put something in place. Then we want to have to worry about people taking money from capital outlay saying they are redoing parks. Put something in place can you just remove your veto. That is my question?

Mayor - No! I cannot

Councilmember Akins-Wells - So you do not want it period.

Mayor - No, no, no procedurally I cannot that is why we are here.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Okay, so we must override it for anything to happen.

City Attorney - Override it or come back later with the policy to amend the budget.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Can we direct staff now to produce a policy. So that the capital outlay money can be put back into the funds.

Mayor - When we get back into the regular agenda amend it and make that request.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Thank you.

Councilmember Mears - I think you did the right thing, there must be policies.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business

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

ADJOURNMENT:

The Council Work Session was adjourned at 7:22 pm

Motion made by Councilwomen James, seconded by Councilman Antione
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antione, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akin-Wells, Councilmember Mears



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Forest Park to enhance, strengthen, and grow our city by collaborating with our community to provide the highest level of service. Striving to be recognized as a diverse community that values and respects all members. We will strive to provide fair, professional, and courteous service through transparency and open communication. As we work to achieve this mission, we will have integrity beyond reproach while employing fiscal discipline and innovation. In this work there are no praises and raises for mediocrity.

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

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

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:25pm and she read the Mission Statement.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Pastor Clinksdale gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance

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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4 -		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5 -Via Telephone		✓

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Darquita Williams, Deputy Finance Director; Tarik Maxell, Director of Recreation & Leisure, Arthur Geeter, Purchasing, Michael Brunson, Deputy Police Chief, Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic

Development, Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works, Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, PIO Officer, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst and Shalonda Brown, Director of HR

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

Lillian Jenkins - I just wanted to come stand before you. I attended the last meeting and that was my first meeting. I would like you all to know that the comments that I will make is not directed to anyone, but to you all as one because you all represent Forest Park. I was quite taken back by the unwelcoming manner that the citizens were handled at the meeting.

It was obvious to me that the citizens who are taxpayers were not welcomed at a meeting for a board that represented the taxpayers. Just starting off I am not saying whether you do or do not if you really are not that concerned about what I have to say then it means you are in the wrong position. Because as a taxpayer you represent what the taxpayers say and want, and you should. So, it you do not care than that is your problem.

I came to speak on two things one on Life Christian Academy and I would like to speak about the events. What I mentioned before at the last meeting was true. This weekend there was a Juneteenth celebration in the park and my mom who is eighty-four was there with her son and his son and with his son. So, there are four generations that enjoy the events number 1 number 2. I also want to say that I am a public health nurse, and hopefully you are aware that there is a mental health epidemic. Everybody is shooting up everything and with the ability for health coverages as it is everybody do not have coverage on mental health. Keep in mind that these events are the only mental health activities that some of your citizens that you represent may have.

As far as Life Christian Academy, I just want to mention that my daughter who started out in public school in Forest Park, graduated from Life Christian Academy. She went on to attend a historically Black college Allen University and got her degree in mathematics. Now I do not know a whole lot of ladies with a degree in mathematics, but my daughter does and that was because of Life Christian Academy. So please reconsider.

LaWanda Folami - Good evening, and I really do appreciate what hat neighbor of mine just said. We are the community as taxpayers. Every year we come to this point with waste management, or we come to this point today with Waste Pro USA. One thing I do know is when that landfill is going to get out of their backyard. We are renewing contracts and I know the heights come and the inflation goes up, but people over there want the waste out of their backyard.

I get calls where they have wild rats running around during the time, they are having family events. We been talking about this for years and years. Let us talk about veto power, let us talk about the police department. Now as I understand the police had a reserve and at the previous meeting, I asked a question to the city manager. Your response was that they did not use it, so you put it into the legislation or wherever you put it in the budget. I am going to hold it right there I will call, and we will make a conversation.

But we are going to have to figure out what we are doing, how we are doing it. We have a power struggle going on right now. It is not about us citizen's anymore it is not about us taxpayers. We are talking about waste and recycling, I work with children daily volunteering, about recycling. I work with some of you all, but it seems when we come here, we are do disrespected. It is not appropriate for you all to treat the taxpayers this way make them feel unwanted.

If we want keep Forest Park beautiful, let us have a part with our tax money, if we want fun in the park let us have something. You all are really taken everything from us. Lastly, I attended Sunday with Pastor Wheeler, and the Jubilee and the black Madonna, and it was awesome. Like she said it was generation after generation. We danced from the time I got there to the time I left; I was so tired. Again, if we do not know our staff which protect us and that is our police department. Why are we talking bout we do not know if we need a narcotic center? We need to see Mr. Cooper

or Madam Chair what we are doing not to be compatible. That is the question something is wrong if we have this many vacancies, what is wrong.

Minister Justin Cook - Good evening, and I am here representing the Forest Park Minister Association. I would like to invite you all out this Saturday. We will be cleaning up the north side of the city. Not only will we be cleaning, but we will also be going out praying it is going to be this Saturday from 8-12. I know it is hot so we will try to beat the heat, we have plenty of water and Powerade. We will have breakfast sponsored by Chick Fila and the minister association will be sponsoring lunch.

We just want to encourage you all to come out and join us in cleaning up the city and cover the city in prayer. We are going to be meeting at Paradise Church of God in Christ, located at 4234 Hendricks Dr, in Forest Park Georgia. Again, come out we will have breakfast, meet our neighbors, clean, pray, eat, and beat the heat.

Juan Dimisi - Good evening, everyone. I am Juan Dimisi and I have been in Forest Park, for almost 10 years. I own a business right here on Forest Park and Jonesboro Rd, next to the discount mall which is 4150. In 2020-2021, I spent a lot of money building units. In 2021 I had some customers that came, some tenants they joined the units and, they could not survive, and they moved out. So, in about two or three months somebody tried to open the same business and they got rejected.

So, I am complaining as a businessperson I cannot survive when the same business is trying to take over the same unit and they are not getting qualified for it. So, what is the recommendation you have for us?

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

Mayor Butler asked for a motion to adopt tonight's agenda with the addition of item number 4 – To Direct Staff to Come Up With and Present to Council with a Capital Outlay Process.

It was moved to adopt the agenda with adding an item number 4

Motion made by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2022** - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council meeting minutes from June 6, 2022

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

2. **Council Approval of Waste Pro Sanitation Contract** – Chief Executive Offices/Public Works

It was moved to approve the Waste Pro Sanitation Contract.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Second by Mears.

Comments/Discussion from Governing body:

Councilmember Gutierrez - The further discussion is if this do not get approved today, we will go back to the RFP process and that would include the recycling like we initially wanted

Mayor - Recycling is included in this.

Councilmember Gutierrez - It was not in the last one.

Mayor - You mean if we go back out for the RFP process.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Yes

Mayor - That goes back to what Mr. Geeter, was saying with looking at the scope of work. So, yes, we can.

City Manager - It went out this time with the recycling, but it was an option it was not a requirement. We can take it back and go out with the scope of service as a requirement.

Councilmember Gutierrez - So when it was the bid with the recycling included only in essence came from Waste Pro and not from Waste Management.

City Manager - No, both parties answered with the option. So, it was not that it was included it was an option with the RFP.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Based on the last meeting when you went back, we were in the negotiation process with Waste Pro.

City Manager - Yes.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Mears

Voting Nay- Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells

Mayor Butler - With a vote of 3-2 the motion did not pass

City-Attorney - Madam mayor I think at this point staff needs directions on whether you follow. My recommendation is to reject all claims and reinitiate the RFP process or to proceed to negotiate with the next. We just need direction.

Mayor - I was going to ask the council to accept Mike's recommendation to reject all of this and start over.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - What if we do not. You say it is like an engagement, which is not against the law. What if we say let us keep Waste Management, is that something we can do? We do not have to go through the process all over again.

City Attorney - We still must negotiate a long-term contract with Waste Management. Right now, we have a six-month contract that begins on July 1.

Councilmember Gutierrez - I would be in favor to opening it up with recycling included and seeing what both options are. It is not given that we are just going to go with them.

Councilmember Antione - Are there any legal ramification for not following through since everything is on the table.

City Attorney - I believe it is cleaner and involves less risk to reject all bids and start over.

Councilmember Gutierrez - With the recycling included in all bids nonoptional.

City Attorney - The will of council it can be revise scope and highlight recycling as a mandatory requirement.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - I am not a big person on recycling, I have never recycled, and I am just being transparent, I will say that. We talked about this in the last meeting. You can say I want to include recycling, but how do we know things are being recycled. We go through all of this to say well it is mandatory when things are not actually being recycled. It does not matter who it is.

How are we going to know if we are including because that is more money? We must pay them, so we need to know instead of saying we need to make that mandatory, we need to make sure there is a process for recycling.

City Manager - Councilwoman, which is what the RFP will state, but again we have recycling now and because of contamination rates with other countries and places that use to purchase recycling from the U.S. their contamination rates went to the point where many U.S plants cannot meet that recycling requirement. You can put all your plastic bottles in there and as soon as you put a pizza box in there everything is contaminated.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - I agree, that is why I think we should not be so stuck on the recycling, because it is not just Waste Management or Waste Pro this is going on all over. That is why I do not think we should be so adamant about putting recycling in there and paying more money when we are not sure we are going to be getting recycled.

I just do not want that since the process is not clear on this, I do not want it to hold anyone back, whether Waste Management or whom ever. To hold them back from getting the contract when there is not a real process in place. The dump is one big dump. Even the residents must be held accountable too. We have a recycling trash can and a regular trash can, and the recycling can is out when the regular can is being picked up. It is like a process. So, we cannot hold whoever get the contract accountable when we do not hold the residents accountable for recycling as well.

Mayor - What was the recycling portion of this new contract.

City Manager - We worked out, because part of the issue council made was the recycling portion, so we worked out with Waste Pro, at that time and I sent this to council in an email, is too have two bi-weekly dumps of recycling bi-weekly, where Waste Pro would staff the trucks in the area where residents could bring their recyclables directly to those trucks and get educated on if they could or could not take them.

So, if you came to the dumpster with a bunch of plastic and had a pizza box in there, Waste Pro would be there to tell you we cannot take this, and this is why. Next week when you bring it make sure it is all bottles and no pizza boxes. They were going to be there with educational material to educate our residence on recycling, plus they were offering the 5,000 stipends to be split with Earth Tomorrow youth that came and did the presentation for us. They also offered for them to be there with them to help educate the community as well as, offering the part for the community field day, that we decided to do annually this year and have a recycling event at the community field day to help educate the residents.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Where will they be set up, at the Waste Management transfer station?

City Manager - No, they will have two trucks on different sides of the city so residents would not have to all come to one place

Councilmember Akins-Wells - They would monitor the trash that is going into them. That is bringing more trash into the streets.

City Manager - Councilwoman that would be reducing it because you would know exactly what you could bring to the recycling truck.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Now we will have trucks just sitting there and people bring trash from their homes, it just does not make sense to me.

Councilmember James - Point of Order, Madam Mayor.

Mayor -Yes, state your point.

Councilmember James - So, we have already rejected the contract for Waste Pro, so we do not have to continue that conversation. I will say instead of the recommendation to open it back up for RFP process, I think we should go to the next contract bidder which is Waste Management for negotiation.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - I agree

Councilmember Gutierrez – Mike, you said that is not recommended right. That is not recommended, but it is just a recommendation

Mayor - I am going to veto that, I am going to go with the recommendation of the city attorney on this one. So, we just start over. The process has already begun with Waste Pro, to a certain extent. I just do not want us to go into any potential legal issue. Waste Management has been sitting here at the last two meetings and even had conversations. If they want to rebid, then they can rebid and let us just start the process over clean. As far as we can get to zero, no.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Mike did not you compare it to being engaged to two women, so it is not unlawful.

Mayor - That is one analogy.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Right, but It is not unlawful it is just a recommendation, and he has recommended a lot of things that a lot of us has ignored.

Councilmember Antione- Point of Order.

Mayor - State your point.

Councilmember Antione - Should we not keep it moving.

Mayor - Yes. So, I am going to ask that the next item to approve, do we have to amend the agenda to add this. To direct staff to start the process.

City Attorney - We are on the same subject matter.

Mayor - I am going to make a motion to ask staff to start the RFP process all over again.

Councilmember James - Point of order Madam Mayor.

Mayor - Yes

Councilmember James - Does it have to be a vote to direct staff to?

Councilmember Akins-Wells - No, she is every day, directing staff. Let her go on and tell them.

City Attorney - Because we are still in the RFP process even though you have rejected the first, we need a formal statement directing us to end that process to start a new one that is what you would be doing by rejecting all bids.

Councilmember James - If we are not rejecting all bids, we are just rejecting Waste Pro? If we asking that the negotiation process start with Waste Management, is that a vote that we must do?

Councilmember James - We were asking direction, because right now we are not clear on what the direction of council is.

Councilmember James - Is the direction a motion that we must take.

City Attorney - I believe it needs to be, so we have a clear indication of council.

Councilmember Gutierrez - The mayor just mentioned she is going to veto that and two people voted no, so I just do not want to waste our time with that.

Councilmember James - It must be a vote, for it to be vetoed, so we must vote anyway. So, she can have something to veto.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Give her something to veto.

Councilmember Gutierrez - I think it will delay the process.

Councilmember James - What is the other alternative Mike.

City Attorney - The other alternative is to direct staff to reject all bids and restart the process.

Councilmember James - That does not have to be voted on.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Mike, can you be very clear, because if we direct staff it can be done without taking a vote. If three members' say this is what we want to do, then that is what we want to do. We do that even through emails.

City Attorney - Under these circumstances we need it to be clear.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - So it just depends on the circumstances. So, we just need to give her something to veto. That is what we need to do.

Mayor - If you choose to. So, I had asked for a motion to direct staff to reject all bids and start the process over.

It was moved to direct staff to reject all sanitation bids and to start the process over.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Gutierrez

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

3. Council Approval of Line-Item Veto for Police Services – Chief Executive Offices

Mayor - Council approval to overturn my police process veto.

Councilmember James - I have a point of clarity Madam Mayor.

Mayor - Yes

Councilmember James – Mike, I would like to be clear on the motion that is set forth to overturn. If the motion is made to overturn and there is not enough support, can I mention it for the next meeting.

City Attorney - You cannot do that.

Councilmember James - If I chose to table it, so we can hear from Chief Clark, next week, it can be brought back, before the council.

City Attorney - It will be live because no action has been taken on it.

Councilmember James - So, I vote that we table this matter madam mayor

Mayor - But I already put forth the motion, for council. How do I overturn my veto?

City Attorney - You stated a motion, but no one has accepted it.

It was moved to table this item.

Motion was made by Councilmember James seconded by Councilmember Antione.

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

4. Council Approval to Direct Staff to come up with and present to counsel a Capital Project Outlay Process

It was moved to Direct Staff to produce and present to counsel a Capital Project Outlay Process

Motion was made by Councilwoman James, seconded by Gutierrez.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James - I would like to thank everyone for coming out. I appreciate you spending time with us today. Believe it or not this is a democratic process, we do not always agree but I always say we still should be able to work together. Even if we are on opposite sides, we must come together for a common goal so that we can move forward in our city. I want to say congratulation to the recreation and leisure department for the awesome job they did over the weekend. I was able to make Saturday, I was not able to make Sunday or Friday.

The celebration of Juneteenth is part of my heritage, and I am very proud of the things our ancestors have accomplished for us. I am grateful we have this national holiday that we can celebrate. When the last of us received word that we were free as far as my ancestors are concerned. Thanks again for coming out we appreciate you.

Councilmember Antoine - Congratulations to City of Atlanta with all the metro, because the World Cup is coming to Georgia in 2026. Those that do not know the whole world will be watching, Metro Atlanta. I also, want to give a shout out to Fireman Clemmons she was named Leader of to GM made Equality and Inclusion in the advisory board.

She made it amongst a lot of other leaders within the state. First day of summer stay hydrated. Know that the city is going in the right direction. Here is my card for anybody you do not have to be in my ward, I am here to serve you. You are the reason I am here, and I love you. Keep my country in prayer, because there is a lot going on thank you and God bless you.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Thanks for coming out today I know it was a long meeting. Dr. Folami no update on your team so hopefully they are doing good. I just want to thank everyone for coming out and listening to us. No hard feelings against anyone up here. We truly want the best for our city we just have different perspectives, so we do not always agree on everything.

I am excited that we as a city is going to the GMA convention. This is the time I like to soak in the information gain. We get to meet other elected officials and see what problems they are facing, what solutions they have and what connections we can make. I will be representing Forest Park in Savannah and I am excited about that.

I would like to shoutout the Seniors Panthers and Action Board. They are established they got their shirts legit so, please join us and come out on the second Friday of the month. We changed it because of the Fun Friday celebrations, but usually after Fun Friday is over, we go back to the third Friday, that way our constituents can enjoy some of the things we offer in the city.

Went to the Fun Friday event it was a beautiful time just being with the community, listening to live music and getting to see some familiar faces I do not see often because I am doing summer school. The kids are amazing I am just tired. I got to vote today, it is already seven and if you did not get to vote just make sure you make it next time.

Went to the Juneteenth celebration and when you made that statement councilwoman it really gave me chills. After the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln, it did not reach everyone until 2 years after that. So, for 2 years Americans still had to be enslaved. So, make sure we teach our children that is a true day of freedom or Independence Day from the British.

The day of Juneteenth is the day of freedom in our country, so make sure we are educating our young ones to that. To the young lady that came and made that comment, I am sorry that you felt that way and that you felt our citizens are not welcome. That is not something that I want our people to feel. Congratulation to your daughter that is beautiful. Hopefully, we will do better in making our citizens feel welcome. Please feel free to reach out to anything I can do. I will miss the cleanup but thanks to the Ministry Association for doing that for our city.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - First I would like to send my condolences. We had a resident of Forest Park to pass away on yesterday morning, as well as a 19-year employee with the City of Forest Park, Mr. Albert Ross. He was with the city for 19 years, he retired and came back to the city, which is how much he loves the city. He passed away yesterday morning of a heat stroke.

I would like to make sure the city flag is half-staff in respect to him and his family, and longtime resident and employee of the city. Ms. Pellegrini brought this to my attention, she posted it on Facebook about a cooling station. We have

employees out here in the heat and some have health issues, so we need to do more for our people, our employees, and our community.

I want the city to investigate a cooling station. We have a community center, and we are not using it every day. It can be two or three times a week, we can have cold water or Gatorade to offer people that do not have a choice but to be out here in the heat. Like, the public works department and Mr. Jenks, no disrespect to you, because I know that you are working on something and just waiting to get the information. But he is a residence of Ward 4 and I know his wife and just want to send my condolences to his family. We need to investigate it and do some things that impact and help the people of Forest Park.

I want to talk about the events. You got up and spoke about Juneteenth which I could not make myself. My son had tournaments all weekend, I wanted to miss one Friday to be honest. The Juneteenth is some that council voted on some years ago to make it a holiday in the City of Forest Park, and parks and recreation put on the event. I heard it was an amazing event, but the events we were speaking of were the events that councilmembers had something to do with, which is Food Truck and Fun Fridays. So, we will still have events they just do not want us to have events with our name attached to it. Those are the ones that were removed from the budget, so I did not want you to be confused. They just do not want us to have anything to do with it, I just had to put that out there.

Fun Friday was the best and one of the biggest crowds that had ever come out and it was, because they heard events had been removed from our budget and placed in another budget. It was so successful; Councilmember Gutierrez, thank you so much for your contribution and Mrs. Lois Wright thank you for your contributions. The people want to keep it going without certain people being made to take over it, and the community is coming together so we can make that happen. We will make it happen up until September, with or without funds from the city, so I just wanted to put that out there.

As far as our mission statement, I was just reading it again and I hear over and over and mayor saying it and saying it, and we need to change it, we are getting up here speaking on some things and not doing it. We are not practicing what we preach, and I am just not in that line of business. Everyone know that I am transparent, I am going to be honest, and I am going to tell you thinks you do not want to hear, and it is what it is. I was not voted in this position to be quiet, but the part about grow our city by collaborating with our community, which is not happening.

I do not think we need to keep repeating it when we are pushing the community away. We are pushing the people away that put us here. We are supposed to be their voices and we do not want to allow them to get up and speak in a meeting. I thought it was very disrespectful and I am going to apologize to you two on behalf of our mayor. I think if any citizen I work for that we work for get up and speak for 10 minutes you should be able to do that. We work for you, and this is your time, and no one should be turned away.

So, if we are not going to start putting our community and citizens first then we need to change your mission statement, because it is just a statement not a mission. You all have a good night.

Mayor - I do want to address the school again and let me be clear once again. There are processes that are currently in place, that I like to try and follow. One of them says if you are not a residence or a business owner then there is a process that you go through to speak which was done this time around, which is why we have some of the speakers this time. Unless that change, I am going to adhere to that, it is of no disrespect it is again, we have processes and procedures put in place for a reason. So, if we do not follow them then why do we have them. Why do we have staff here that has years of expertise in subject matters that we do not, and we do not adhere to their recommendation, it just boggles me sometimes, but I digress.

The school Life Christian Academy. I stated at my last meeting after my veto that there were some representatives that came up to city hall on quite a few occasions and they were not too pleasant to say the least. At some point there

was a request to meet with me in which I did accept that request. At the end of the meeting, I asked for proof of accreditation from the school. I was told they have it no problem,

Then we get to the council meeting a week, and a half went by and nothing from this group had been heard of. The attorney for this group was present at the last meeting and there was an email between council. I was responding to an email, and I said, since this organization has an attorney, it would be best if council was removed from this process to allow for attorney and attorney to speak.

I do not know at what point my email was seen by some council members, but this organization reached out to council members and provided a piece of paper saying that they were accredited for the school year of 2021 for 2020.

So, when I looked at the paperwork and even then, I told this council person I would receive it from their attorney. Whenever there is an attorney involve, I remove myself from the process and allow our attorney to take over?

Since this was placed in my box, I saw it and looked up the accrediting institution to see if the school was listed and the school was not listed. So, I made a phone call, and I was told, since 2017 the school had not been accredited. The accreditation had been revoked several years ago and they have zero interest in renewing it. I was told this was since March 2017.

Now the entity did not tell me why, but said notification was sent to head of the organization, so they know why it was revoked. So, then I had to wonder what was presented to an elected official. I do not know what this is but based on what the organization told me, which is what I am going by this is not a valid document. So, I do not know if giving an elected official questionable document means, but it only gives me more questions.

The process is they must wait 6 months to reply. I think because of everything surrounding this organization when we had our meeting there are some names that were mentioned, and I did call to see about the school and what it offered, and I did hear some great things. So, to have a document in front of me and having to question the legitimacy of it do not rest well with me.

You did state in the meeting accreditation can come from anywhere, but me verifying what was provided says otherwise. That it was not accredited for 2021 and then I even looked up on the website today just to make sure that it was not an over site and now it is brought to the institutions attention it would be listed now. This institution is not listed as being accredited for 2021 and the 2022 school year. You can have your attorney reach back out to ours, but as of now that is where we stand.

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

It was moved to recess into Executive Session at 8:11 pm

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Meeting at 8:26 pm

Motion was made by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:26 pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells

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

DRAFT



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, July 05, 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

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Butler 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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
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, Shalonda Brown, HR Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Letasha Clemmons, Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, Bruce Abrahams, Economic Development Director, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, Nigel Whatley, Public Works Deputy Director

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager

There was no City Manager's report.

COVID-19 UPDATE: EMS Coordinator, Andrew Gelmini

Between 6/27 - 7/4 there were 445 new positive cases in Clayton County, an increase from last month. Case breakdown shows approx. 57.8% of Cases to be female and 41.8% Male with the remaining 0.5% to be unknown.

Forest Park makes up 8.7% of County cases. Forest Park shows an increase in tracking to 10-20 new cases a week.

The 30 to 39 age group shows the highest percentage of positive cases with African Americans showing the highest positive case percentage followed by Unknown ethnicity and then Caucasian then other and lastly the Asian population.

We have plateaued with vaccines without much change from last month staying at 55% of County residents have received at least 1 dose of vaccine and 49% are fully vaccinated. 19% of vaccinated citizens have received the additional booster dose. The 35 - 64 age groups show the highest vaccination rate. County wide there were 445 confirmed Covid 19 cases between 6/27 and 7/4.

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, contact your primary medical provider. Then 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.

OLD BUSINESS:**1. Discussion regarding Forest Park Police Department Accounts – Chief Executive Offices****Background/History:**

The City of Forest Park Police Department has multiple accounts for cash taken from people who have been targeted in criminal investigations. Once taken through the forfeiture process, if the department is allowed to keep these funds they may be used as supplements to the department's budget.

The City of Forest Park conducted an operational and performance audit with an outside auditor during a period of 2020 – 2021. Per the April 15, 2021, report "year over year, there is a significant amount of unspent funds." And it goes on to further state that "With proactive awareness and active planning, the unspent

funds could have been utilized to increase hiring each year, the completion of projects or purchase of equipment for the Police Department and/or E-911 Communications". As of June 3, 2022, there is approximately \$1.2 million dollars in combined funds that can be used by police for training and equipment.

There are several needs of the Forest Park Police Department for equipment and training that these funds should be utilized to address.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James - I would like Chief Clark to speak to this, because I have questions about the accounts and the use for the department. It specified in the agenda that it is to supplement the department's budget. I know we have had this conversation in years past about the forfeiture accounts, so I wanted to have Chief Clark, speak to this.

Chief Clark - Good evening, I want to provide some clarity. I know that I am not an attorney, but I know that Mike is there so, if I get off track, please pull me back. First, when we look at what is on the agenda it says these funds could be used to increase hiring each year. The funds cannot be used to hire employees. When we say there is approximately 1.2 million in combined funds that can be used by the police department for training and equipment as of June 3rd. That statement is in error and let me provide you some clarification.

If the governing body will recall, we do have three accounts. The DEA account and the DEA Treasury and the DEA Justice Department account. Back in 2019 when I first was hired on, the governing body authorized the use of the DEA account to pay for upgrades for our E911 system. Those upgrades cost approximately \$142,688.

Now, we are into payment number two out of our 7 payments. I know Ms. Dutton, is in the audience and she can correct me if I am wrong. This is a dormant account and once all the payments are made for that upgrade, that account balance will be zero. So, we are basically talking about approximately \$600,000 that is left to utilize for equipment and training and things of that nature. As police chief it is my job to look for effective ways to utilize those funds. I can use the governing body motto, "I do not want to spend money just to be spending money." We are looking at the future system, there is a system that is already being used by Atlanta Police Department, it is being used by the Clayton County Police Department and Fulton County Sheriff's Office and some other counties.

I have talked to some of our colleagues in Clayton County, and we are looking at that. It is the system a camera migration which will enhance our service delivery, as far as providing more public services and apprehending criminals off of our streets. Those are some of the ways I will look at using some of these funds. I am here to answer any questions you may have for me.

Councilmember James – Chief you mention that the funds cannot be used for hiring for staff. Is that something that is required by law or federal government, money that is ceased from criminals?

Chief Clark - We cannot use the funds to hire staff. We can use the funds for overtime. I do not know if my staff has passed out a copy of the handout of the federal guidelines, if not I am going to ask my staff to do so at this time. I want to bring some things to your attention. Please turn to page 13 in the booklet.

On page 13 in the booklet, it talks about supplementation. Federal Asset Funds must be used to increase and/or supplement police department budget. It cannot be used to supplant the police department budget. It even gives an example: police department receives \$100,000 in federal money only to have his budget

cut by \$100,000 by the city council. In this incident no direct benefit whatsoever. Rather the city has received the benefit. In other words, it would be against federal guidelines to take \$50,000 or \$100,000 out the police department budget and use Federal Asset Funds to make up for it. That is against the federal department guidelines. Not Clark's, guidelines those are federal regulations. Again, Mike Williams, correct me if I am wrong.

City Attorney – The question in some parts boil down to semantics. So, the city is not required to fully fund a budget request from a police department to then use these funds for other things. Part of the question presented is the police department budget request this year on capital programs did have an increase. So, as you all know there was some back and forth and ultimately a lower amount was approved by the city council. In that context you can still say we did not fund the entire budget request; now use the money you have available in these accounts to fund that which we did not appropriate.

The example here would be a situation of let us just say in the budget you buy 5 police cars. Then we get new money coming from the forfeiture. So, now we have new money we are not going to use the money that we already budgeted we are going to cut that and make you use this money. That is different than a situation that you have a limited amount of money for capital programs.

You say next year we are planning to budget for 5 more police cars, but you want to buy ten so, we will use the budget for five and then you go out and use this money for the additional. So, that is the situation we are in. Just because you did not budget for the increase does not mean you cannot have the police department use the available funds to pay for that increase.

Councilmember James - I have a question to clarify. We are not talking about cars we are talking about hiring individual. So, can you speak specifically to if these funds can be used to for salaries?

City Attorney – The guidance allows limited salaries for certain specialized positions. If you look in the booklet, I think on page 18, it talks about some of those things for inter-agent task force, you can use the funds for that. You can use the funds for matching grants, you can even use the funds to pay for school resources. That is all laid out but, the situation my understanding is that prompted this was the reduction, the proposed non-appropriation of additional funds for the task force, for equipment and things of that sort. So, again that is different, it is not necessarily those salaries that were being discussed, because you have all those other vacancies that have not been filled yet. Again, there is limited use for salary, yes, you cannot use the funds to pay for rank in file police officers, but you could use the funds for the overtime and for other portions of specialized positions.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Thank you chief for clarifying that. I just want to make sure; that this is the account for forfeiture funds, and it is something that chief uses at his discretion. I want to make sure that you do not feel like we are trying to tell you what to do with that, that is at your discretion. Also, I do not want our city or police department to become a revenue generating organization. We are here to serve the community and I do not want it to be, we need to fund this, so let us go out there and ticket everybody. We do not want to be that city. I do not want us to get like that and still today I must talk about our police and how you changed the aspect of that and the bad reputation that we had for so many years. I just want to make sure that is clear from us and to put that pressure into those funds, I guess for what the chief needs. I am not saying or trying to guide us in any type of way, and I just want to make sure we keep that in mind, and we do not turn to counting on these forfeiture funds. That is what we want to do.

Mayor Butler - Let me just say I appreciate that, but that is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about funds that have not been utilized in years. We are not even asking him to exhaust the budget, we are asking for one or two hundred thousand dollars. We talk about what is needed, well we know that

vehicles are needed. So, instead of waiting for council to approve it out of the general fund, these funds can be used for that. We know that vests are needed, we know there is other equipment that is needed, and this can be utilized. When we are talking about other areas that have been cut and we are asking council to go out and seek additional funding for our own programs and activities, I do not see what the difference if there is a pot of money that can be utilized. Just using some of it, again it is not all of it.

Councilmember James – Another question for you chief. You mentioned the E911 funds. I do remember the conversation we had before, and we voted on the upgrade. So, I just want to make sure I am clear, and I am understanding you clearly. You are saying the money that we approved prior some five years ago is funds that are being used to upgrade the E911 system. Once that 7-year process or length of time is done, those funds would be exhausted. Is that correct?

Chief Clark -That is correct.

Councilmember James - So, this brings me to another question about how the monies are, being showed. When we had our budget retreat, the E911 funds had a zero balance. Is there a reason why there is a zero balance in the E911 funds?

Chief Clark- That is a good question and I have asked that question for some time. To the best of my knowledge and Ms. Dutton is there and she can provide further clarification. We get approximately \$400,000 a year for E911 from the state. Those funds are strictly used for training and upgrades for E911. The money comes out every August, I believe and Ms. Dutton, can attest to that. If you bring in August of this year it should be about \$1.2 million in that account. That account is showing a zero balance.

I do know when Mr. Barker was the city manager, we had some discussions about this E911 account. It was brought to our attention then by the formal director that those monies were utilized to put into the general funds to help balance the budget. We have since had other conversations about where this money is. Today that account is still showing a zero balance.

Councilmember James - Madam Mayor, I am assuming when this was placed on the agenda it said approximately \$1.2 million is in the funds, but we cannot see it because it does not show us on our budget. I am wondering why we cannot see it on our budget line item for E911 and if we are co-mingling the funds that are coming in from the state or the federal would that be illegal. I guess Mike can answer.

City Attorney - I may be stepping a little out of my lane because I do not know what is in these accounts. The E911 funds that we get from the state are different from what we are talking about with forfeiture. The forfeiture stuff should not be in our budget other than informational. Yes, there are these other accounts, but it is not something you are budgeting for.

So, my understanding is this \$1.2 million is the combined amount that is in these forfeiture accounts, some which is already pledge to the equipment and radios that are on that multi-year purchase. So, we may be talking about two different things.

Councilmember James - Madam Mayor, I would like to get a detailed.

Mayor Butler - Unfortunately, Finance is not with us today.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Discussion regarding the creation of Mural Arts Committee – Chief Executive Offices

Background/History:

A Mural is defined as a large-scale artwork done directly on the wall of a structure in a residential and/or commercial zone, with the permission of the city. The aim is to beautify and enhance the community with images that reflect and depict culture, history, or visions of artistic expression in a tasteful and positive manner. The mural art shall not discriminate or incite any other person to infringe upon any person's human rights, race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, or disability.

It is recommended that the City Council form a voluntary arts committee of no more than seven members to operate under specific guidelines to develop the artist concepts further. The committee would serve, and schedule meetings with the artist for no more than 60-90 days. The committee would approve the complete concept to be forward to Mayor and City Council for approval and commissioned.

Comments/Discussion of Governing Body:

Councilmember James - Madam Mayor, I would just say I love this idea. We have identified several places in the city that have concrete walls. I think this is a great idea, I know there is a particular place in my ward on Connelly Rd, that I am passionate about. I think this is a great idea.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I am excited about this; I have a few community members already showing interest so I cannot wait to get this going.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I think it is a great idea also. Who is going to oversee in the choosing of the committee members? Is it going to be someone from every ward, so that everybody is included and not just handed picked by 1 or 2 people? How is that going to work.

Mayor Butler - I think we all can just pick one person. I know it says no more 7 but we can pick one and if you want to give the city manager one to pick that would be 7. I think that would be best.

Councilmember Mears - I also think it is a good idea. In my ward there is really going to be a hard ship trying to find a big enough wall or something to advertise on. If you want to show art, we must have somewhere to put it and my area is all residential, but we will work it all out.

Mayor Butler – We have already identified I think two areas and there is I think one or two more areas, but I need to look at the list again that I would want to consider. This is just to get the initial project started, and the artist did submit a couple of renderings, which the committee will draw from that. I am going to come up with something completely different, this is just to get it started because we have been having this on the books for a long time.

Councilmember James – If you look at 1941, when you go down to the new Q-T and get on the expressway, the concrete wall there, and I do not know it that is the City of Forest Park, someone had mentioned to me about that. I think it will be great when we identify all these places that have these big concrete walls that we can put a nice Forest Park emblem on or something.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Yes, there is a list I had identified the side of the Piggly Wiggly concrete wall, there is one over there by Dr. Folami's house, the back of those rentals I reached out to them, and they were open to having something on the walls. At Christian Pharmacy they are also willing to add something there, around Kiwanis Field and on Connelly Rd. There are so many canvases that we have that we can beautify that would really make a difference in our community.

Councilmember Mears - I think it is a great idea Jonesboro has done a wonderful job. They have several up and down main street that they spent a lot of money on for advertising, it really looks good.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - While we are talking about the walls Councilmember James mentioned the bridge on Hwy1941. This may not have nothing to do with the mural, but it can go hand and hand. Like if you go to Peachtree City you will see it over the bridge, so they were mentioning that. So, coming over that bridge it will be nice to see something like that. I think it will go hand and hand with the mural.

Councilmember Gutierrez - I had talk about that before where the separation is in Lake City, but he had like a hard time getting in touch with the railroad, because that is where it would on the railroad side. I also reached out to some Lake City officials so they can take on theirs, because you would go in and see, "Welcome to Lake City" on that end and "Welcome to Forest Park" coming this way. They were open for discussion. I think the committee is going to get the ball rolling.

Mayor Butler - I will say that Bruce, Shelby and myself, well economic development, had a meeting with GDOT this afternoon. We discussed the landscaping and beautification off Old Dixie and 285. That southbound project is coming up next; and beautification and that gateway entry sign were some of the things that we mentioned. They were very optimistic, because they have not done anything in Forest Park in a very long time. So, they are excited, and we are very optimistic that something will happen soon. Do we want to give the council till next meeting to come up with their selection? Do we have to vote on that to formalize it?

City Attorney – We are going to need some clear instructions. Maybe, a motion authorizing an ad hoc committee to serve for a set number of days, with members appointed by each member of the mayor and council. I will write something up during the break.

3. Discussion of HVAC maintenance contract for all city buildings – Public Works

Background/History:

Renewal of the HVAC maintenance contract for all departments starting Aug. 1 through ABM

Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director – About a year ago and we allowed ABM to roll over. We were in the process of realizing all our AC units were way past due. So, we came up with the funds and you all approved to replace every unit in the city that was older than 15 years old. We extended the ABM maintenance contract for one year. With the supply issue, one year later, and we have one building done. All the rest of them are still on back order, so we went back to ABM and gracefully asked to renew the one-year contract and they did. There is a difference of \$2,900, with the same services they have been giving us for all these years in the past.

We come to you today, to see if we can get an approval for a one-year contract extension for maintenance of all the AC units in the city. Hopefully, we will have all of them done by this time next year and it will be under a manufactory warranty. Then we can go back out for a second time for an RFP for a maintenance contract. Then we will have a company to maintain all the units in the city for 2-3 years at a time.

Comments/Discussion of Governing Body:

Councilmember James - How often have we used them in the past year to come and service our HVAC?

Public Works Director - Every unit in the city except for city hall and public works is on a scheduled maintenance. They come out regularly and every time I call them, they come out the same day or the next morning. Public Works and city hall, since we are under a different tier, we are less than 5 years old. We probably spent \$3,000 mainly on controls, because controls are not on the old contract, but controls will be on the new contract. So, we must call a particular company for that.

Councilmember Mears – I agree with an additional year. It is to our advantage so we can get a handle on it.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – Mr. Jinks, I agree, with the contract. Would it be possible to hire someone that handles those type of services or the people in the public works department? Would that save the city some money?

Public Works Director – We have thought about advertising. We have a few people that is on their own, that has a certain level and some that is in school. So, hopefully if we put an ad out, we can get an experienced person, but people with those criteria's do not come cheap. It is not like working on the air condition at your house, it is a lot more in-depth as far as education wise and specialized.

4. **Council Discussion on Approving to Participate in Statewide Community Showcase Video Program** – Public Information Office

Background/History:

The city was recently contacted by a video/integrated marketing agency regarding a no-cost community showcase video program, which is an initiative supported by both the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The national program has been used by other cities, including Dalton, Georgia, Lansing, Michigan and St. George, Utah, to promote local initiatives and community-based programs.

By participating in the program, the city would develop a total of four videos that can be used to showcase a welcome from the mayor and council, ongoing public safety recruitment efforts and diversity throughout the community. Staff believes this project will not only help market citywide initiatives, but is a great way to develop more video content for social media exposure and publicity at no cost

The agreement would be between CGI Communications and the City of Forest Park and remain in effect from the date it is signed until the third anniversary of the date all videos are completed. Once the agreement has been approved, the production company will work with city staff to for script writing, video content consultation and filming dates. There is no cost to city to participate in the program. Staff is seeking approval by council to accept the agreement in order to proceed with next steps.

Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer – I am really excited about this program. It is pretty much self-explanatory. They are contracted through the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and what they basically do is they offer pro-bono services to local cities throughout the nation for different departments that are looking to increase video content.

I think it is a win, win, for the city I have been talking with some of the other departments and what we really want to start doing is pushing out more video content. Again, it is at no cost, and I looked at the contract I had a call with one of the agency producers who will be my liaison. I really feel comfortable with the actual program.

Just to give you a sense, I reached out to one of the vendors I used in the past; these videos could run us anywhere between \$15k-20k and we are getting it at no cost us. Happy to answer any questions.

Comments & Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antione - Where would it be viewed at?

Javon Lloyd - What we would like to do is use it on social media. So, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter or wherever we can get it on as well as on our website. For example, I know I have been speaking with the fire department, and we really want to use one of the videos possibly, to enhance recruitment efforts to try and get some of these positions filled.

So, not only on social media or the website, but what we can also do, is when we are out in the community, we have tablets if people are just interested and want to learn more about the city or our recruitment efforts, we could have it on those tablets ready to go so they could view it there.

We can email it out, we can blast it we can include it in the newsletter. The biggest thing is just getting that content so that we can share it and get the word out.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Thank you for finding this Mr. Lloyd, I think this initiative just showcases your work. So, thank you for bringing that to our city.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Thank you, I think it is a great idea.

Councilmember Mears - Well, you know I am always good for free. Promote our city and I am for it.

Javon Lloyd - I had asked how they found us, because they literally, just reached out to us. One of the things they said, is they look for cities that have potential in growth. They also look at cities that have a smaller department as far as communications is concerned. For example, they probably would not pick the City of Atlanta, because they have a full communications shop. So, they look for smaller municipalities that they can work with.

There are stipulations in the agreement, but they are very minor. For example, they want us to have a dedicated space on our website on the home page. I already checked with Municode, that can be done. They also want to have rights to the video; we will also have rights as well. But that is just because if there is content that needs to be changes, they can go in and change it without us having too. Like for numbers, city population or different things like that but we would still contain owner rights and they will consult with us.

So, if council do decide to approve the item, the next step will be to set up the production call. I will get with the leadership team and the department heads who will be applicable for the projects. We will get together and brainstorm ideas and get some video content going.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - I have one more question. We kind of did something like this previously, but I do not think every council person was included. Will it be inclusive? I think Councilmember Antione and Councilmember Mears, there was a couple of people that was not a part of it. So will it include the mayor and every councilmember as far as the welcoming since it is going to be on the city's website.

Javon Lloyd – That is the plan as of now. The plan will be finalized once we get the production call going. But that's our intention to make it inclusive.

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 6:40pm for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate or Legal Matters.

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

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Work Session at 7:16PM

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Work Session at 7:16pm

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

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



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Tuesday, July 05, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Forest Park to enhance, strengthen, and grow our city by collaborating with our community to provide the highest level of service. Striving to be recognized as a diverse community that values and respects all members. We will strive to provide fair, professional, and courteous service through transparency and open communication. As we work to achieve this mission, we will have integrity beyond reproach while employing fiscal discipline and innovation. In this work there are no praises and raises for mediocrity.

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

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

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:16pm and she read the Mission Statement.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Pastor Justin Cook gave the invocation and lead the pledge of allegiance.

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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
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, Shalonda Brown, HR Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Letasha Clemmons, Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, Bruce Abrahams, Economic Development Director, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, Nigel Whatley, Public Works Deputy Director

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There was one speaker:

LaWanda Folami – Kudos to my volleyball team. I am back, because I am so proud of my young ladies, they are all Scholars, they are A and B students. We have collaborated with leaders, in our county and city that were able to take them to the Splash Water Park. They honored these young ladies like they should have been, which will be a memory they will never forget.

We had a great time at the leisure and recreation center with basketball and volleyball. Mr. Tarik is here and can tell you how passionate I am about the children and their sports. I am the type of coach that put stipulations on my team. They are required to have an A/B average and know every city council member's name.

I would also like to talk about the report agency. I was looking over the HVAC maintenance contract with ABM, and we always keep them in contact with the city, because of our commercial air conditioning units, which I think it is a phenomenal idea. I spoke with the public works supervisor, and he assured me this was an awesome thing to do.

Also, with the murals it will be great to bring some enlightenment to our city to show the work of our community. Lastly, I spoke with the young man about the statewide community video, which contained the word U.S. mayor, but he did clarify that it would include council as well.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to amend the Council Agenda with adding Item No. 6 - Settlement Agreement for Susan Ridley

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2022** - City Clerk

It was moved to table the minutes until the next meeting for Council corrections.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

2. **Council Approval of Line-Item Veto – Police Services** – Chief Executive Offices

It was moved to overturn the mayor's veto on Police Services Line-Item Budget

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

Comments/Discussion of Governing Body:

Mayor Butler read the Veto

Councilmember James – Chief Clark, can you tell us what positions are needed for the drug and gang unit?

Chief Clark – As discussed at the retreat, I feel we do need this drug and gang unit. I think there is a bit of a misunderstanding. I am asking for one supervisor and three officers. The specialist position, I did not ask for, I was called by finance and told I was getting that position. I asked for three investigators and one supervisor, to implement our gang and drug unit here in the city.

Drug and gangs go hand and hand and often breed violent crimes. I would like to use every resource available to ensure we have a safe community to live in, so that people can come and visit our city. This will be another avenue to ensure that safety is here in the City of Forest Park.

Councilmember James – With the vacant positions that you have, can you use those for the one supervisor and three investigator positions?

Chief Clark – I plan to advertise for these special positions. If there is someone within the department that meets the criteria, we will look internal first. However, we do not want to take personnel off the streets. I agree with the mayor, and we recognize we have these vacancies, but we have them because our salaries were so low, we could not compete and was losing officers.

As of today, based on the salary increase our application process has doubled. I would like to thank the governing body for this. Right now, we have 22 officer positions and that is not counting your supervisor's position. We have 12 candidates getting a background check, to fill some of those positions and we are still getting applications in.

We have never had this before since I have been here. We have changed our mindset and enhanced our recruiting techniques, and it is paying off. Thanks to the governing body and thanks to the system of this community.

I would also like to say approximately 2 years ago we had a long-range vision. The vision was one of our fastest growing segments in our city is Ft. Gillem. We talked about the substation and additional offices at that time. That vision is now about to become a reality. So, I am pleading with the governing body to not take resources at this critical time in our city.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I think I was kind of torn the last time but listening to you reading your veto it makes sense. It makes sense to not approve more positions when we have positions that are not being filled. What you say do make sense, and the police department has been short for a long time. I have spoken about this on several occasions and almost got in trouble for wanting to meet with officers to find out what the issue was and why there was a lack of officers on the streets.

I cannot believe I am saying this, but I am going to have to stick with the mayor on this. It just makes sense, and I am all about what makes sense. The only part I do not agree with that was stated in your veto is, as far as deciding where the funds go.

Mayor Butler - it must come back before council.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – This make sense we have been short for a long time and the safety of the community is our main priority. Also, I cannot see drugs being that big of an issue, I feel gangs may be. If

we do actual community policing, then we can even contain some of that. Both sides make sense, but I am having to go with the one that makes the most sense. That is not to approve more positions when we have some that are not being filled.

Councilmember Mears – I must agree with Councilmember Akins-Wells. I do not feel that increasing our force by 5, when we have 28-29 or 30 positions open is the answer. I do, however, agree that we need to act quickly on the gang and drug task force. We do have a problem here and we have got to stop it as quickly as we can. With that many positions open and the chief said he has applications for them. If people come in, we can put them into these positions and not keep adding on to them. Also, if you have people that are trying to become policemen you can put them into some of those places. We have people that have been here for a long time, that needs the opportunity to advance. You do not want to shut them out of the equation, because you may lose people that way. If you bring someone off the streets and put them in a position and not offer it to your rank in file, you can cause a problem. There is a lot to think about and I think adding the numbers is not the answer, and I stand by the mayor and her veto.

Mayor Butler – To me the unit itself is one thing and I agree for this unit, and some of the councils have said it also. Once the vacancies are filled, I do not think anyone here will have a problem adding more positions if that is the police chief's desire. Right now, I stand by what I wrote in my veto, unless there are 4 votes to overturn it.

Councilmember James – I respect the desire of the mayor and the council on their decision. I am going to vote to overturn, but I do not know if I will have 4 vote. Chief Clark, of the vacancies that you have can you change the title or advertisement, and come back before council with those 3 investigators and 1 supervisor positions? With the vacant positions can you snatch 4 positions you already have and use them for those needed?

Chief Clarkson- Yes, we can do that.

Mayor Butler – Chief has the authority to do this on his own he does not have to come back before council.

Councilmember James – I thought it was a different salary, a different grade level a different position, does that no have to come back before council?

City Attorney – He can redesignate existing funds for these positions. If he requests the organization chart and additional positions with different ranges, then that would have to come back before council. The mayor is making a point that he has the authority already to have an assignment for a narcotics and gang task force.

Councilmember Gutierrez – At first, I agreed with the mayor about the vacancies, but after hearing from chief, I think when you add something you are pulling from somewhere else, and you have to surround yourself with capable smart people. If chief say this is something he needs, I am going to give him the tools he needs to execute. That way later, I can hold him accountable when there are drugs in our community. I can say it is not being addressed so what is going on? He can say I asked for this, and you did not give it to me.

I disagree with you mayor, even though you said it can come back, I feel like if it can come back, and we hold our breathe waiting on these vacancies to be filled it may never happen. I do not know when being a police officer is going to be an attractive job like it use to be, because of everything that has happened. Thank you for the men and women we have here serving. So, I guess that is where I stand.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – Councilmember Gutierrez and I talked about this previously and we both were on the fence about it. Our officers are out there trying to get all kind of criminals, drug dealers, robbers or whoever. That is what they are there for, so I feel if we have more officers on the streets, we can do what we need to do as a police department.

I am just going to be honest and transparent. I am not a politician; I am an advocate for the community I would just like to say that. I get out in the community and ask questions when things come to me that do not make sense. There was this supposedly big drug bust and somebody was running and dropped this coke bag. Come to find out that is not even what really happened.

So, I did my own investigation and feel that this was done and put out there like that it would seem like we really needed to get this drug task force, we really need to get these officers and positions. Then we can move forward if, that is what is needed. I would like to ask chief to see the drug cases that have come through the police department and the busts. Show me something that will make me want to vote to override the mayor's veto, because we need this right here right now. I would like to see how many drug cases we have open in the City of Forest Park. Again, it can come back around but it makes sense to me to fill the vacant positions we already have open.

Councilmember Mears – I want to give you a scenario. Our neighboring city Stockbridge started their own police department last Friday. They were under Henry County but came up with a lot of money and over a period of time they developed a police department. The point I am getting to is money. They paid their starting officers what our sergeants make up here. They did not have a problem getting a police force down there over a short period of time.

We need all the policemen and firemen up here we can get, but when you can go to McDonalds and make just as much money flipping burgers than you do getting shot at, we have a problem. We need to look at the real picture to get the numbers down that we want, we have got to come up with some money to pay these people.

I know everyone wants to make all they can, and we give all these raises, but we are not totting the mail and that is why we cannot get policemen. We need to look at the long range and if we can get these people over a period of time we are going to have to eventually decide where we are going to get the funds to pay them to do their job.

Mayor Butler called for the vote.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez

Voting Nay: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

Motioned to overturn mayor's veto failed

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Council Approval of Creating a Mural Arts Committee – Chief Executive Offices

It was moved to approve an ad hoc Mural Arts Committee, to serve no more than 90 days, with 6 members appointed by the mayor and council. The committee shall present it's recommendations at a meeting before the mayor and council.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Comments/Discussion of Governing Body:

Councilmember Antione - Do the murals have to be on a wall, can it be on the pavement like the road.

City Attorney - The advantage of having a committee is they may have their own ideas. You may get some exciting proposals, that no one has thought of yet.

Mayor - I believe we initially approved for 2 areas already and we would have to revisit the additional charge for any additional areas.

Councilmember Gutierrez - When did we approve the areas?

Mayor - Several meetings ago

Councilmember Gutierrez - We talked about them, but we never said those are the areas we were going to fund for art.

Mayor - I believe we did but we can revisit that.

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

4. Council Approval of the HVAC Maintenance Contract with ABM – Public Works

It was moved to approve the HVAC Maintenance Contract with ABM

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

5. Council Approval To Participate In Statewide Community Showcase Video Program – Public Information Office

It was moved to approve the Statewide Community Showcase Video Program

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

6. Council Approval of Settlement Agreement with Susan Ridley

It was moved to approve the settlement agreement with Susan Ridley

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Comments/Discussion of Governing Body:

Councilmember James- I just want the public to know that this is something that the insurance company recommends. Most of the money will be paid from the insurance company.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – Happy Independence Day, to everyone. We had a tragedy in the United States, this past week. I would like to encourage everyone to hug your loved ones closely, continue to pray and continue to be good to people. This is a process we must go through, and we should be able to work together, and I feel we did very well tonight mayor and council. When we are not on the same side, we still should be able to work together to decide that the majority feels like will be best for the city. I accept that, I respect that, and I respect the process.

I would like to encourage everyone to go to the website under Ward 1. There is a June ward meeting and the caravan we did for Class of 2022. I am not sure if it is on the city's website, but it is on YouTube, so take a look at that. To follow-up with that we had a reflection in the park with the body builder, that is on there as well. Thank you all.

Councilmember Antoine – Thanks to everybody for showing up here today. Clayton County has a small business grant for \$10,000 and anyone interested in that can email me about it. God bless you all.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Like Councilmember James said even though we do not always agree it was great to see the progress go by. I do challenge you to go to google, pick up your phone and google drug bust Forest Park. They are being made, but not by our police department. They are being made by the DEA and they are made by Clayton County. About a month ago, 113 pounds of marijuana was found in Forest Park, a ton of meth was found here two years ago. They say Mexican Cartels are moving into Forest Park, so I know that our police officers have a lot to do, and we are not against that, like the mayor said.

I think we need to have specific people there and I do not want to make it harder on the chief. Food Truck Friday is this Friday, and we will have our hot dog eating contest. Hopefully, our fire department can redeem themselves, because last time an 11 year ate 8 tacos over one our firefighters, that ate 7; so, pull up it will start at 7.

We are also having a resource fair and we are collaborating with the NAACP. Our senior committee is hosting this with them. We will have some firefighters and the police department out there educating the elderly, on elderly abuse and resources that we have here in our community. That will be at the Jencare Office from 11-2. If you have any questions, please follow the city's web page and my Instagram Councilman Gutierrez.

Lastly, my clean up is back this Saturday at 10 am. I am excited Adopt a Road initiative, we have our second person from the Eye Catchers Motorcycle Club. So, now we have two organizations that adopted a road, and it is very excited to take initiative and keeping our community clean. Some tragedies have gone on since our last meeting. Women have lost their right to choose, and I am extremely against that. I think everybody has to make the decision for their own body. Prayers to the families also, from the tragedy this week. Hopefully, some legislature can be established so these things want continue to happen and people can come together and celebrate.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – Thanks for coming out and having patience with us. I am proud of this meeting tonight. Although we agree to disagree it was a great meeting and it shows us moving a step in the right direction. I would just like to say there is nothing against any department, but I am for what makes sense.

The drug force if it is needed, and Clayton County and who ever else is doing it, I appreciate it because it is saving us some money, until we get our department staffed like it needs to be. So, again I am not against it for one I would like to see the numbers from our police department and not google. I would also like to see all departments staffed fully. You see what is going on at Delta, which is my main job. The pilots are going on strike, and it is going to trickle down to our police department, because we do not have enough officers to cover the streets. They are being worked and doing side jobs and we really need these officers. So, once that is done, we can come back and supply chief with what he says he needs to be successful.

July the 22nd, is Fun Friday, so if you have not purchased your tables please do so. Casper and the 911 Band, will be the entertainment for that night. I would like to thank the fire and police department for coming out to the community event. They really had a great time, and the community likes to see the involvement from our different departments. Thank you, Chief Clark, for sending those officers and Chief Clemmons for doing an amazing job, as far as keeping the fire department involved in what goes on in our community. Have a great night and I hope you all had a great 4th.

Councilmember Mears – I hope you all had a great 4th of July, and we appreciate you all coming here giving us support and knowledge of what you need so we can take care of your business. Thank you.

Mayor Butler – I received this letter and I thought it would be a great way to end tonight's meeting. It reads as follow:

The Honorable Angelyne Butler

I am writing this letter today to tell you of the fantastic service provided by one of your police officers. Officer Thicklen, badge #1511, responded to a non-emergency call over a minor real estate dispute. The details are meaningless, but please let me just point out that Officer Thicklen, handled the situation with professionalism, courtesy, candor, calmness, intelligence, and authority. Did I leave anything out? Perhaps even a little bit of grace.

I can assure you that this type of officer we will never see on the evening news unless it is because he has rescued a kitten from a tree and is featured as a human-interest story. I jest, but truly his brand of reserved, silent intuitive authority, is what is needed in public and police service interactions.

So, I would like to end with giving Officer Thicklen a round of applause. Thank you all for coming out and I will ask for a motion to adjourn.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Council Regular Agenda at 7:59pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

File Attachments for Item:

3. Council Approval to Authorize to Award a Contract to BRTU Construction, Inc. for the Construction of a Complete Streetscape and Roadway on Mainstreet in Forest Park, GA- Department of Planning & Community Development

RESOLUTION NO. _____**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMPLETE STREETScape ON MAINSTREET FROM COLLEGE STREET TO PHILIPS DRIVE**

WHEREAS the City of Forest Park ("City") is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia and is charged with being fiscally responsible concerning the use and expenditure of all public funds;

WHEREAS the City proposes to authorize the award of a contract for the construction of a complete Streetscape on Mainstreet from College Street to Philips Drive; and

WHEREAS BRTU Construction, Inc is the recommended winning bidder;

THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FOREST PARK HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1. Approval of Bidder. The award of a contract for the construction of a complete Streetscape on Mainstreet from College Street to Philips as presented to the City Council on July 18, 2022, to BRTU Construction, Inc is hereby approved by the City Council.

SECTION 2. Public Record. This document shall be maintained as a public record by the City Clerk and shall be accessible to the public during all normal business hours of the City of Forest Park.

SECTION 3. Authorization of Execution. The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents, including the contract with such changes and modifications as recommended by the City Attorney, necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

SECTION 4. Attestation. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any documents which may be necessary to effectuate this Resolution, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Forest Park as provided in the City Charter.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

SO RESOLVED this 18th day of July 2022.

Mayor Angelyne Butler

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

File Attachments for Item:

4. Council Approval of Purchasing FLOCK LPR (license plate reader) - Police Department



City of Forest Park

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

Chief Nathaniel Clark



LPR (license plate readers)

Currently the department has reviewed three different systems for the LPR (license plate readers) for use within the city. Genetec, Avigilon and FLOCK are the three companies that have been reviewed. The review of the three different companies showed that FLOCK is the only system that will integrate with GCIC/NCIC. This integration allows the FLOCK camera to scan the license plates and automatically search them against the “hot list” that is on GCIC/NCIC. The “hot list” is a list that is updated continually by the law enforcement community. The list contains information on stolen vehicles, property, wanted persons, registration status for vehicles, driver license information and many other items that concern law enforcement.

Both Genetec and Avigilon do not have the ability to interface with GCIC or NCIC. The only license plates that can be tracked or searched for in those systems are ones that have been uploaded into the system by an officer of the police department. Neither system can check cars coming into the city without having the surrounding police agencies provide a daily list of vehicles or persons they are looking for. This must be done at least once a day in order to keep the system current, ultimately the only information that can be searched through these systems is the information we put in.

FLOCK can interface with GCIC and NCIC and provide real time information on the location and direction of travel of any wanted vehicle. FLOCK also allows you to access cameras from other agencies in order to track any wanted vehicles or persons that may be fleeing our city. Agencies that use the FLOCK system can access any FLOCK camera within the U.S. (with permission from the deploying department). FLOCK maintains MOUs with their agencies and provides access as needed to other departments.

Infrastructure was another issue we looked at when evaluating the companies. Both Genetec and Avigilon require extensive infrastructure to be in place before the systems can be operated. Both Genetec and Avigilon representatives indicated the infrastructure (poles, power, data lines) can, and do, run into the millions of dollars, depending on how many cameras are installed. The installation of each camera requires a pole, suitable power supply and data transmission abilities. If the city did not have a city owned power line/supply at a location where a camera was going to be placed, we would have to make arrangements to have a power source installed. This alone requires the cooperation of several different agencies and departments, ie. Georgia Power, Georgia DOT, Clayton County DOT, Clayton County Government are just a few that would have to agree before some infrastructure could be installed. Georgia Power alone charges, on average, \$1000.00 PER MONTH, just to attach a device to one of their utility poles, and that request is not always approved. As FLOCK cameras would be placed on City property and is solar powered, it does not require or need additional approval or authorizations. FLOCK can upgrade the batteries for very high traffic areas if needed and there is the option to power the camera with AC power if the location is not conducive to solar power. The data transmission is wireless therefore there is no need for data lines to be ran.

The installation fee and camera fee for all three companies are the same. Each company charges \$250 install fee and \$2500 per camera. The install fee is a one-time fee. The camera cost of \$2500 is yearly. This is standard throughout the industry. However, with FLOCK, we gain the additional RedSpeed cameras that are already in place. Each of those cameras are FLOCK ready and they do not cost anything



City of Forest Park

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

Chief Nathaniel Clark



to turn on. Currently we have 7 RedSpeed cameras that are up and running. It only takes a software install to have them run as RedSpeed and FLOCK cameras. This alone would save the city \$24,750 on install and camera fees.

Another benefit of FLOCK is the install time. Since no major infrastructure has to be installed or complicated agreements signed and negotiated, the install time is much faster. From time of order to up and running could be as quick as two months. That does depend on weather and demand, but it is much faster than the 12 to 18 months that Avigilon and Genetec may require.

In conclusion, the benefits of FLOCK far exceed Avigilon and Genetec, many of our neighboring agencies have FLOCK and the ability to extend that network into our city is invaluable. The fact that the system can automatically respond to any vehicle in the GCIC or NCIC data base without the need for an officer to manually update information it is also a time and money saver. The cost of infrastructure for Genetec and Avigilon can be costly whereas FLOCK has an almost zero infrastructure cost. All of these considerations lead us to the conclusion that FLOCK cameras would be the best choice for our city.

Sgt. T. Gladden
Forest Park PD.
678-326-6855

Created Date 6/3/2022
Quote Number 00002364

Expiration Date 6/24/2022

Prepared By Geoff Bulpitt
Phone 4046929006
Email geoff.bulpitt@flocksafety.com

Contact Name Nathaniel Clark
Phone (404) 366-7280
Email nclark@forestparkpd.com

Bill To Name GA - Forest Park, City of

Product	Description	List Price	Sales Price	Quantity	Total Price
Flock Falcon Camera	Infrastructure-free (solar power + LTE), license plate recognition camera with Vehicle Fingerprint™ technology + machine learning software and real-time alerts for unlimited users	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	10.00	\$25,000.00
Professional Services - Falcon, Standard Implementation	One-time Professional Services engagement. Includes site & safety assessment, camera setup & testing, and shipping & handling in accordance with the Flock Safety Standard Implementation Service Brief.	\$350.00	\$250.00	10.00	\$2,500.00

Total Price \$27,500.00
Recurring Total \$25,000.00

File Attachments for Item:

5. Council Approval to Adopt Technical Fee Ordinance - Legal and Finance

FINANCES FEES

FY 2022-2023		CURRENT FEES	RECOMMENDED CHANGES
Annual licensing fees, package sales per City Code			
Section 9-2-14:			
Retail malt beverages by the package:		\$2,000.00	NONE
Retail wine by the package:		\$1,000.00	NONE
Retail malt beverages and wine by the package:		\$3,000.00	NONE
Retail malt beverages, wine and liquor by the package:		\$6,000.00	NONE
Administrative and investigative fee, Malt beverages and wine sales by the package			
Per City Code Section 9-2-23(b)(8):		\$300.00 per application	NONE
Administrative and investigative fee, Employee licenses for sale of malt beverages and wines by the package,			
Per City Code Section 9-2-23(b)(12):		\$35.00 per employee	NONE
Importer Dealer license fee			
Per City Code Section 9-2-30:		\$100.00 annually	\$200 annually
Administrative and investigative fee, Sale of distilled spirits by the package		\$300.00 per application	NONE
Per City Code Section 9-2-43(b)(7):			
Administrative and investigative fee, Employee licenses for sale of distilled spirits by the package,		\$35.00 per employee	\$55.00 per employee
Per City Code Section 9-2-23:			

Annual licensing fees per City Code Section 9-2-82(a) and Section 9-2-144(a) :			
Retail malt beverages, consumption on the premises:	\$2,000.00		NONE
Retail wine, consumption on the premises:	\$1,000.00		NONE
Distilled spirits by the drink (automatically includes retail beer and wine):	\$5,000.00		NONE
For more than one qualifying lounge connected to a restaurant operation, an additional license fee shall be charged for	\$3,000.00		NONE
For each additional location in private clubs, (other than food serving and main drink serving areas) operated on a regular basis, an additional license fee shall be charged	\$3,000.00		NONE
Transfer fee per City Code Section 9-2-82(b):	\$300.00		
Penalty for delinquent fee payment per City Code Section 9-2-82(b):	10%		15%
Investigative fee per City Code Section 9-2-82(c):	\$300.00		NONE
Investigative fee per City Code Section 9-2-103:	\$35.00 per employee serving		NONE
Investigative fee per City Code Section 9-2-103:	\$20.00 per employee not serving		NONE
Alcoholic Beverage Caterer Permits Per City Code Section 9-2-131(b) :	\$50.00 per event		NONE

Alcoholic Beverage Caterer Permits Per City Code Section 9-2-132(b):	\$50.00 per event	NONE
Annual license fees per City Code Section 9-2-144(a):	See Section 9-2-82(a) above	
Administrative Fee per City Code Section 9-2-144(b):	\$300.00	NONE
Penalty for delinquent fee payment per City Code Section 9-2-144(b):	10%	15%
Transfer fee per City Code Section 9-2-144(c):	\$200.00	NONE
Investigative fee per City Code Section 9-2-144(c):	\$300.00	NONE
Investigative fee per City Code Section 9-2-155(c):	\$35.00 per employee	NONE
Vehicle For hire Inspection fees per City Code Section 9-5-82(a)	\$50.00 per vehicle	NONE
Vehicle Re-inspection fees per City Code Section 9-5-82(b):	\$20.00 per inspection	\$25.00
Peddlers and Solicitors per City Code Section 9-6-5:	\$100.00	NONE
Massage Business Operator License Per City Code Section 9-7-18(a):	\$250.00	NONE
Investigative fee per Section 9-7-18(a):	\$50.00	NONE

Masseur, Masseur, Massage Therapist License fee per City Code Section 9-7-18(c):	\$100.00 per person	
Investigative Fee per City Code Section 9-7-18(b):	\$50.00 per person	NONE
Tattoo establishment license per City Code Section 9-8-12:	\$250.00	NONE
Tattoo artist per City Code Section 9-8-12:	NONE	
Annual license:	\$60.00 per person	NONE
Investigative fee:	\$60.00 per person	NONE
Business License—Home Occupations per City Code Section 9-10-2:	\$1.05 per \$1,000.00 gross receipts plus employee rates specified above under General.	NONE
Sexually Oriented Businesses per City Code Section 9-12-6(a), (b), (c) and (d):		
Administrative fee:	\$75.00	\$100.00
Investigative Fee	\$1,500.00	NONE
Regulatory fee:	\$5,000.00	NONE
Employee licenses, administrative fee & Investigative Fee	\$100.00 per person	NONE
Employee licenses, regulatory fee:	\$300.00 per person	NONE
Body piercing establishment license per City Code Section 9-13-4:	\$250.00	
Investigative fee:	\$50.00 per person	\$60.00
Body piercing artist per City Code Section 9-13-4:		
Annual license:	\$60.00 per person	NONE

Investigative fee:	\$60.00 per person	NONE
False alarms received by the City		
Under City Code Section 11-1-36:		
Penalties for False Alarms:		
In excess of 4 in any month:	\$50.00	NONE
In excess of 6 in any calendar year:	\$50.00	\$100.00
In excess of 8 in any month:	\$100.00	\$150.00
Miscellaneous fees and charges:		
Returned check (per check):	\$35.00	NONE
Stopped payment — checks (per check):	\$35.00	NONE
Court fee, per conviction:	\$15.00	\$25.00
Employee investigation, GCIC:	\$20.00	\$25.00
Department of Planning, Building and Zoning fees:		
Commercial Site Plan Review:	\$750.00	NONE
Subdivision Plan Review:	\$250.00 plus	
	\$10.00 per lot	
Land Development Permits		
Commercial Site	\$250.00 plus	NONE
	\$100.00 per acre	NONE
Subdivision, Residential or Commercial:	\$500.00 plus	NONE
	\$10.00 per lot	NONE

Holders of state franchises under O.C.G.A. § 36-76-1 et seq.	The Consumer Choice For Television Act, shall pay a franchise fee at the rate of five (5) percent of the total gross revenues received by each state franchise holder from the provision of television service and video service to subscribers located within the corporate limits of the City of Forest Park, Georgia.	
Yard Sale Permits	5	NONE
Business License Admin Fee	\$75 \$50 for additional copies	\$100.00
Copies	.10Cent per page	NONE
Sound Amplification Permit	10	\$20.00
Returned Check Fee	35	NONE
Drive Way Permit	25	NONE
Special Event Permit	\$50 (under 500 attendants)	NONE
Notary Fee	2	NONE

Recreation & Leisure Services					
Fiscal Year: 2022-2023					
Fee Category: Facility Rentals					
Activity	Description	Rev. Code	Current Fee	Recommended Fee(s)	
696/850 Main St (Weekday Rate)	Hourly rental rate for Main St buildings on Mon.-Thurs.	34-7207	\$40.00	\$65.00	
696/850 Main St (Weekend Rate)	Hourly rental rate for Main St buildings on Fri.-Sun.	34-7207	\$65.00	\$85.00	
696/850 Main St Non-Resident Fee	Fee applied to total rental fee of 696/850 for all non-residents	34-7207	\$25.00		
Amphitheater	Hourly rate for rental Fri.-Sun.	34-7202	\$75.00	\$100	
Fields (Weekday)	Hourly rate for all athletic ball fields on Mon.-Thurs.	34-7202	\$25.00		
Fields (Weekend)	Hourly rate for all athletic ball fields on Fri.-Sun.	34-7202	\$50.00		
Dance Studio	Hourly rate for dance studio rental Mon.-Sat.	34-7202	\$25.00		
Gymnasium (Weekday)	Hourly rate for gymnasium Mon.-Thurs.	34-7202	\$50.00		
Gymnasium (Weekend)	Hourly rate for gymnasium Fri.-Sun.	34-7202	\$75.00	\$100	
Kiwanis Stadium (Weekday)	Hourly rate for stadium usage Mon.-Thurs.	34-7202	\$50.00		
Kiwanis Stadium (Weekend)	Hourly rate for stadium usage Fri.-Sat.	34-7202	\$75.00	\$100	
Pavilions	Daily rental rate for pavilion rentals Mon. - Thurs.	34-7202	\$100		
Pavilions	Daily rental rate for pavilion rentals Fri. - Sun.	34-7202		\$200	
Non-Resident Adult Admission	Daily fee for non-resident adult ages 18+ to use recreation center amenities	34-7200	\$3.00		
Non-Resident Youth Admission	Daily fee for non-resident youth ages 5-17 to use recreation center amenities	34-7200	\$2.00		
Outdoor Pool Adult Admission	Daily fee for non-resident adult ages 18+ to use outdoor pool	34-7204	\$3.00		
Outdoor Pool Youth Admission	Daily fee for non-resident youth ages 5-17 to use outdoor pool	34-7204	\$2.00		

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FY 2022-2023)

Permanent Sign Square Footage	Current	Proposed
1-10 SF	\$10	\$50
11-25 SF	\$15	\$75
26-50 SF	\$25	\$100
51-100 SF	\$50	\$150
101-200 SF	\$100	\$250
201-300 SF	\$200	\$500
301-500 SF	\$300	\$750
501-700 SF (Billboard)	\$500	\$1,500

Temporary Signs (3 Tiers)	Current	Proposed
30 Days	\$10	\$25
60 Days	\$20	\$50
90 Days	\$30	\$75

Residential Rental Dwelling Inspection Fees		
Annual Base Registration Fee		\$150.00
Additional Units Fee		\$25.00
Late Registration/Renewal Fee		\$50.00

Examples		
Single-family house for rent as one housing unit		\$150.00
Duplex with the owner living in one unit, second unit for rent		\$150.00
Duplex with both units for rent $\$150.00 + \$25.00 =$		\$175.00
4-unit building with the owner living in 1 unit, 3 units for rent $\$150 + (\$25 \times 2 \text{ units}) = \200.00		
20-unit building with 20 units for rent $\$150.00 + (\$25 \times 19 \text{ units})$		\$625.00

Sec. 9-8-44 Sidewalk Sales Permit	Current	Proposed
3 Sales per year. Each Sale		\$25.00

Signs from 2021-2022 Square Footage	Fee (Current)	Fee (Proposed)
64	\$50	\$150
32	\$25	\$100
25	\$15	\$75
16	\$15	\$75
16	\$15	\$75
50.8	\$25	\$100
4.49	\$10	\$50
128	\$100	\$250
17.72	\$15	\$75
48	\$25	\$100
39	\$25	\$100
18	\$15	\$75
18.27	\$15	\$75
75	\$50	\$150
4.17	\$10	\$50
4.17	\$10	\$50
13	\$15	\$75
13	\$15	\$75
20	\$15	\$75
56.3	\$50	\$150
49.9	\$25	\$100
31.83	\$25	\$100
72	\$50	\$150
72	\$50	\$150
13.32	\$15	\$75
22.69	\$15	\$75
184.77	\$100	\$250
99.9	\$50	\$150
31.93	\$25	\$100
28.75	\$25	\$100
16.6	\$15	\$75
240	\$200	\$500
60	\$50	\$150
58.5	\$50	\$150
27.29	\$25	\$100
31.5	\$25	\$100
32	\$25	\$100
70	\$50	\$150
36	\$25	\$100
40	\$25	\$100
360	\$300	\$750
20	\$15	\$75
30.88	\$25	\$100
28.4	\$25	\$100
200	\$100	\$250
28.33	\$25	\$100

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FY2022-2023)

\$100	\$25	32
\$75	\$15	13.25
\$150	\$50	55
\$100	\$25	37.5
\$75	\$15	12
\$100	\$25	32
\$150	\$50	64
\$100	\$25	26.6
\$100	\$25	26.6
\$100	\$25	26.6
\$100	\$25	32
\$100	\$25	25
\$75	\$15	15
\$75	\$15	13.48
\$7,450	\$2,225	Total:
\$124	\$37	Average:

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF FOREST PARK, GEORGIA WITH RESPECT TO FEES CHARGED FOR CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WITNESSETH:

Be it ordained by the Governing Body of the City of Forest Park, Georgia as follows:

SECTION 1. That Sections 9-2-9 and 9-2-10 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia are hereby amended by deleting said sections in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“Section 9-2-9 – License Fees

Before a license shall be granted, the applicant thereof shall comply with all rules and regulations adopted by the governing body regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages and each applicant shall pay a license fee in accordance with the scale fixed, from time to time, by resolution of the governing body and kept on file in the office of the director of finance.

Section 9-2-10 – Reserved.”

SECTION 2. That Sections 3-7-1, 3-7-2 and 3-7-3 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia are hereby amended by deleting said sections in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“Section 3-7-1- Establishment of Fees by Resolution

.”

Fees for the various departments of the City shall be established from time to time by resolution of the governing body and kept on file in the office of the director of finance.”

SECTION 3. That Section 8-7-81 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“Section 8-7-81. Establishment of Fees

Fees for all matters arising under this chapter shall be established from time to time by resolution of the governing body and kept on file in the office of the director of finance.”

SECTION 4. That Section 4-4-7 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“Sec. 4-4-7. - Fees and fines.

For each police or fire fighter response to a false alarm under this article, a city police officer may issue a written citation for the offender to appear in the city's municipal court at a designated time and place to answer the charge or charges against him or her for violating this article; in lieu of or in addition the issuance of a citation, the police officer or the fire fighter shall also notify the alarm administrator of the false alarm, who shall then charge and collect such fees as established from time to time by resolution of the governing body and kept on file in the office of the director of finance.

Such fees shall be remitted to the alarm administrator not later than thirty (30) days after the date on which notification is mailed to the alarm user.

In the event an alarm user is convicted for transmitting a false alarm pursuant to this article and is thereby required to pay a fine assessed by the city's municipal court, the alarm user shall nevertheless be required to pay any fees under this article in addition to the criminal penalty assessed.

Failure to remit payment of fees or fines assessed pursuant to this section within thirty (30) days following notice may result in a citation to appear in the city's municipal court, and may also result in the revocation of the applicable registration certificate under this article.”

SECTION 5. That Section 8-8-139 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“Sec. 8-8-139. - Fees.

All permits and licenses shall be obtained through the planning and community development department and shall be in accordance with the business license ordinance prior to commencement of any type of operation. A permit of fee as established by resolution of the governing body from time to time and kept on file in the office of the director of finance shall be paid annually by any tree contractor removing a tree or trees.”

SECTION 6. That Section 9-2-132(a)(6) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(6) All employees serving, dispensing or handling alcohol are required to obtain a permit. Such employees must provide valid identification, a Social Security card and complete a notarized criminal history consent form and pay the fee established by the governing body by resolution from time to time and kept on file in the office of the director of finance.”

SECTION 7. That Section 4-5-5(b) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(b)The cost of registration fees in a declared emergency or disaster shall be established by resolution of the governing body from time to time. Registration is nontransferable. The cost of the emergency building permit shall be equal to the cost for a building permit under existing regulations. The permit shall only be authorized for repairs.”

SECTION 8. That Section 10-2-23(e) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(e) Violations; impoundment. Violations of this section shall be punishable as provided for in section 1-1-8 of this Code. Police officers, parking enforcement officers, code enforcement officers, those city officials otherwise designated by the city manager, and any party contracted by the Forest Park to specifically impound shareable dockless mobility devices are authorized to impound any shareable dockless mobility device that has been offered for use, placed in a public right-of-way or on public property, or operated in a public right-of-way or on public property in violation of this section. The impoundment shall be subject to an initial impound fee and a daily storage and administration fee as established by the governing body by resolution from time to time and kept on file in the office of the director of finance.”

SECTION 9. That Section 9-2-27(3) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(3) No permit shall be issued until such time as a signed application has been filed with the chief of police or his designee, and upon paying a fee as established by the governing body by resolution from time to time and kept on file in the office of the director of finance, and a search of the criminal record of the applicant completed. The application shall include, but shall not be limited to, the name, date of birth, and prior arrest record of the person, though the fact of an arrest record shall be used for investigative purposes only, and shall give rise to no presumption or inference of guilt. Due to the inclusion of arrest information, these applications shall be regarded as confidential and shall not be produced for public inspection without a court order.”

SECTION 10. That Section 9-2-8(b)(11) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(11)The applicant will ensure that all employees serving, dispensing or handling alcohol will obtain a permit from the city. Such employees must provide valid identification, a Social Security card and complete a notarized criminal history consent form, authorizing the police department to conduct a complete criminal background investigation, with a fee as established by the governing body by resolution from time to time and kept on file in the office of the director of finance. The permit can be used at any applicable establishment without the need of obtaining a new permit;”

SECTION 11. That Section 5-2-14(c)(20) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia is hereby amended by deleting said section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(2) Residential garbage: One (1) residential container as described in section 5-2-2(8) emptied twice weekly. Residential customers requesting and being assigned more than one (1) such container shall pay, prior to receiving such additional residential container, the city, a refundable deposit for such container and pay an fee per month for collection of said additional container as may be set from time to time by the mayor and council.”

SECTION 12. Approval of Fee Schedules. The schedule of fees for the various departments attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved.

SECTION 13. Intention of the Governing Body. It is the intention of the governing body, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Park, Georgia, and the sections of the ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention.

SECTION 14. Approval of Execution. The Mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents necessary to effectuate this Ordinance.

SECTION 15. Attestation. The City Clerk is authorized to execute, attest to, and seal any documents which may be necessary to effectuate this ordinance, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SECTION 16. Codification and Severability.

(a) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are and were upon their enactment believed by the City Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.

(b) It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that to the greatest extent allowed by law each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the City Council that to the greatest extent allowed by law no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

(c) In the event that any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the City Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the ordinance and that to the greatest extent allowed by law all remaining Sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

SECTION 17. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 18. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Forest Park as provided in the City Charter.

SO ORDAINED this 18th day of July, 2022.

Mayor Angelyne Butler

Council Member Kimberly James, Ward 1

Council Member Dabouze Antoine, Ward 2

Council Member Hector Gutierrez, Ward 3

Council Member Latresa Wells, Ward 4

Council Member Allan Mears, Ward 5

ATTEST:

City Clerk (SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Exhibit A**Schedule of Fees****Additional Alcoholic Beverages**

Wholesale dealers of alcoholic beverages, principal place of business located in the city—\$5,000.00 per year;

Wholesale dealers of distilled spirits, principal place of business located in the city—\$4,000.00 per year;

Wholesale dealers of malt beverages and wine, principal place of business located in the city—\$3,000.00 per year;

Wholesale dealers in malt beverages, principal place of business located in the city—\$1,500.00 per year;

Wholesale dealers in wine, principal place of business located in the city—\$1,500.00 per year;

Hotel-motel "in-room service,"—\$500.00 per year. (This is an add-on license to an on-premise consumption license);

Banquet hall—\$2,000.00 per year;

Growler—\$2,000.00 per year;

Microbrewery—\$2,000.00 per year.

Section 8-8-139: Tree Removal Contractors - \$50 annually**Section 10-2-23(e)**

Dockless Mobility Device Initial Impound Fee: \$50

Dockless Mobility Device Daily Fee: \$5

Section 9-2-27(3)

Police Background Check Fee: \$25