



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

**Website:** [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)  
**YouTube:** <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>  
**Phone Number:** (404) 366.4720

**FOREST PARK CITY HALL**  
745 Forest Parkway  
Forest Park, GA 30297

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez  
The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager  
S. Diane White, City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

## AGENDA

### VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

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. **Municipal Leader – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Certificate Program** – Forest Park Fire Chief Latosha Clemons & Human Resources Director Shalonda Brown

**Background/History:**

The Georgia Municipal Association is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and technical consulting services to its members.

The certificate program consisted of attending seven modules of training and workshops spanning over a six-month period, completion of the Capstone Project (which is the final module) and completion of the Emotional Effective Leader Workshop. Upon completion, the participant will be certified as "Municipal Leader of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."

The Certificates will be presented to the recipients by Ms. Kay Love of Georgia City Solutions to: **Fire Chief Latosha Clemons and Human Resources Director Shalonda Brown. Congratulations!!**

Request from Council is to allow Kay Love to present certificates.

## 2. **Proclamation for National Public Works Week** – Executive Offices

### **Background/History:**

National Public Works Week is observed during the third full week of May to recognize the importance of public workers in an organized society. This year it will be observed May 21 – 27, and their theme for 2023 is "Connecting the World Through Public Works."

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)**

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

## 3. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2023 - City Clerk**

**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. Municipal Leader – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Certificate Program – Forest Park Fire Chief Latosha Clemons & Human Resources Director Shalonda Brown**

**Background/History:**

The Georgia Municipal Association is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and technical consulting services to its members.

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Request from Council is to allow Kay Love to present certificates.



CITY OF  
**FORESTPARK**

# City Council Agenda Item

**Subject:** **Municipal Leader – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Certificate Program** – Forest Park  
Fire Chief Latosha Clemons & Human Resources Director Shalonda Brown

**Submitted By:** Sandra Davis, Fire Department Coordinator

**Date Submitted:** MAY 9, 2023

**Work Session Date:** MAY 15, 2023

**Council Meeting Date:** MAY 15, 2023

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**Background/History:**

The Georgia Municipal Association is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and technical consulting services to its members.

The certificate program consisted of attending seven modules of training and workshops spanning over a six-month period, completion of the Capstone Project (which is the final module) and completion of the Emotional Effective Leader Workshop. Upon completion, the participant will be certified as “Municipal Leader of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.”

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Request from Council is to allow Kay Love to present certificates.

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

**Financial Impact: NONE**

**Action Requested from Council: Presentation of Certificates by Kay Love, Georgia City Solutions.**

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# MUNICIPAL LEADER

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Certificate

**Welcome Packet**  
2022-2023 Cohort



Dear program participant,

On behalf of Georgia City Solutions, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the Georgia Municipal Association Headquarters for the 2022-2023 Municipal Leader Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate Program, our inaugural year.

As municipal leaders, it is essential to understand the importance of embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion and celebrating differences to create communities where everyone wants to work, live, and play. This program was created to equip municipal leaders with tools and resources to combat institutional racism, injustice, and inequity by grasping the essence of valuing differences, fostering relationships, and creating an environment of belonging for the betterment of all.

We commend your commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and hope that this program is beneficial to your career and your work in your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Freddie A. Broome".

Freddie Broome  
*Director of Equity & Inclusion*  
*Georgia City Solutions*



**Georgia City Solutions, Inc. (GCS)** is a 501(c)(3) organization created by the Georgia Municipal Association in 2018 to establish and support new and innovative programs, solutions, and research aimed at building vibrant, economically prosperous, and well-managed cities and improving the quality of life of municipal residents in Georgia. GCS provides GMA with a tremendous tool that can attract funding to create and support a wide range of programs that will make a positive impact on the economic vitality and quality of life in cities and enhance the operation of municipal governments.

For Georgia cities to reach their full potential, significant challenges must be addressed. These challenges include, but are not limited to, building future leadership capacity and improving levels of civic engagement; addressing systemic conditions and policies that foster racial inequities and perpetuate the outcomes of intergenerational poverty, such as low academic achievement and lack of a trained workforce, substandard housing and blighted neighborhoods, substance abuse, crime and a myriad of physical health problems; and creating a pipeline of qualified workers to fill critical municipal government positions.

The major challenges which are holding cities back cannot be solved by municipal leaders alone. Collaborative efforts must be undertaken which require the active involvement of local government officials, as well as the private sector and non-profit sectors, the philanthropic community, academia, and individual citizens impacted by the challenges.

Governed by a 12-member Board of Directors, GCS works in three pillars of focus: youth leadership civic engagement; addressing systemic conditions and policies that foster racial inequities and perpetuate the outcomes of intergenerational poverty, such as low academic achievement and lack of a trained workforce, substandard housing and blighted neighborhoods, substance abuse, crime and a myriad of physical health problems; and creating a pipeline of qualified workers to fill critical municipal government positions.



Created in 1933, the **Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)** is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and technical consulting services to its members.

GMA currently represents 537 cities in Georgia. A 66-member Board of Directors, composed of city officials, governs GMA. Program implementation is charged to the Executive Director and a staff of more than 95 full-time employees.

The mission of the Georgia Municipal Association is to anticipate and influence the forces shaping Georgia's cities and to provide leadership, tools, and services that assist municipal governments in becoming more innovative, effective, and responsive.





## Municipal Leader DE&I Certification Program Overview

**Course Description:** The framework of the program consists of six learning modules and one individual capstone project where participants will explore the concepts of being (1) an inclusive leader, (2) complete an Emotional Intelligence Leadership Assessment with a 1-hour coaching session, (3) identify the inequities in financial management, (4) learn strategies in promoting a more robust and safer community, (5) develop an understanding of how fostering relationships to encourage community engagement can enhance economic growth, (6) create strategies designed to enhance equitable and inclusive workforces and (7) complete a DE & I capstone learning project.

<p><b>Module One</b> Inclusive Leadership: Enhancing Your Role as a Leader to Develop and Sustain a Diverse Organization</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate a basic understanding of DEI&amp;B.</li> <li>• Apply inclusive leadership skills to create authentic relationships.</li> <li>• Demonstrate how Emotional Intelligence makes you a more inclusive leader.</li> <li>• Assess how cultural intelligence is essential to competently lead diverse organizations.</li> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of how transformational leadership is essential in changing a culture.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module Two</b> Financial Management: Managing financial resources ethically and equitably</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify biases in financial policies, procedures, and systems.</li> <li>• Assess the financial impact of unjust decision-making and resource allocation.</li> <li>• Formulate a strategy to address the financial inequities in policies, procedures, and systems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module Three</b> Excellence in Public Safety: Building Stronger and Safer communities</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how biases and unethical behaviors can impinge on fostering stronger and safer relationships.</li> <li>• Understand the impact of systemic inequalities in the justice system.</li> <li>• Develop an action plan that can improve the trust and confidence of public safety.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Module Four</b> Cultural Diversity Enhances Economic and Community Growth</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of the definition of equitable growth and why it is good for cities.</li> <li>• Recognize the systematic barriers that impact economic and community growth.</li> <li>• Understand the actions necessary to develop and implement inclusionary economic and community growth policies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module Five</b> Embracing Equity and Inclusion to Enhance Community Engagement</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply techniques to identify key stakeholders that represent the demographics of the community.</li> <li>• Develop the skills to normalize conversations around cultural differences to enhance community engagement.</li> <li>• Learn to create sustainable solutions that incorporate community engagement in the city’s decision-making process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module Six</b> Fostering Equitable and Inclusive Practices in Human Resources</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an understanding of how to use data to analyze the city’s workforce.</li> <li>• Identify components of an inclusive talent management strategy.</li> <li>• Learn how to address the HR policies and procedures that impede building a culturally diverse workforce.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module Seven</b> Capstone Project</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify an organizational or community issue centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion and develop a strategy to address the issue.</li> <li>• Participants are expected to connect the projects to the identified organizational and community issue.</li> <li>• Participants will present the final project to the class and a panel of city officials.</li> </ul>



## Program Calendar

<b>Module One</b> Inclusive Leadership: Enhancing Your Role as a Leader to Develop and Sustain a Diverse Organization	November 2, 2022
<b>Module Two</b> Financial Management: Managing financial resources ethically and equitably	December 7, 2022
<b>Module Three</b> Excellence in Public Safety: Building Stronger and Safer communities	January 11, 2023
<b>Module Four</b> Cultural Diversity Enhances Economic and Community Growth	February 8, 2023
<b>Module Five</b> Embracing Equity and Inclusion to Enhance Community Engagement	March 1, 2023
<b>Module Six</b> Fostering Equitable and Inclusive Practices in Human Resources	April 5, 2023
<b>Module Seven</b> Capstone Project	May 3-4, 2023 <i>*One day in person, one day virtual*</i>

## Attendance Policy

Program participants must attend and participate in all seven meetings in person to achieve certification. There is no virtual option available. If a student cannot attend a meeting, they will have the opportunity to attend the meeting they missed the following program year to complete their certification. Please note this will delay your certification award date by one full calendar year.

If you must be absent from the program, please contact Alexandra Campos Castillo (Program Manager) so they can note your make-up date.

**Alexandra Campos Castillo** (They/Them)

Program Manager for Georgia City Solutions

Office: 678.539.6757

Mobile: 470.403.6743

Email: [acampos@gacities.com](mailto:acampos@gacities.com)



## Class Reading

Program participants will read *How to be an Inclusive Leader: Your Role in Creating Cultures of Belonging Where Everyone Can Thrive* by Jennifer Brown.

A copy of the book will be provided to each student, and a suggested reading schedule can be found below. Book discussions will take place at the beginning of each class.

Introduction & Chapter One (pages 1-27)	December 7, 2022
Chapter Two (pages 29-46)	January 11, 2023
Chapter Three (pages 47-62)	February 8, 2023
Chapter Four (pages 63-81)	March 1, 2023
Chapter Five & Six (pages 83-104)	April 5, 2023

## Capstone Project

The capstone project is the final module of the program designed to create an opportunity for participants to apply what they learned in the program centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Capstone projects are due April 28, 2022. Additional information on the capstone will be presented during Module 2.

## Certification Award

Completion of the course includes:

- Attending all seven modules
- Completing the Capstone Project
- (Optional) Completing The Emotional Effective Leader Workshop

Upon completion, program participants will be certified as "Municipal Leader of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." Certificates will be awarded during the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Convention, June 23-27, in Savannah, GA. If a participant is unable to attend the Annual Convention, the award can be presented during a City Council meeting.

Program Participants will also receive an e-certificate, which can be linked to resumes or Linked-in Profiles via Credly.



## Municipal Leader DE&I Certificate Program Built-in Workshops

These workshops are traditionally facilitated separately, but the Municipal Leader DE&I Certificate Program will include them in the curriculum.

### C.U.R.E Mindset Workshop

C.U.R.E. Mindset workshop provides the framework for each person to grow in self-awareness and emotional intelligence as they interact with others.

Inclusive leaders are leaders worth following.

Are you providing the tools for every team member to learn how to become an inclusive leader? A hallmark quality of inclusive leaders is the ability to recognize, hear and value other people's unique voices, experiences, and contributions. Learning, growing, and becoming an inclusive leader means the work must start with me. It means I need to have a vision for an inclusive culture that allows every voice, gender, race, age, and background to feel psychologically safe and valued for their unique contribution.

Benefits include:

- 90 Minute interactive session that invites everyone to grow
- Teaches a framework to build Inclusive Leadership Culture and skills
- Conversations to promote self-awareness
- A takeaway and action steps for each participant
- Introductory level for any starting point

Date: November 2, 2022 – Module One – Inclusive Leadership

### How to Develop a Diversity Recruitment Plan

“Fireworks don’t beat framework.” Your quest to institute; implement and maintain an equitable workplace is a grind that takes forethought, consistency, energy, and teamwork. This workshop, unlike most, is geared toward providing you with insight from the points of view of several workplace experts. From this vantage point, you will interactively learn what is needed to manage, lead, and succeed in developing a diversity recruiting program. This workshop provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of developing, implementing, executing, and evaluating diversity programs designed to recruit and embrace a culturally diverse workplace.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Design and implement a successful diversity recruiting program
- Identify links between diversity, cultural competency, and productivity
- Understand the damaging effects of a botched diversity recruiting program



### Learning Objectives Cont'd:

- Recognize the benefits of overcoming a “quota” approach to diversity recruiting
- Develop the essential skills, techniques, approaches, and strategies to promote an inclusive workplace.

Date: April 5, 2023 – Module Six – Human Resources

### **The Emotional Effective Leader Workshop**

While a leader’s subject matter expertise or technical skills might be seen as the driving factor of success, a leader’s ability to communicate, coach, provide feedback, empower, inspire, collaborate, and manage stress is also critically important. These skills are the root of emotional intelligence. A high level of emotional intelligence enhances a leader’s ability to interact effectively with others, be attuned to others’ needs, and respond effectively to those needs while building more substantial teams.

### Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this training, participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of how emotional intelligence behaviors map onto transformational leadership.
- Identify strengths and areas of their emotional intelligence profile that they can develop further as leaders.
- Develop a realist action plan toward becoming a more emotionally effective leader



**Optional** - 2-day virtual workshop (8 hours total). To get credit, participants must finish sessions 1 and 2. They can take both sessions in the same month, or they can take session 1 in one month and session 2 in another. But they must be taken in sequential order.

February 16, 2022	9 AM – 12 PM (Session 1)
February 23, 2022	9 AM – 12 PM (Session 2)
March 20, 2022	1 PM – 5 PM (Session 1)
March 27, 2022	1 PM – 5 PM (Session 2)
April 19, 2022	9 AM – 12 PM (Session 1)
April 26, 2022	1 PM – 5 PM (Session 2)

**File Attachments for Item:**

**2. Proclamation for National Public Works Week – Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

National Public Works Week is observed during the third full week of May to recognize the importance of public workers in an organized society. This year it will be observed May 21 – 27, and their theme for 2023 is "Connecting the World Through Public Works."



CITY OF  
**FORESTPARK**

# City Council Agenda Item

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**Subject:** Proclamation for National Public Works Week – Executive Offices

**Submitted By:** Ricky L. Clark, Jr., City Manager

**Date Submitted:** May 12, 2023

**Work Session Date:** May 15, 2023

**Council Meeting Date:** May 15, 2023

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**Background/History:**

National Public Works Week is observed during the third full week of May to recognize the importance of public workers in an organized society. This year it will be observed May 21 – 27, and their theme for 2023 is “Connecting the World Through Public Works.”

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**Cost: \$** Budgeted for: \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**Financial Impact:**

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**Action Requested from Council:**

Presentation of Proclamation





CITY OF  
**FORESTPARK**

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** Public Works Professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of **the City of Forest Park**, and;

**WHEREAS:** These infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our city's transportation, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens, and;

**WHEREAS:** It is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in **FOREST PARK** to gain knowledge of and to maintain an ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities, and;

**WHEREAS:** The City of Forest Park proudly recognizes all employees of our Public Works Department and sincerely thank them for their sacrifice, commitment, and dedication to our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City Council of Forest Park do designate the week May 21–27, 2023 as National Public Works Week; I urge all citizens to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events, and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we have hereunto set our hand on this 15th day of May 2023 and have caused the Official Seal of the great City of Forest Park to be affixed hereto:

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Angelyne Butler, MPA  
Mayor

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Councilmember Kimberly James  
Ward 1

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Councilmember Dabouze Antoine  
Ward 2

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Councilmember Hector Gutierrez  
Ward 3

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Councilmember Latresa Akins-Wells  
Ward 4

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Councilmember Allan Mears  
Ward 5

**File Attachments for Item:**

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



# CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, May 01, 2023, 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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**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

James Shelby, Interim City Manager  
 S. Diane White, City Clerk  
 Mike Williams, City Attorney

## DRAFT MINUTES

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director; Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Arthur Geeter; Purchasing, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Nigel Wattle, Deputy Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome, Police Chief; Brandon Criss; Deputy Police Chief, Sandra Johnson and Captain Kayla Gant, Police Department

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

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** A quorum was established.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** James Shelby, Interim City Manager

The City Manager gave an overview of the progress of the Capital Projects.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Council Discussion of a Change Order for the Main Street Streetscape Project - PCD**

**Background/History:**

The City awarded a contract to BRTU Construction, Inc. to construct Phase IIA Main Street Streetscape Project. The contractor submitted a cost proposal at the request of the city to install a new ornamental fence and additional drainage lines and other miscellaneous changes based on redesign of certain sections of the proposed streetscape. The change proposal is outside the scope of the original contract and exceeds the Interim City Manager's authority and requires City Council approval.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Interim City Manager** – This change order is outside the contractor's original contract. If you notice we have white fencing down Main Street, and we are asking the city council to approve the change order so that we can replace those with Roth Irons or Mental Ordinate fencing, that will look much better. This was not included in the original contracts. You will see other items Inlet HDP pipe, these are items that came after the contract of Roberts Company who were original engineers for this contract. The way they designed the street is not conducive to the traffic and going in and out of driveways. Falcon Engineers had to come back and redesign some of those driveways. As a result of that it ended up in a change order so remove the existing fence, install a new fence to make it look more pleasing and other inlets and things we had to take care of, because of redesign.

**Councilmember James** – I understand this is not an item that will impact our general fund, it is something that is coming out of the TAD Funds that we already have allocated.

**Interim City Manager** – Yes, TAD money was part of this project, and this is the first time we have used TAD Money on this project.

**2. Council Discussion of Surplus items – Public Works Department**

**Background/History:**

The Public Works Department has received approval from the appropriate departments for their blessing on surplus items/vehicles/equipment. The vehicles will be placed on public surplus for auction and the broken no longer working equipment will be disposed of.

Please see attached documents for the listings we are requesting councils' approval for, so we can move forward with auctions and disposal.

**There were no comments or discussion from the Governing Body.**

### 3. Council Discussion of transferring funds from one line item to another – Public Works Department

#### Background/History:

The Public Works Department would like to transfer funds from one line item to another. Public Works wants to purchase tables and chairs for our training room. It is not equipped to sit in training for 4-8 hours at a time. We are sharing this space, so the Fire Dept. also has a place to hold classes for the recruits. We will also be purchasing a conference table with chairs (the table will also be equipped with docking stations to connect for display on the tv. Purchase of rain pants, jackets, hydration pops, sprayer/ paint, flashlights and emergency wands, vests, painting the outside of fleet building. We have the funds in this year's budget, and this will allow us to move forward and not ask for it in capital for next year.

100-27-4900-52-1712 \$15,000.00 transfer to 100-27-4900-53-1105

100-27-4900-53-1270 \$25,000.00 transfer to 100-27-4900-53-1105

100-27-4900-52-3701 \$5300.00 transfer to 100-27-4900-53-1105

Please see attached quotes for the goods we are requesting the council's approval for.

#### **Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – What are the specific line items: 1712, 1270, and 3701?

**Niguel Wattley, Public Works Deputy Director** – 1712 is the Equipment Maintenance for the city. 1270 is from the Gas of all departments, and 3701 is from School Seminar Travels.

**Councilmember James** – Item 1105 that it is being transferred, what is that?

**Nigel Wattley** – It is General Fund.

**Councilmember Mears** – This is money that has already been appropriated, we are just going to transfer funds from one line item to another.

**Interim City Manager** – Yes, the funds are already there.

### 4. Council Discussion on Adopting Text Amendments– Planning & Community Development

#### Background/History:

The City Council adopted a moratorium on blood plasma centers on October 3, 2022, and granted an extension of the moratorium on March 20, 2023. The purpose of the moratorium was to allow staff time to review the Zoning Ordinance and recommend a text amendment for the most appropriate zoning districts, based on an inquiry from a potential developer for such a center.

#### **Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Lashawn Gardiner** – I think you have explained the basis of this text amendment.

**Councilmember James** – I know that we are not moving into the deal. Can this item wait or is this something that we need to do?

**City Attorney** – Since that matter has settled, we can discuss this now.

**Councilmember James** – This moratorium was put into place because of a potential developer, that we had questions and concerns about them moving into the city. Now that we have completed that negotiation, is it something we need to continue to put into our ordinance.

**City Attorney** – The ordinance verifies what types of medical offices can be located in the downtown area. What we have done is we have added a series of definitions for various types of offices, including defining a blood plasma facility. Most medical facilities are allowed downtown, but blood plasma facilities are only allowed in industrial districts.

**Lashawn Gardiner** – Light industrial, heavy industrial.

**City Attorney** – Recommendation is to approve the ordinance.

5. **Council Representative on Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee** – Planning and Zoning

**Background/History:**

The Atlanta Regional Commission is assisting the city in the update of our Comprehensive Plan. As part of the update process, a steering committee is being formed of various stakeholders to provide input.

It is proposed that Councilman Hector Gutierrez serve as the City Council representative on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Staff is requesting Council approval of the resolution appointing the Councilman.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilwoman James** – I just want to thank Councilman Gutierrez for stepping up.

**Councilmember Antoine** – You can do it, excellent job.

6. **Council Discussion on Sister Cities** – Legislative Department Councilmember Antoine

**Background/History:**

Councilmember Dabouze Antoine would like to have a discussion on sending fire equipment to Haiti.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Antoine** – There was an error of the printing and I apologize for that. All that we are doing is for the Sister Cities Program, which was already budgeted, that is what we should be discussing, not the fire trucks. What we have here is an agenda item that we voted on in our budget a few years back. Like other council members had their programs that were budgeted this is the only program that I have that is already budgeted.

**Councilmember James** – Is this an item we are voting on, we have already approved it, I do not understand what we are asking?

**Councilmember Antoine** – We have tabled this, and we are just bringing it back. It is something that needs to be voted on so we can just bring it back.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I am confused, I would like to know exactly what it is that he is requesting? Didn't we already vote on the Sister Cities?

**Councilmember Antoine** – For the record, Sister Cities Program, your program, and Hector program were taken out. At the last council meeting we voted to bring your program and Hector's program back. This is my program that was not included, we are just voting to bring it back.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I thought we already voted on it.

**Mayor Butler** – Are you referring to the Senegal Initiative?

**Councilmember Antoine** – Yes, Sister Cities that consist of Haiti, Senegal, and Ghana.

**Mayor Butler** – The one that was tabled was the actual Senegal.

**Councilmember Antoine** – It was the fire trucks that were not voted on.

**Mayor Butler** – It was Senegal, when Felicia Davis, was present and did her presentation on it. Are you wanting to focus on the fire truck itself or the overall, Sister Cities Initiative that incorporates all three countries and a budget for that?

**Councilmember Antoine** – Right, which we already approved the 15,000 and we took the program out now, I am asking to bring it back.

**Mayor Butler** – I believe that is included in the budget, when we start to discuss the next fiscal year budget. We should have that retreat coming up soon. If I remember correctly, before Dr. Cooper left it was put back into the budget.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Yes.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Just for the record, those are not my events, those are the city events.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** -Right

#### **ADDENDUM ITEM:**

#### **7. Council Discussion and Approval to separate the City Clerk and Executive Assistant Position within the City Manager's Office.**

##### **Background/History:**

The City Clerk/Executive Assistant position is combined and according to the recent organizational audit by Mauldin & Jenkins the positions should be separate. The Executive Assistant position will report directly to the City Manager. This position will handle all administrative duties and other duties as assigned. This split will not affect nor have a major impact on the position of City Clerk. It will just split the two positions and be more defined according to the updated job descriptions.

**Mayor Butler** - We have the confirmation of our New City Manager coming up and this is something he wanted to get the council's approval on, so he can start the process of finding an Executive Assistant. This is taking the Deputy City Manager position and reclassifying it as an Executive Assistant, correct?

**Interim City Manager** – I think what we are doing is utilizing the funds for the position of the Deputy City Manager position to fund this position, until the end of the fiscal year.

**Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Antoine** – Are we going into Executive Session on this?

**Mayor Butler** – If we need to.

**Councilmember Antoine** – No, no questions.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Our city clerk is not affected, right?

**Mayor Butler** – No. This is just for that assistant's position.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – In the background and history it says this position reports directly to the city manager and mayor. I do not know if it says that in yours, but it says it in our agenda.

**Mayor Butler** – Yes, it should say just the city manager. Do you need to go into Executive Session, Councilmember Antoine?

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

There was no Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Council Work Session at 6:23pm.

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

Monday, May 01, 2023, at 7:00 PM  
 Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

**Website:** [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)  
**YouTube:** <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>  
**Phone Number:** (404) 366.4720

**FOREST PARK CITY HALL**  
 745 Forest Parkway  
 Forest Park, GA 30297

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James  
 The Honorable Hector Gutierrez  
 The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
 The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

James Shelby, Interim City Manager  
 S. Diane White, City Clerk  
 Mike Williams, City Attorney

## DRAFT MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Mayor Butler and she read the Mission Statement.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge were led by Minister Justin Cook.

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director; Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Authur Geeter; Purchasing, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Nigel Wattley, Deputy Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha

Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Brandon Criss; Deputy Police Chief, Sandra Johnson and Captain Kayla Gant, Police Department

Police Chief Criss introduced two new recruits, Ariel Brown, and Lesha Biffle.

## PRESENTATIONS:

### 1. Proclamation for National Economic Development Week May 8-12 -ED Dept

#### Background/History:

National Economic Development Week is May 8-12 in which communities showcase their economic development successes. In celebration of this week, the City of Forest Park will co-host with Clayton County Economic Development an Economic Development Day at Gillem Logistics Center, the largest job hub in the county. The "Industrial Block Party" event will be on May 9, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Amazon parking lot.

Residents and businesses are invited to attend the event which will feature a barbecue, small business open house, MARTA virtual train, Workforce Development truck, games, and giveaways. The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is co-sponsoring, along with support from the Forest Park Development Authority and the Forest Park Downtown Development Authority.

Approve the Proclamation for National Economic Development Week to be accepted by representatives of the City, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Downtown Development Authority, and the Development Authority.

Mayor Butler read the proclamation to be presented for Economic Development Week and she and the council took photos.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were no public comments.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Council agenda by adding an Item # 9 The Executive Assistant Position.

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

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

### 2. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2023 - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2023.

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:****3. Confirmation of the New City Manager, Ricky L. Clark Jr. – Executive Offices****Background/History:**

City Council confirmation of candidate for the position of City Manager.

It was moved to approve the confirmation of Ricky L. Clark Jr. as the new City Manager.

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

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

**4. Council Discussion of a Change Order for the Main Street Streetscape Project - PCD**

It was moved to approve the Change Order for the Main Street Streetscape Project.

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

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

**5. Council Approval of Surplus items – Public Works Department**

It was moved to approve the Surplus Items.

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

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

**6. Council Approval of transferring funds from one line item to another – Public Works Department**

It was moved to approve transferring funds from one line item to another.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**7. Council Adoption of Text Amendments Sec. 8-8-4 to the Zoning Ordinance – Planning & Community Development**

It was moved to Open the Public Hearing to consider the Adoption for Text Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

**Councilmember Antoine** - Point of Order.

**Mayor Butler** - State your point.

**Councilmember Antoine** - We are missing Sister Cities Program on here?

**Mayor Butler** - It was not on the Regular Agenda.

**Councilmember Antoine** - Why is that?

**Mayor Butler** - It was not put on there, and I do not know if you made it clear you wanted it on the Regular Agenda. Let us get through this and if you want to amend the agenda, we can do that.

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

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

There were no speakers for or against the Text Amendments.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing.

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

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

It was moved to Adopt the Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

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

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

**Comments/Discussion form Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** - Is this the recommendation of staff?

**City Manager** – Yes, it is and the Planning Commission.

**8. Council Approval of a Resolution for a Council Representative on Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee – Planning and Zoning**

It was moved to approve a Resolution for the appointment of Councilmember Gutierrez to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

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

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

**ADDENDUM ITEM:**

**9. Council Approval to Separate the City Clerk and Executive Assistant Position within the City Manager's Office**

It was moved to approve the Executive Assistant Position.

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

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – I would like to clarify there are two separate things, I want to make sure we are focusing on. To separate the Executive Assistant position from the City Clerk as it is now. Also, to reclassify the Deputy City Manager, so I want to make sure that is part of the motion.

It was moved to withdraw the original motion made by Councilmember Antoine.

It was moved to separate the Executive Assistant Position from the City Clerk Position and reclassify the Deputy City Manager Position to the Executive Assistant Position.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I would like to add that Ms. Hood and Ms. White do an excellent job. It is not like they cannot handle the work; it is just us needing an assistant for the city manager, because that is what he requested.

It was moved to amend the agenda to add the Sister Cities Program.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

## 10. Sister Cities Program

### Comments/Discussion by Governing Body:

**Councilmember Mears** – I thought we had done all that, why do we have to revote on it again?

**Councilmember Antoine** – It is not clear and just for the record, I would like people to know we are bringing it back.

It was moved to vote on the Sister Cities Program.

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

### Comments/Discussion by Governing Body:

**Councilmember James** – Because we only have two months left in this current budget year, I do not think we should approve these funds for Sister Cities in this budget year. However, I am in favor of Sister Cities, we have a budget hearing coming up and I would be apt to having it in the next budget year.

**Councilmember Antoine** – I disagree because it was already in the budget. All we are doing is bringing it back, like we are bringing back other things, so it is not right.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Are we voting to approve what Ms. Davis recommended?

**Councilmember James** – This is the Sister Cities budget item that allows us to partner with three countries. It is an item we removed from the budget along with our capital overlay funds along with other funds. We removed it because we were over budget when we got the building for the fire station at Gillem. We took

everything off the table. What Councilman is asking, is that we put it back on the agenda for this budget cycle.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Would we be able to do anything about this, we only have two months.

**Mayor Butler** - Based on Councilman Antoine's amending the agenda to do if, something came up between now and the end of the fiscal year them yes. As it stands if approved in our budget cycle it would begin July 1.

**Chiquita Barkley** – What I hear Councilman Dabouze, saying is we did not approve Sister Cities last council meeting, which was removed. For 2022-23 budget year it was also not approved. The goal is to bring it back for 23-24 which starts in less than 60 days.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – We are voting on that for next year right now.

**Chiquita Barkley** – No you should not; you should vote on that during budget season.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – You all shut us down like a month before, right.

**Chiquita Barkley** – Yes, mid- May.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Is it something they need right now, that you are trying to do? If so, what is it we need to vote on today?

**Councilmember Antoine** – Yes. School supplies, cell phones and a swing set.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** - So, it is not an emergency.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Yes, it is an emergency.

Mayor Butler called for the vote.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Antoine

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

## CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

### Comments/Discussion by Governing Body:

**Councilmember James** – Thanks to everyone for coming out. I would like to congratulate Mr. Elijah Jones, the band director at Forest Park High School. He was the winner of the Fox 5 challenge. Thanks to all of you that voted. Some of the students nominated him, and because of the letters received about how he takes care of the students, the \$25,000.00 he received will go to the school.

The April monthly meeting has not been posted; I am having technical difficulties. Hopefully, by the end of the week you can go online and see the ward meeting. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate our Forest Park High School Seniors, they will caravan around the city and will end up at Kiwanis Stadium from 11-3p; and we will have Community Field Day. There will be spaces for vendors and those that want to give resources to the community, please speak with Ms. Dixon.



**Councilmember Antoine** – Thanks to everyone that came, I see some new faces. Thanks to our new chief and new city manager, welcome to the all-star team. Shoutout to the council and mayor. We all are different and view things differently; this will be going on and I will be bringing it back for next year's budget.

May 18<sup>th</sup> is Haiti's Flag Day and that is 219 years of independence, second to the United States. I mention this because Haiti is in a dire situation. We say the opposite of love is hate, it is not true. When you hate a person, you put energy into it. You write about them, lie about them, and usually get someone to believe in your lies. What is worse is you in your mind acting like that person does not exist, that is worse than hate.

Haiti was the richest country in the Western Hemisphere, now it is the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. The population is twelve million people, with five fire trucks. Eighty percent of the country has no access to clean water, and 80 percent of them are not in school right now. It is not a Forest Park thing. God is using me to let the world know that they rejected a country. We have two trucks that are collecting dust, and I applaud the mayor and council because in 2018 we voted to partner up with this country. We are turning our head to Haiti but going to Afghanistan and Ukraine. I am just asking you to be leaders and step things up.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you Councilman, Haiti does have a rich history and they are the poorest country. I think a lot of it has to do with racial tension, because it was the first country ever to be freed by slaves. We need to talk about this and not ignore it. I appreciate what you are saying and would like to start the conversation on how to raise money and get these things over there. The reality of it is, we are right here, and we can put a swing set at Perkins Park. We are here for our people, and these are the taxpayer dollars. We need to find organizations to help us to try and match it and not take on the whole burden. We have a lot of homelessness here as well.

Welcome to the new recruits, the new police chief and the new city manager and thank you, Mr. Shelby, for holding things down. This past Saturday at the Wellness Fair, with Sabrina Hill, things went great, and the PTA also had a nice car show. I would like to give a shoutout to our employees, the police and fire department is rolling deep and always have a smile on their faces. Public Works and Parks and Rec is also rolling deep. Then Tenisha Dixon and Ms. Marsha Johnson, for putting it all together, thank you so much. I missed Big Dave's Cheesesteak Opening, which is a new business on Jonesboro Rd, where Debbie's Delight used to be.

With my trip to New York, I am part of the National Association of Latinos elected officials and I am on their board. It is a national organization, and I am the only representative from the south. I am excited to go up there and represent us, to people news about us. Starting in June, we will have bingo every second Friday night of the month. The seniors bought up the rental homeowner program about which we were talking. I want to bring that to the table, which is something else we approved and need to circle back on. Next Friday, we have the food trucks for our city, we are celebrating Mother's Day. We will be appreciating our teachers and having some nice community time. Saturday, we are having another beautification at Forest Park Middle, and we would love to have you out there if you are available. Forest Park High School invited Six Flags to play, and they are trying to raise money for the event. If you would like to support, we would appreciate it. It is the only Clayton County School that got invited. They were also invited to play in the Chi-fil-A Bowl. So, if you know anyone that would like to help support these causes, let us know. Thanks for coming out, everybody.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Thanks to everyone for coming out. Welcome our new City Manager, Mr. Clark, and our Police Chief Criss, thank you so much for joining the Forest Park Team. May 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-8p we will have Forest Park Reunion in the park. There will be softball, kickball, vendors, and we are going to have a fun time in our community. If you know anyone that would like to be a vendor, please reach out to Ms. Dixon or Ms. Johnson. The first Fun Friday will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in June. We have a live band and vendors so come out and enjoy. Big Dave's Cheesesteak, welcome to the community. Councilmember Antoine, it is nothing against the initiative and what you are trying to do. I must vote on things that make sense, like Councilmember Gutierrez said, we have to take care of

home first. We were voted in to serve the people of Forest Park, and we must do that first. We did talk about Sister Cities, and I am in support of it, but it must make sense for me to vote on it. Thank you all for coming out.

**Councilmember Mears** – I want to thank our new city manager; he is fired up and ready to go. I wish you well and will help you any way I can, to help make sure you are successful. I also want to make a comment about the Sisters Cities. We have needy people here in Forest Park, and charity begins at home. We got in this to help them, but we are not in a position to take the lead even though we are economically sound too. There are other people involved, and we will do our part, but we must have input from other people. As Councilmember Wells said, we must take care of the home first. Forest Park is doing well, and there are people here that need help. Whatever we can do to help him with his Sisters' Cities, but we need to keep as much of the money as we can in the city, to help the city.

**Mayor Butler** – I will reserve my comments to our new city manager, Mr. Clark.

**Ricky L. Clark, Jr** – Mayor and Council good evening, it is indeed an honor to stand before you. On September 8, 2014, I started in the City of Jonesboro. I remember walking into the office saying what I had done. Eight years later, my legacy still remains in that community, from the work we were able to do both collectively, with our legislative body and different departments. It is indeed an honor to come before you as your next city manager. I am joining the forces of what I can already see a momentous organization. For those that know me, know I believe in the work and having fun while we do it. There is probably more pressure on me in this position because people have seen the work that I have been able to do, not just in Jonesboro, but around Clayton County.

When I joined church more than 2 years ago, after not going to church during COVID for a year and a half, nowhere would I ever think I would become to be the city manager of Forest Park. The work was so impactful that we were able to accomplish it there in the City of Jonesboro, but I recognized something on a Sunday. The work that you are able to do you have to go out and do in multiple places. I am honored to be here, I am honored to have my Pastor Jeremy Christopher Tuck, senior pastor of Living Faith Tabernacle, on Old Dixie Road.

My commitment to this city council is I will be the city manager that does the work. I do not believe in counterproductive work talking about it and not doing it. We have to roll out a plan, and in the first 100 days of my administration, we will roll out something called One Forest Park. The One Forest Park will encompass one unified voice over all our various departments, as well as understanding the needs of this elected body, the citizens, and stakeholders that it will take to make it happen.

I am looking forward to the opportunity, to these amazing department heads to my left and my right the new Chief, Chief Criss, who I have had the pleasure of working with, we are in good hands. I will always be fair, and I will always communicate. Your future is more important to me than it will ever be to yourself. Again, I am deeply honored to serve, and I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeve and getting the work done. I am equally grateful and look forward to working with each and every one of you. Thank you.

**Mayor Butler** – Join us May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30p for the swearing in of our Police Chief Criss and our City Manager Ricky Clark, Jr.

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

There was no Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Council Regular meeting at 7:42pm



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

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

DRAFT