



**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

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

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

**DRAFT REGULAR MINUTES**

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James                      The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez                      The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells  
The Honorable Allan Mears

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

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by the mayor.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge was given by Dr. Beeler.

**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		✓

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, Human Resources Director, Lashawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, Bruce Abraham, Director Economic

Development, Tarik Maxell, Director of Recreation & Leisure, Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works, Joshua Cox, IT Director, Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Director, James Shelby, Planning & Community Development Director, Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police and Javon Lloyd, PIO Director.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

It was motioned to open Public Hearings

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 motioned to close the Public Hearings

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**1. PUBLIC HEARING - Council Approval of a Conditional Use Permit for CUP-2021-01, Telithia Williams–** Department of Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to approve the Conditional Use Permit for CUP 2021-01

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

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

**2. PUBLIC HEARING - Council Approval of a Conditional Use Permit for CUP-2021-02 Amerco Real Estate Company-** Department of Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to approve the Conditional Use Permit for CUP 2021-02

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

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

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

There were two speakers:

Dhaval Shah -

Lawanda Folami -

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

It was motioned to approve the Council Agenda as printed.

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:**

- 3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2022 - S. Diane White, City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the City Council meeting minutes from January 4, 2022

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 4. Confirmation of the Director of Finance – Executive Offices**

It was motioned to confirm Ms. Chiquita Barkley as the Finance Director.

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 Enter into a Contract for a Medical Director – Fire Department**

It was motioned to approve to enter a contract for a Medical Director.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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

- 6. Council Approval to Extend the Stipend for First Responders (Firefighters/EMS/Police Officers and Dispatchers) – Executive Office**

It was motioned to approve the extension of the stipend for First Responders

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

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

- 7. Council Approval of City Public Health Leave Resolution – Chief Executive Offices**

It was motioned to approve the Resolution for Public Health Leave

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Mears  
Voting Nay: Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells

It was motioned to amend the Resolution to add two (2) weeks of Public Health Leave.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**8. Council Approval of a Resolution for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program – Fire Department/Management Analyst**

It was motioned to approve the Resolution for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**9. Council Approval of an On- Call Electrical Contractor Services – Public Works/ Procurement Department**

It was motioned to approve the three (3) On-Call Electrical Contractor Services.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**10. Council Approval of Steve Lundquist for Indoor Pool Renovations – Recreation & Leisure Services Department**

It was motioned to approve the renovations to the Steve Lundquist Indoor Pool

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**11. Council Approval of the Separation of Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Boards – Chief Executive Office**

It was motioned to direct staff to do a resolution of separating the URA and DDA Boards.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

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

It was motioned to recess into Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate at 7:45pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was motioned to reconvene back into the Regular meeting at 8:51pm

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

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

**12. Council Approval of Development Authority Board Appointments – Economic Development Department**

It was motioned to appoint the following Billy Freeman, Bennet Joiner, and Rhonda Wright to the Development Authority as per discussion from Executive Session

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Mears

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – Thanked everyone for coming out and wanted to make sure that we thank those that have served with on our boards, and we thank those that are willing to serve on our boards. We thank and congratulate on new Finance Director for accepting the position. We have some great things happening in Forest Park, just know we do have members that have put their information in to be considered for the boards, there are certain requirements you must follow to be on the boards, so take that into consideration as well. I would like to personally, that we hold each other accountable for the actions that we do, and I will not back down from the accountability piece, I would want everyone to hold me accountable as well as every member on this dais accountable for the actions and the things we say or do in the city. The Neighborhood Meeting, sorry I changed the name to Ward Meeting on Thurs., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, it will be virtual only, no in-person meeting, tune in at 5:00pm to get updates on what is happening in the city.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Thank everyone for coming out and encourage everyone to look at the city's website, it has some amazing information on it. A senior center coming to the city of Forest Park, which is huge, I know that Kroger is doing their ribbon cutting and hiring a lot of the residents and I think that is awesome for our citizens; the energy assistance program, that is always on the website; the website is very information and happy new year. The new year has great things coming up for us and I hope that you continue coming, speaking about what is going on and know that we are working our hardest to provide the best services we can to serve you all, thank you and God Bless.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you for coming and sticking around. Congratulations to our finance director welcome to the team. As a member of DA Board, I abstained myself, not against these individuals; we all debated it

to see what the best fit was, so thank you for being willing to serve these positions that do not pay anything these are just people in our city that want to bring improvements and we are all pulling the same way. I am excited to serve with them on the DA Board. JenCare, it is exciting to have them here, they have been supporters of our seniors in action committee, so they are not just about business, but they generally care about the community, so I am excited that they chose Forest Park as their home, because they could have easily gone somewhere else. February 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have Food Truck Friday, the theme will be black history, come out and celebrate with live performances, spoken word and nice decorations from our employees. On February 5<sup>th</sup> is our cleanup, probably will do Jonesboro Road again, unless I get another option in my ward. Thank you for your public comments, Ms. Folami, thank you for letting us know about the rooster problem and we will take care of it. Georgia won a national championship, which means a lot for the state and brings joy to many. Thanks again for coming out and I agree with Councilmember James about keeping each other accountable, it starts with you the citizens, we are here for you so, make sure that you are holding us accountable for everything that we do. I hope everyone is safe, the omicron virus is still out there so, be sure to take care of yourselves.

**Councilmember Adkins-Wells** – Thank you to the ones that have left and to those that are still here for coming out to support this meeting. Because I am transparent, I am going to talk about why I missed meetings and the reason for missing meeting. So, if I am around someone that has COVID and I have been told that I quarantine or I do not need to around people and I need to stay six feet, that is what I am going to do, I am not going to put my family, neither one of you in jeopardy, so when I get a call that someone comes and say that they want to dock my pay because I took my safety and the safety of others into consideration; then if that is why you want to dock it, then dock it, because I am not here for the money, if I was here for the money, I would have been gone a long time ago and I know they forgot to bring it up, because that was something they were supposed to be voting on, so, if you all want to go back and vote on if my reason was just cause; if I had COVID and was around someone that had COVID and you want to dock my pay for that then, go ahead, I know you all forgot. So I just wanted to remind you again, that I am not here for the money, this is not my life, but I am here to serve the people and that is what I do and my thing is public safety so, I cannot speak on public safety, if I have been around someone that had COVID and I come in here and act just like I did not have it. So, yes that is my excuse for not being here, I did not know I had to call in to work, I did not know I was supposed to call in, so now I know. I feel like I should address the people because I work for the people, so I am letting you know why I was not here, because I have an ethics complaint filed against me on that as well so, thank you all again, everyone have a blessed night and I appreciate you all; stay safe, wear you mask when you cough cover cover your mouth. I just wanted to give my reasons why I abstain on the appointments for the Development Authority. I abstain, because I do not believe in just changing people or taking people off the board because they serve too long. I feel that when you have people on boards that are doing a great job of working with the city then we should keep those people and just because people want to see new faces, I do not think that is a reason replace them and what to put them on another board if they are good for that one, they are good for this one. Jonathan, I am in favor of you being on our board, but this board, you must be a resident, so that was what we were voting on. Mr. Elliott, I apologize you did not get reappoint to this board, because I think you do a good job, I think you put the city first and you want to work with the city and do not think just because you have been there that you do not deserve to be there anymore or you are good for another board, but good enough; whether you want to serve or not, I say you could have served both, because you served one well; that was my reason for abstaining, because I feel that when you have good people you keep them.

**Councilmember Mears** – I would like to thank Dr. Cooper and the boards, not sure if you have noticed the three big water tanks up by Clayton Plaza, that is a positive for people traveling up and down Jonesboro Road, it was money well spent for that painting. I too think you need to hold people accountable, there is not many jobs or places you can go to and work that you do not have to call in; I know it gets aggravating, but it is something we must hold each other accountable for and we get the ground rules, and all laid out, thank you. We have other boards, we are trying to incorporate more people on these boards not the same handful watching both boards, so there are other

opportunities, other boards, other places that we can use people that has already served, and it will work out in the future.

**Mayor Butler** – I wanted to touch upon the train issue and provide a little more insight on that because it has been a nuisance for many, many, many people, and so I do not know if people are aware but Forest Park's rail system is considered a secondary line and so as the main line gets backed up then the trains are stalled and not only are we a secondary line, but we are also at the end of the rail line; so as that main line gets backed up then it affects us. We have communicated endlessly with one of the directors there and with the rail system being governed by the federal government, we are not winning, I could say, but we are actively engaged with coming up with a happy medium, if that means allotting our main intersections here, Lake Drive, Ash, College and West to remain open and that is one thing that we are really pushing for. One of the things we are being told is that with the trains being stalled over night, they do not foresee an end to that anytime soon. The trains are increasingly getting larger because they are trying to bring in as much cargo as they can, which will in turn even though we want them to push the train further up over the overpass as they are getting longer it still spills over to blocking Ash, College and so on down the line; but just know that we are every time it is stopped, I send an email or a text and I get a response as to how long they anticipate the train being stalled there, of course, the safety of the residents and the response time is definitely a priority and so just trying to get them to give us a commitment as to which lanes would be open is like pulling teeth, but we are actively engaged with our congressional and state representatives to see if we could push some legislation through that will ease this and then with the things going on with the airplanes and this 5g and the towers, I could just see rail being utilized a lot more and unfortunately because we are a rail city, we are just going to have to stay engaged and really see what we can do. If we can at least know in advance what lanes are being blocked, so we can notify our first responders, so they know to take a secondary route; it is day by day at this point, but I wanted to let everyone know what is going on with the rail system. I do echo the sentiments of my colleagues, I think moving forward we are going to see a huge push for accountability, and it only makes us stronger and better as a municipality; and we cannot ask it of our employees, if we are not willing to do it for ourselves. I want to thank Kroger for their contribution to the food drive, it was amazing, their support that they gave, and I look forward to that continued partnership.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was motioned to adjourn the Regular meeting at 9:07pm

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

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