



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

Monday, July 19, 2021, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

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

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 by Mayor Butler at 7:39pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were done by Dr. Kenneth Paden, Living Word COGIC.

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; Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Director of Parks and Recreation, and David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes) There were four (4) public speakers:

Dianne Lunsford – I was very disappointed that I did not see any American flags flying on our city's busiest street for the 4th of July. This is our country, Forest Park is in the state of Georgia, Georgia is included in our country, and I think that it was a mess, and I do not know whose fault it was, but it was highly terrible and tragic that we could not show our colors on our nation's birthday. My husband found the Vietnam war for all of us to have freedoms and he salutes that flag along with myself and I think we should at least show our colors. We lost two more police officers last week, I agree with you CM Wells, we did. What is Clark doing with them, we still got them leaving, I think Clark needs to go. Our fire stations, I was under the impression, before the June 6th and during the June 6th meeting when he produced this picture of what he wanted station three look like, with the city in there and fire and police stations, I was totally against that, still am. I was under the impression that we would have station two at the parkway, station one would be renovated, station three, they were considering either renovating or moving it to that new site. I still stand beside that, just do not spend any more money than we must so we can save some money to spend on something else that you all want to do. And I also have one concern, I was told that we do not have anyone in records or court clerks anymore, Dr. Cooper is that true? And I was told too that the judge said not to confirm anymore city warrants to our police and I wanted to know if this is true? I realize the city of Forest Park is short on cops and we need to have that addressed entice men to come instead of losing them.

Lawanda Folami – I want to talk about the HVAC contract, as we know they stated with a decent presentation saying that it would be like a reserve, if we get in hardship that our public service cannot come and do the task. Public Services work task is overbearing right now so, this would be like a substitute, so will you please consider this contract, it is not saying we are spending our money, but we do have reserve with our money. And if they have been since 1977 and they can do rebates or get with the analyst here to show them how to do the SPLOST to get funding, because there is a lot funding out there that they can assist us with this program. And if that has been there since 1997, we are going to have to buy some new units in a minute anyway. Let us talk about getting some grants, I do not know who is in place of Ms. Redding, but when she was here before she took on the City Manager's role, she would always find grants. I do not know the last time we had a hundred to two hundred thousand dollars in grant in this city. I would love to see more grants come into the city, more than \$2,000, let us find the money it is there. The police department is the apple of our eye, if I cannot sleep at night, I do not want the emergency service to come, do not want public works to come and I definitely do not want you all to come, I want the police officer to come, so we need to find out what is taking them away and enhance the police department and make it friendly and comfortable for them to want stay, grow, work and play, that is the first priority; now our emergency service, fire and ambulance services, we need them like we need water. With the virus out here and this pandemic people are falling by the wayside, every time we look around. If you have not looked at the latest stats when the nurse was up here taking, that is accurate. It is going to take council to go over and a little beyond our duties to get it done. Now let us talk about this sign right quick, I think this is the most embarrassing, unprofessional and I think Mr. Williams should be held accountable, because he knows exactly what they signs can and cannot do. He can get with the city manager and the two can talk it out and get a solution. You should not have to come in here each time and talk about a sign. You all say you are working together but as we sit out here and look it is so much division. I want you to really consider this group right here, I do not know them, but what they just said, we have a lot of updates and right now we have 900 cases.

Ms. Adams – I have a list of things that I made to talk to you all about and I understand that we are supposed to be getting some funds into the city and I want to address some of the things that I see that we can utilize these funds for. 1) Animal control, there are a lot of stray cats, dogs, foxes but we do not have an animal control that can handled

it. Ms. Johnson had been around for about 99 and a half years, and we have not had any help; so now we got some new help, but we need a facility to help with animal control. 2) The equipment to clean the streets is down, buy some new equipment, so, our streets could be a little cleaner than they are now; cutting back of the tree limbs, I have mentioned this before. There are limbs hanging over the trees are dead and on top of that, one fell on my car, I could have been hurt or dead, we have some that are obstructing the stop signs and things, so I think we need to look at that kind of stuff. The streets where the roots have grown from trees, you try going around one of those things and you will hurt yourself, car and/or someone else. When you talk about the sign ordinance, I want to see you all put up signs that say, "No Littering" "No Loitering" "No Loud Music" in the city. I do not want to see signs talking about Fun Fridays and nothing else, when you are not doing what you are supposed to be doing to clean up this city. Some of those things are even out there like I said, you want to spend money on park events, but I live in a house where I want to see my streets clean, I want to see my neighbors clean up stuff and the immature interaction among the council members here is similar to children having a temper tantrum, I do not want to see you all go back and forth like you are doing. It is ignorant and let us look at some decorum, if you all need to go to class to learn how to handle a meeting, then go to class, but do not sit here and embarrass us like this. Number seven, Sisters City, I agree with CM Akins-Wells, what about Calvary Baptist Refuge Center, what about the help they need?

Mayor Butler – Ms. Moreno, you are not a resident nor a business owner?

Emily Moreno – I am a business owner. I am not here to file a complaint, but I am here to provide an opportunity to the citizens of Forest Park. I came here because I grew up in Forest Park and I just want to reach out to everyone. So, I have a photography studio in Jonesboro, although it is in Jonesboro, I grew up in Forest Park and I know how it to not have the resources

Mayor Butler – is your business in Forest Park or in Jonesboro? The public comment period, if you are not a resident or a business owner, within the city limits, you must sign up in advance to speak. So, if the council will allow her to continue, I am willing to do, but moving forward you need to sign up. You would have to request it through the city clerk and then be placed on the agenda as a presentation. The mayor received consensus of the council for Ms. Moreno to proceed.

Ms. Moreno – In Jonesboro. So, I do have a photography studio in Jonesboro and I offer rental space for creatives that do not have the opportunity or the resources to do content photo, photography anything in that realm, so I am reaching out to everyone in Forest Park, if they need that opportunity, we can provide that for you, because as I said I grew up here and know how it is not to have the resources and I value Forest Park for always helping people in the community. If you need help you can always contact me for that, I can be found on Instagram, Facebook under kblux studio and I will be here so that when the meeting is over and you want to talk with me, you can. I do not have a phone number; it is all social media.

Beauty Boyd – I do not have a business or live in the City of Forest Park – Mayor – I will assume that Council will allow you to speak since we just approved the previous speaker.

Beauty Boyd – I grew up in Forest Park, attended elementary, middle, and high school, and have seen this city from the inside out transformed, I have seen the good and the bad, and about a month ago, I came to speak at the city council meeting to present what I wanted to present and was told by Diane White, that I need to present in a proposal format. I did that, she presented it to the city manager, who declined to have me speak at a city council meeting, stated just not part of the agenda or whatever it is that we are talking about. Being a person who grew up in this city, I have a business and have seen the city grow from inside to out. I am for what is going on in Haiti, my heart goes out to those people. My mother works at Huie Elementary and there are those same kids that go to that school, who sometimes does not eat, if they do not go to Huie Elementary; I went there. So sometimes, I think we need to check out backyard before we kind of go outskirts a lot of times and so I have a business called the Beauty Agency of Georgia. Primarily it is for women, we transform from the inside out, using health and wellness and different

techniques that I have mastered along the way. But I want to take it a step further and present that to the city, so, it is called the great health and wealth initiative and if anyone knows anything about health and wealth, there is no way you can obtain wealth without being truly healthy and health first starts in the mind so, we have to change the way we think and the way we move. When you look at Buckhead and Johns Creek those cities were not those cities before there was a woman like me or women and men like you all, who stood before council and said there is something that has to change. We should not be asking for five and ten thousand dollars, we should be donating five or ten thousand dollars to these schools, our recreational system, the parks, having job fair for our policemen. So, I wanted to present my health and wealth initiative, because I realized that main street, which is a historic street, which is nothing short of anything like downtown McDonough, Peachtree Street, there is wealth within this city, but we are not able to obtain it, because we are too close-minded, we cannot see for looking; I am a visionary, so I see beyond the current. I have accessed the present moment, but I do realize where this city needs to go, I need to speak to someone in terms of the buildings here. *(Ms. Boyd's time was up.)*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to adopt the Council Regular Meeting Agenda as printed.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2021** - S. Diane White, Interim City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the June 21, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

2. **Approval of One-Year ABM Contract** - Public Works/Procurement

It was motioned to approve Option 1 of the One-Year Renewal of the ABM contract.

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

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

3. **Approval of Three (3) Vendors for Exterior Ground Maintenance Services on a Standby Bases** - Public Works/Procurement

It was motioned to approve three (3) vendors for Exterior Ground Maintenance services on a Standby Base.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Akins-Wells

4. Approval to Extend the Lab Linq COVID-19 Testing Site Contract - Parks & Leisure / Procurement

It was motioned to extend the contract with Lab Linq.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

5. Approval of the Revision of Emergency Management Agency's Local Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) - Fire Department

It was motioned to approve the revision of the EOP.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

6. Approval to Adopt the Resolution of Clayton County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan - Fire Department

It was motioned to approve the adoption of Clayton County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

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

7. Approval of Resolution to Authorize Engaging Land Acquisition Consultants for Additional Property Needed for the New City Hall Facility - PBZ Department

It was motioned to approval the Resolution to authorize engaging Land Acquisition Consultants for additional property needed for the New City Hall Facility.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

8. Approving a Resolution to Authorize Engaging Land Acquisition Consultants for Additional Property Needed for Trailhead Access - PBZ Department

It was motioned to approval the Resolution to authorize engaging Land Acquisition Consultants for additional property needed for the Trailhead Access.

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

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

9. Approval of 2021-22 Budgeting for Sisters City Program - Legislative Offices

It was motioned to table this item until the August 2, 2021, meeting.

Council Discussion:

Councilmember James – The previous budget that we approved for the Sister Cities, I was under the impression that it was annual, was it not an annual?

Dr. Cooper – No, it was a one-time deal, I checked the minutes, it was supposed to be a one-time option to bring back each year to reoccur.

Councilmember James – The option to become a sister city, that was something that we did annually?

Dr. Cooper – Yes, that is an annual payment.

Councilmember Antoine – Can this be placed on the next Council Agenda to approve the budget at \$15,000?

Motioned by Councilmember Gutierrez, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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

10. Approval of Resolution of Signage of All City Events - PBZ, Public Works and City Attorney

It was motioned to amend the proposed Resolution around city signage to exempt city officials from having to get permits or approvals to promote city-sponsored events.

Council Discussion:

Councilmember Gutierrez – Atty Williams, how would this change the resolution?

Atty Williams – (was not speaking into the microphone, his comments were inaudible)

Councilmember Akins-Wells – So, we would not have to get permission or approval to put signs out for city-sponsored events?

Councilmember Gutierrez – We initially changed that because we said we were not exempt of the law or are we exempt based on....

Atty Williams – (was not speaking into the microphone, his comments were inaudible)

Councilmember Gutierrez – But is there any level of accountability if we are putting signs in rights-of-way or in places that are not supposed to be.

Atty Williams – (was not speaking into the microphone, his comments were inaudible)

Councilmember Akins-Wells – Atty Williams knows what I am trying to say, which is again, councilmembers or elected officials, the city, police department, parks & recreation department, anybody can put a city sign on city property. The ROW belongs to the city, I do not know why it is so hard to understand we can put our city signs out to promote a city event, if that is what we want to do, we do not have to go to another elected officials to get approval and just because one person do not want to see, well you have a whole community that does and you should not have to get permission.

Mayor Butler – Is there any other discussion? So, there is a motion

Councilmember Gutierrez – So, Atty Williams, the one you brought up does that one says city officials have to approve them.

Atty Williams – Under the current ordinance, city council must approve signs in the ROW. If you adopt the Resolution here, would essentially provide that approval and you would basically operate just like you have been operating for years and years until this year.

Councilmember Antoine – I just do not want signs in the ROW to distract people from driving.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – Let me explain because maybe people do not know what a ROW is. The signs that I have and Councilmember Gutierrez's that were on Jonesboro, in that triangle and Courtney Drive, that the ROW, we have a fence that specifically for city signs, so, when you say you do not want it in city ROW, well that is the city ROW; we designated those places for city sign, so, what they are trying to do is take that away. You cannot put a city sign on city property without coming to get approval. If somebody feels some type of way about you or an event that you have going on, they can say "No" I am not approving it to go in the ROW. What I made a motion to amend, you do not have to get permission from another elected officials to put a city sign up to promote a city-sponsored event.

Mayor Butler – There is a motion on the floor and called for the vote

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

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

Abstain: Councilmember James, Councilmember Mears

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – I want to make you all aware that the July Neighborhood Meeting, the recording has been updated or has been provided to our Council Aides and should be on the website soon. Please go out and listen to it, we did have a hybrid meeting, in-person and virtually. This coming Wednesday at 4pm, here in the Council Chambers, we will have a Q&A session for those regarding the cemetery on Conley Road, please make sure if you want to be a part of that discussion that you come out on that evening. Save-the-Date and for all those that grew up in Forest Park, on October 9th, is our homecoming parade, I would love for you to participate in that, there will be information posted soon. Also, would like to share that there is a lot of misinformation that is being shared to residents and it is really not fair to get to you to get misinformation and sometimes this information is coming from the dais, but there is information on the website that you can avail yourself and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to

me and I will be happy answer any questions that you have. I know that there are a lot of officers leaving across the country and I know our focus should be Forest Park and my focus is Forest Park, but I do not think it is fair to attack an individual person on their duties (*Mayor Butler – we are not going to go back and forth*) *Point of order Madam Mayor please*. (*Mayor Butler – We have done this plenty of times before, so officers, if we need to*) as I stated before, I do not think it is far to target our directors when they are doing the job we have hired them to do, so, I want to make sure you all get the right information, if you want to find out why people are leaving, a lot of them are moving, we have people that are getting out of the field and a lot of the reasons have nothing to do with the city of Forest Park, so, sure you get that information before target individuals and say they should leave. We spent a lot of money trying to find people to serve our community and we did a fine job. Thank everyone for coming out and we appreciate you and anytime you need to reach out to me, please feel free. I also, would like to offer condolences to our Council Aide, Tenisha Dixon, who lost her brother.

Councilmember Antoine – We are having our (comments are inaudible)

Councilmember Gutierrez – Nice to see the young business owners and entrepreneurs that are from Forest Park, and it is refreshing. Thank you for all the public comments, about the flags, that is something that we will work on, and I know that our City Manager will fix it moving forward with the patriotic holidays. At the last food truck event we displayed patriotism for the 4th of July. I am sorry that you had to put up with some of these arguments, unfortunately that are the things that we must discuss, and they are address in front of you, if it could be done behind closed doors we would, but it is a community thing. Shout out to directors and employees that make the city run and I appreciate all of you. I will not be in attendance at the next Food Truck Friday event, most of us will be attending the GMA Conference in Savannah. As well as I need to postpone my clean-up for first of the month, I would not want you to do it without me, because I enjoy doing it. We have zero requests for adopt-a-road, you can adopt-a-road here in Forest Park. Ms. Adams is about cleaning up, so you could adopt-the-road and we will put a sign up with your name on it. I encourage anyone in Forest Park to do it, it is an initiative we must keep our city beautiful. For those who came up with concerns about Forest Park, and doing stuff for our community, we are more than open to working with non-profits and those that are trying to better our people just come and present it. The Sister Cities is something that was presented and is already established with us and work with them as well, but if you have some ideas for something we can do in our community, with Huie Elementary these are our children, we are more than willing to do it. We put a food pantry at a local church, we have an MOU, where we own whatever, it is that we put there, but it is for the community. We will be having a Game Night at the park on July 29th, there will be food trucks, free food for the teens that are going back to school and game trucks, it will be a fun day at the park. Thanks to everyone that came out and if you have not gotten vaccinated, I encourage you to, but it is your choice. Please fill out the survey that is on the city's website, we want your input with spending these funds, so do not come later and complain if you were not a part of the decision. I heard the Ms. Caitlyn Hungate is not going to be with us, she works under Mr. Shelby, so I just want to thank her for everything she has done with us and wish her the best. And one of the Council Aide's K'Sandra Thomas is leaving and I wish her the best as well, she has done so much for me with my events, the city's website and so much more and I wish her the best in her new endeavors.

Councilmember Wells – I did not know about the adopt-the-road initiative had started, because I was riding in Atlanta the other day and thought we need to do this, so let me know whatever I need to do and let the people know. At the last meeting, I asked for a waste management transfer update, I have not received anything, so I would like that information as soon as possible, just the transfer station itself, not the trash collection. To address the ex-councilwoman who spoke about people being ignorant, I am not going to tolerate being called ignorant, because I am not and just because you do not agree with how things are done or what they say, then that is okay and your opinion, but to call people ignorant because you disagree with them, to me that is, I would not call you ignorant, but it explains itself. Also, the one thing that I do agree with her on is the cat problem, because I get a lot of complaints about them, as well as the coyote problem, that we have been talking about forever, the news is reporting fox sightings and how they responded expeditiously to get that taken care, and we cannot even put out traps for coyotes or we cannot hire

animal control to do something about these cats in the community. I am in favor of the contract, but I do want the directors to hold the employees accountable, because if the employees have been doing it all these years and it has not been a problem, not sure why there is one now, so, I think that comes with the leadership and holding your employees accountable to make sure they are doing what they need to be doing on a day-to-day basis. I would like to also address Ms. Boyd's comments, I do not know and I apologize, because that is not how it normally goes you do not have to present a proposal to speak before council, if you live in the city of Forest Park or you can call us individually, if you cannot speak with the city manager, you can call the mayor, city clerk and get some assistance, so I am sorry that you had to come here to give a comment in order to get something done. Because that is not how it is normally done, and I never heard of a city manager turning someone down to speak to the governing body. Thank everyone for coming out and giving your input and being here and understand that we are all individuals, we are elected officials and we are here to serve you, we cannot please everyone obviously, but at the end of the day we are here to serve the city of Forest Park and I know I do a darn good job and if that offends you, I am not apologizing, have a good night. Thank CM Gutierrez for reminding us about K'Sandra leaving, she is one of the best, not only for just as council aide to us, but to the entire city, every department, she done an amazing job and I am happy that she can go somewhere her work is appreciated.

Councilmember Mears – I am glad everybody came out and I just want to remind you that the city and public safety is in the process of erecting five (5) new emergency warning sirens, most of them are up, so, you will be hearing a different time the warning. Every Ward has a new emergency warning siren, that will help us in our tornado warnings and severe weather warnings. Again, glad everybody came out, I am accessible to everyone. I am fortunate in my Ward, that I have a group of individuals that take it amongst themselves, they do not adopt a street, they adopt an entire neighborhood.

Mayor Butler – Made no comments

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 8:26pm.

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 reconvene back into the Regular Meeting at 9:26pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Per the discussion in Executive Session, it was motioned to authorize the amendment of the organizational chart to provide for the movement of the position of Office Assistant from the Human Resources Department to the Recreation & Leisure Department.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Akins-Wells

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

DRAFT