



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

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

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

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA
The Honorable Kimberly James
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez
The Honorable Delores A. Gunn
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells
The Honorable Allan Mears
Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager
Randi Rainey, City Clerk
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Dr. Beeler

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:

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

John Wiggins, Finance Director, Jeremi Patterson; Deputy Finance Director, Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis; Deputy HR Director, Javon Lloyd, PIO; Talisa Adams, Procurement Manager; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Nigel Wattley; Deputy Director Public Works, Alton Matthews, Public Works Director, Taril Maxwell, Recreation Director, Nicole Dozier; Planning Community Director, Dorthy Roper-Jackson; Director, Michelle Hood; Deputy City Clerk, Municipal Court, Brandon Criss; Police Chief, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to adopt the consent agenda.

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

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to adopt the agenda.

Councilmember Gunn noted she would like to discuss the Veto message.

Mayor Butler noted they could it is coming up next.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2025 - City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2025.

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

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Gunn noted she received the Veto Message and the memorandum concerning vehicle-related accidents. She said she was looking at how Mayor Butler did her address, and gave dates, and how well it was put together. She noted as she started highlighting things and in the Veto Message on page 3 or 4 the last four sentences it says: Foresight, Xnder, Xut, and the next work is K. (derogatory word). She noted she flips over, and the next word is You, Our and You, then there is "I am the Angelyne Butler". She stated that what she spelled out was derogatory, and she stood and faced her and the whole panel. Councilmember Gunn said she could not understand how the person leading the city could say that. Councilmember Gunn pointed out that she gave that speech and came back and sat down like everything was okay, but it is not ok with her.

Mayor Butler noted she stands by the Veto and everything in it.

Councilmember Gutierrez noted his sentiments are similar to Councilwoman Gunn's. He said he is disappointed in the Mayor, because it was something they had talked about and was in agreement with. He said, and for you to go and do that scene you did, and make it sound like they are blood thirsty for a pay increase. He noted they spoke about how they could make the positions better for other people and he is an educator and could be doing something else. Councilmember Gutierrez said he choose to be there for the city because he loves it, and their time is worth a little bit more. He noted he felt betrayed and for her to be their leader and make that whole scene, and say FU, he is amazed, but it does say that. He stated they have to work together for the sake of the city, but it is hard if that is what she thinks of them, because he thought they were all there for the same mission.

Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked Councilmember Gunn for bringing it to her attention because she did not want the Veto. She noted that when they first started discussing the raise years ago, she was the one who said not until the employees were taken care of. She stated that some at the time were adamant about the raises. She noted you got up and did your campaign speech, which she stands by saying, and said, that you were the main one who wanted the raise. She noted she has a nine-to-five and that most of them have a job, but do this job because they are passionate about it. Councilmember Akins-Wells stated that when you stood up before us and said FU in your Veto, you said it to the Forest Park citizens because they are our bosses. She stated that the way she talks to people and handles them says a lot about her character, and she hopes her time there is up. She stated she did not know anything about the community, not even where the high school was, but she tried to help her. Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she does not even go out into the communities, which should tell the people all they need to know. She said she is disgusted by her words but not surprised, and that is why she does not respect the Mayor or her title; she knows the type of person she is.

Councilmember Mears noted he was one of the ones who abstained, and looking back at it from last year when it first came up. He stated he was not against the raise; he was against the 50 percent because it was a lot for a one-time raise. He thought they should get it in bits instead of all at once. He said he agrees with Councilmember Wells and that some of them work harder than he does, and put more time into what they do, which is not an excuse. He stated he abstained on the part that was for 50 percent, based on the amount of work and time they are there, and he has negotiated many contracts and knows what a fair ask was. He stated that his choice was to be fair on checks and balances for the city.

Councilmember Akins-Wells asked for a point of order and thanked Councilmember Mears for his comments. She stated that they didn't vote on a percentage, but the raise itself, and it was not on the agenda.

Councilmember James noted that she missed it, but she will extend grace. She said that in the positions they hold, there is a lot of punching at each other, but she did miss that. She noted she was not in support of the raise, which was 50 percent. She said she would extend grace because she does know what her Mayor has accomplished in those 8 years, but yes, she missed that.

Mayor Butler stated she does not know who the pot and kettle are. She said she can be completely transparent and stated she couldn't care less about what Councilmember Wells thinks of her; the feeling is mutual. She noted that, as the longest-serving Councilmember on the dais, she did not have anything to discuss until she came into the office. She said that from the success at Gillem, the general funds have more than doubled, and all the money going into the events had to come from somewhere, the infrastructure and the capital improvement projects that had been discussed for years and have now come to fruition. She stated she may not throw a party or get on a stage, but all that is going on took leadership and vision. Mayor Butler noted that the only thing that has changed in Forest Park since 1908 was leadership.

Councilmember Gunn stated it is about character and integrity, setting a standard, representing your name, family, and this city. She noted the city has come a long way and is doing well financially. Councilmember Gunn stated she still has not heard her say nor humble herself, and she is appalled. Councilmember Gunn stated she did not care if they got an increase, because she has a nine-to-five, but to talk about infrastructure and what Fort Gillem is looking like is appalling. She said this is hurtful because she looked up to them and their titles, but she wants to discuss what they built.

Mayor Butler stated yes.

Councilmember Gunn noted that she is appalled. She stated, "You are riding this horse right now; I stand by the veto." She said people are looking, and they look up to them. Councilmember Gunn said one thing they are supposed to do is lead at the base of the podium they serve and bend down to lift the city up. She said she came in disillusioned, but she is growing up right now.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Councilmember Akins-Wells asked for a point of order. She stated Councilmember Gunn, this is to approve the minutes where the Mayor said F us."

Mayor Butler said you are approving the minutes with my Veto.

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

Recused: Councilmember Gunn

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

Ms. Ellington decided not to speak.

Zack Parker left before speaking.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Pauline Warrior noted she would read a statement in lieu of presenting a formal report on behalf of Mr. Clark. She said the executive leadership, led by Mr. Clark, convened an in-depth Budget Retreat offsite last Friday with the Executive Staff, the attorney, and all Governing Body members present. She said that the fiscal prudence of the city's corporation is noteworthy as the new fiscal year begins on July 1, with no personnel reduction and a balanced budget. Ms. Pauline stated this is due to a conservative approach to forecasting revenue projections and mindful spending.

CEREMONIAL:

Proclamation in Recognition of Sania Feagin being drafted by the Los Angeles Sparks

Background/History:

The Forest Park City Council proudly recognizes Sania Nicole Feagin, a distinguished 2021 Forest Park High School graduate and former standout member of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks Women's Basketball Team. Sania played an integral role in the team's historic 2023–2024 season, culminating in an undefeated 39-0 record and the NCAA Women's Basketball National Championship title. On April 14, 2025, her exceptional talent and dedication were further recognized when the Los Angeles Sparks drafted her to the WNBA.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that her son and Sania are best friends, and she is well-deserving of everything she gets.

The mayor and council presented the proclamation to Sania Feagin mom, and they took pictures.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. The Forest Park Fire & EMS has onboarded five (5) new members to the Department:

Chief Clemons will present the introductions.

-**Alexander Mims** (Paramedic) noted that this is his fourth time back, and he is the record holder; he loves doing this, and this is where he started.

- **Donald Hubbard** (Paramedic) thanked them for welcoming him to Forest Park.

-**Vandora Steiner** (Paramedic) noted that she has been doing this since high school and is not new to it, but she is new to Forest Park. She said she likes it so much that she teaches classes on it.

-**Reggie Perkins** (AEMT) stated he is the second record holder, and this is his third time back. He said nowhere else felt like home, and he is glad to be back and serve the community he loves.

-**Patrick Stewart** (AEMT) noted that he lives in Athens and thanked them for the opportunity to come here. He said they made him feel welcomed, and he loves the feel of the department.

Chief Clemmons noted that the following are the front-line supervisors and will supervise all the paramedics.

The Department has also promoted 2 new EMS Lieutenants:

- **Janaya Davis** noted she has been in this profession for over 26 years. She said she retired from Dekalb and came to Forest Park, and this is where she will do her second tour of duty.

- **Alfred Smith** noted he has been with the city for 9 years and is happy to continue to push the EMS division forward.

Chief Clemons noted that Mr. Smith is with the EMS division and oversees the EMTs and Paramedics.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Akins Wells thanked them and said, "Do not let the meeting scare them because this is a great city to work for, but they are transparent." She told Chief Clemons that they would all do well because they have a great leader. Councilmember Wells said the chief always gives kudos at the budget retreat, and she told her it is okay to take some of the credit because she is a great leader.

Councilmember Mears noted that they are fortunate because when he was a boy, they had two wagons and a horse, and said it was one heck of a fire department.

Councilmember James noted that because Chief Clemons leads with love, she knows they will experience that in their Fire Department. She thanked the chief for what she does. Councilmember James thanked them for being willing to run in when they run out and thanked them for their service.

Councilmember Gunn noted that she is always impressed with the firefighters. She thanked the chief for what she brings to the city, and how she can pick up the phone and give direction and clarity. She noted that the community always speaks about the department, and she thanked her for the example she always puts out. She said she has three granddaughters and will always direct them to look up to women such as you, leaders.

Councilmember Gutierrez noted he echoes his colleague, and noted it is not a coincidence that someone would drive from Athens to here to work. He stated her leadership and everything she does, including the family she has built, and thanked her for leading with love. Councilmember Gutierrez stated he is glad they

are there to protect them. He said he is so happy to see she has her entourage with her, and that is what great leaders do, they encourage and teach the next set, so if something happens, the next man or woman is ready for leadership.

Chief Clemons thanked them for their comments and noted that she cannot be successful with her team.

Mayor Butler thanked her for everything.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Discussion and Approval of three Temporary Easements for Sidewalk Improvements on Linda Way, Forest Park, GA- Public Works Department

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Council Approval on a Server Refresh Project – IT Department

It was motioned to approve the Server Refresh Project.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

4. Council Approval to enter into an "Ambulance Rental Agreement and General Release" with the City of Hapeville, Georgia- Executive Offices / Fire & EMS Department.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

5. Council Approval of the purchase of a Record Management Software System -Procurement/Fire & EMS Department

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

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

6. Council Approval on an Agreement Between COFP and Clayton County Public Schools for a Summer Food Service Program– Recreation and Leisure Services Department

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James thanked everyone for showing up. She said they are wrapping up the high school season, and graduation is this Wednesday at 4 p.m. She said every third Thursday of the month is her Ward meeting at 696 Main Street to share information on things happening in the city. She noted it can be viewed online for those who cannot make it.

Councilmember Gunn thanked everyone for coming out and sacrificing their time for the city. She stated that Ward 2 and Code Enforcement will have boots on the ground on the last Saturday of this month. Councilmember Gunn asked them to pay attention to their push cards and noted they would connect for a final reminder.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked everyone for coming out and noted that there was a budget retreat on Friday. He wanted to give a shout-out to the staff, stating it was one of the best ones he had attended. He echoed Councilmember Wells by saying that if this is your first meeting, he hopes it does not deter anyone from returning. He noted that the city's business will continue, but transparency and how people feel are important. Councilmember Gutierrez pointed out that Food Truck Friday is coming up, and he is excited about the summer concerts at the park, and people are excited about it. He said they will be showing a movie in the park with Parks and Recreation to show all the Star Wars movies, and asked if anyone had a theme name to let him know.

Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked everyone for coming and noted that with so many staff members, they are taking up all the seats. She thanked the City Attorney and noted she does not get thanked enough, because she keeps them out of trouble. She apologized for cursing but stated she would not apologize for what she said because somethings need to be said. Councilmember Wells noted that, like Councilmember Gutierrez said, the people look forward to the events, seeing their elected officials in the community, and having someone fight for them and be a voice for them. She said it is not just about an event, but bringing the community together. She thanked her colleagues and thanked the Mayor for showing who she really is and for letting the residents know it's F-Forest Park.

Councilmember Mears thanked everyone for coming and noted he did not see Mr. Finch. He said the city is fortunate to have the police, and fire people they have in Forest Park.

Mayor Butler noted she wants to thank the people for coming.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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