



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, February 19, 2024 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) 366.4720

**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  
Randi Rainey, City Clerk  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

### DRAFT REGULAR MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge were led by Elder 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		✓

John Wiggins; Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director of Planning & Community Development, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley; Deputy Public Works Director, Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development; Rochell Dennis, Project Manager; Latosha Clemons; Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Pauline Warrior; Senior Management Analyst, Chief Criss, PD; Dorothy Jackson; Court Director and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

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

It was moved to adopt the agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2024 -**  
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from February 5, 2024.

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

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

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

There were three (3) Public Comments:

**Carolyn Franklin** – noted that they had a Marta meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. and she is disappointed that none of the representatives were there. She noted there were 12 people at the meeting and 3 were from different wards. She noted she was concerned because they announced 5 different routes that would be canceled on Route 195. She noted she did not find out about the meeting until the morning of, and if she did not receive it, she is sure the people who rode the bus did not either. She noted they are taking away from one route to add to another.

**Zack Parker** – noted he had submitted a ticket to Code Enforcement about water and sewer seeping onto his lawn from next door. The issue has never been addressed and was closed with no comment. The Code Enforcement Officer could not tell him why it was closed, and he would not come back out. He noted he called the City Manager and got a long speech that did not address the ticket. He noted there was a council-appointed board meeting, and on this board happened to be the property manager of the home next to his, along with the city manager. He noted he was the only citizen there and they did a security check which they never had before at these types of meetings. He noted this is one of the few times the city has used the police in a retaliatory manner from him simply asking questions and holding them accountable. He noted he has come before the board for many years saying the same thing. Forest Park city officials and police officers routinely retaliate against him for speaking out against them. Mr. Park noted he would be at the next meeting because Code Enforcement refused him service at the same house and to talk about the mayor's personal stormtroopers.

**Lois Wright** – noted that she and other members would like the recycling center to open back up. She noted they have nowhere to take items and dump them. She noted she is ready to do a petition because there are at least 100 people in her community wanting the center back. She noted she would bring a petition back if needed.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**City Manager** Clark noted this is a report for January and next month there will be 2 reports. He noted he is excited about the accomplishments and the milestones that have been reached. He noted the City of Forest Park was recently awarded Qualified Local Governmental Status by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He introduced

Bridgette Jackson-Barney as the new Permit Technician of the Planning and Community Development Department. He recognized Randi Rainey for receiving her Masters Clerk Certification, Lisa Wallers for celebrating 23 years with the city, and Troy Sanders who is celebrating 31 years. Mr. Clark acknowledged the Council for their anniversaries with the city. He also noted that Councilmember Gutierrez was recognized for 40 under 40 for the State of Georgia, and recognized Officer Cash who died in the line of duty. Mr. Clark gave an overview of what was happening throughout the different departments and the events throughout the City of Forest Park. He noted there are 276 applicants for the Home Program, which is now closed. Mr. Clark gave an update on the city center and should have a 3-D model before July to present.

He noted for the public safety building at Gilliam they were able to come in under budget. He noted the Main Street Sweep project has been completed. He noted the incubator space is still underway. Mr. Clark noted they are working on the Starr Park renovations and with their partners at the school district to figure out programming for one of the existing stadiums. He acknowledged Monica Jones from the Code Enforcement Department. He noted that the Barracuda system works well to prevent cyber-attacks. He noted Reginald Caldwell and Sharise James as the new hires for the month. He noted that everyone should check out the little league games at the gymnasium on Saturdays as they are always packed.

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

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** noted the information is good.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **2. Council Approval of the ONE Light Initiative - LED Streetlight Upgrades and Additions-Public Works Department**

It was moved to approve the One Light Initiative - LED Streetlight Upgrades and Additions.

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

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

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James-** thanked everyone for coming out. She noted she was sorry for missing the Marta meeting but there was a URA meeting the same night, to celebrate Mr. Abraham. She noted February 25<sup>th</sup>, they will be at Paradise Cultural Center for the Black History Stage production. The doors will open at 5:15 p.m. the show will start at 6:00 p.m. and it is free. The ward meeting will be posted this week. She noted that she wants the council members to consider that a URA Board member has resigned for personal reasons and must be replaced. She noted she is hoping for a diverse member.

**Councilmember Antione-** thanked everyone for coming out.

**Councilmember Gutierrez –** thanked everyone for coming out. He apologized for missing the meeting but did look over the routes that were changed. He noted he plans to reach out to see what the numbers are, and what type of impact it would have on the community. He noted that he did see some alternatives. He thanked Mr. Parker for sharing how he felt and noted they would follow up on that. He noted he agreed about the recycling center noting they should not have to go to another city to dump things. He noted there is a Black History Exhibit this Friday at the recreation center. He thanked Mr. Clark for his report and for highlighting the employees. He told Mr. Abraham he was going to

be missed. He noted the Food Trucks and cleanups will be next month. He noted in April they will have Selena Day and they are looking for sponsors because it is not a budgeted event. He noted the Mayor and the City Manager had a meeting with the people of United Way, who have shown interest in investing in the community.

**Councilmember Akins Wells** – thanked everyone for coming out and noted that she does not know why the Recycling Center is not open and that the matter needs to be expedited. She noted that Waste Management agreed to have a discussion and wanted to know when they plan on having a discussion. She noted that she did not come to the Marta meeting, because they came to the city and presented the information to them, and noted she would love to but they cannot make it to everything. She asked when the applications would open back up for the residents.

**Mr. Clark** noted that they are way over the number. He noted they are reviewing the applications and everyone who applied asks for the max, they are in trouble. He noted they would be approved first come first come, and they can only accept 120 and are at 172.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells**- noted they told the people they were going to open it back up.

**Mr. Clark**- noted it is \$1.3 million dollars, and that is only if they apply for the maximum of \$10 thousand.

**Councilmember Akins Wells**- noted tomorrow is Wellness with Wells. She noted it has been extended until June. She noted on the 27<sup>th</sup> Erica Dixon, who is on a weight loss journey, will be attending.

**Councilmember Mears** – noted he appreciated Mr. Willie always coming to show his support. He thanked Mr. Abraham for a job well done and for the support he has shown to the city. He thanked everyone for coming.

**Mayor Butler** – thanked everyone for coming and encouraged everyone to come to the play on Sunday. She noted the Exhibit is Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and the play is Sunday at Paradise. She noted that Tre's Production here in Forest Park is hiring interns this summer. She noted if you know of anyone interested in theatre, please let them know. She noted she will be speaking on February 28<sup>th</sup> in College Park.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:41 p.m.

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

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

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