



CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL

City Council Regular Session

Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Council Chambers, Virtual Meeting Via Zoom 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

Draft Regular Meeting 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

Sharee Steed, City Clerk

Mike Williams, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:44pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Invocation was done, and pledge was led by Pastor Paul Fortson

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: All was present, and 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: A. Girard Geeter, Procurement Manager; Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, Director of Human Resources, James Shelby, Director of Planning & Zoning, Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Tarik Maxwell, Director of Parks and Recreation, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, and Latosha Clemons, Deputy Fire Chief

PRESENTATION(S):

1. Ward 4 Yard of the Quarter - Councilwoman, Latresa Akins-Wells

It was motioned to table this item.

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: (Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit) – There was one (1) speaker

Lawanda Folami – I want to thank Nathaniel Clark for keeping our accreditation and our police services, thank you from the Concerned Citizens of Forest Park for a good job. I also stand with Holland Park in Ellenwood; they are still seeking an answer on the issues they are having. I called Dr. Cooper, not sure if you received the message or not, to speak with you about what is happening to the constituents of Holland Park. Madame Mayor, Ward 3 Councilmember is calling constituents asking them to knock on doors to bring to other tenants the attention that there is a 3–6-month expense that is coming from you all and that you all are going to relocate them, that should not be said unless it is in writing.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

It was motioned to Adopt the Agenda for the April 19, 2021 Regular Meeting as printed.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Council Approval to Adopt the Council Work Session & Regular Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2021 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2021 - Sharee Steed, City Clerk

It was motioned to Adopt the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

3. City Manager would like to confirm the hiring of the new Director of Finance

Dr. Cooper, City Manager asked Council to confirm Shaquita Winters Burke as the new Finance Director for the City of Forest Park. Ms. Burke has over 27 years of experience in creating Finance departments from ground up, well versed in zero based budgeting aspect that we are looking to bring to the city and help restructure the Finance department. She has an MBA and spent the last few years with the Vicksburg School District, working with bonds issues.

It was motioned to Approve the hiring of Shaquita Winters Burke as the new Director of Finance.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

4. **Approval of Resolution 2021-18 - Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Georgia Section 319(h) Non-Point Source, Implementation Grant FY2021 Green Infrastructure - LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst and James Shelby, Director of PB&Z**

It was motioned to Approve Resolution 2021-18 - Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Georgia Section 319(h) Non-Point Source, Implementation Grant FY2021 Green Infrastructure

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

5. **Council Approval of the Replacement of Two (2) Pumpers and One (1) 75' Quint Aerial to be paid from Fire Department's SPLOST funds - Deputy Chief Clemons and Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director**

It was motioned to Approve the Replacement of Two (2) Pumpers and One (1) 75' Quint Aerial to be paid from Fire Department's SPLOST funds

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

6. **Council Approval of the Legislative Offices Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds - Sharee Steed, City Clerk and Darquita Williams, Interim Deputy Finance Director**

It was motioned to Approve the Legislative Offices Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds

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

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

7. **Council Approval of the Police Department Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds - Chief Nathaniel Clark and Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director**

It was motioned to Approve the Police Department Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

8. Council Approval of the Executive Offices Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds - Dr. Cooper, City Manager

It was motioned to Approve the Executive Offices Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds

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

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – We had the Neighborhood Meeting for the month of April and will be downloaded to the City's website soon, and here are some highlights; James Shelby, Director of Planning and Zoning spoke about the capital projects to include Starr Park renovations, the new city center, which will combine city hall, fire and police and the administrative offices. He also spoke about the Premium Industrial Park in the form of Gillem Logistics Center which will house a mini public safety area with new buildings for fire and police, Main Street scape phase 2a and 2b getting started, Aerotropolis Model Mile, which expands Main Street to the Farmers Market with walking & bike trails. Be on the lookout for Open Houses & Public Hearing for LCI \$150,000 improvements and to visit the city's website for the surveys and he reminded the citizens this will not affect your taxes; all this money is from SPLOST funds and pilot program at the Gillem Logistics Center. Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works spoke on how the department is busy with grass, road repairs, planting spring flowers, cleaning the parks, traffic signs and fleet maintenance. We had a special guest from MARTA, Dominique Hollman, who spoke about all the routes are being restored as of Sat., Apr. 24th and share the safety protocol to ensure that everyone is safe and feel safe riding the buses; trip times have been adjusted in Clayton, so please check the schedules at www.itsmarta.com; the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) a new project coming in our area, currently taking input from residents on this at www.connectclayton.com and put in comments until May 15th. Deputy Chief Clemons gave an update on the Fire Department and the new recruits, Clayton County Health Department vaccine strike team. Sgt. Zackery from the Police Department spoke the CALEB accreditation we received for the 7th year, announced the Neighborhood Watch meetings have started back, have new recruits started in April and some coming in May, with some graduating from training, crime in the city is at a 10year low. Mr. Fleming from Zoning Department shared information about the increase code violations and spoke on each violation. Danita Hamid, Economic Development spoke to us about the remodeling at 651 & 671 Main Street, Amazon is estimating their completion will be in the fall and they will have job fairs. Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director reminded us that we are open to the public and drive-thru services are available and we are working on getting on-line payment options and Tarik Maxwell, Director of Recreation & Leisure told us the summer soccer programs occurring this summer and the aqua-tot and indoor pool programs. Please visit the city website to view the entire video of the meeting on Ward 1 page. We must write our own story, in my opinion, we are the best city, very diverse culturally and economically. We have everything from multi-million-dollar investors that live in our city to two parent households, single parent households, seniors, and young adults that all reside in our city. We have Asian, Hispanic, Blacks, Whites and mixed race and they all reside in our city, we are progressive, major developments are in process and forthcoming. Forest Park is a safe city, thanks to our Police Department, yes, we have more work to be done, but a lot has already been accomplished. Let us promote those who are saying positive things about our city and our communities and not the negative ones. Mark your calendars for May 15th, we will celebrate the Class of 2021 with a caravan, like last year, and thanks to all the Departments who are assisting with this event. Also, on that day at Stanford Field, behind Kiwanis Stadium, the Seniors will be celebrating. Forest Park High School football

team will have a game at 1pm. Information will be on the website about the route on that day and donations are being accepted, so that every senior will have a banner on their car, you can Cash App \$forestparkhspts2020. Thank you everyone for spending time with us tonight.

Councilmember Antoine – Thank you for joining us. Thanks to the Police and Fire Departments on their new recruits and the changes that are happening in Planning and Zoning. I will be working with the Strike Team to reach those that are homebound. Congratulations to our new Finance Director and City Manager. Thanks to Ms. Sharee Sneed, Ward 2, you have a bench on 2nd Street and a barbeque grill, we have a safety component on College Street and Slaton where it is hazardous for an accident to happen. Next month there will be a community meeting for Warren and Elizabeth Streets.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Thanks everyone for listening in. I am excited about everything that has happened tonight, the new firefighter class, seeing people who look like us, really touched my heart. It is good to see, especially when negative things get highlighted more than when what is happening here, so when we started our own training and doing it within the community and changing someone's life, by giving them the opportunity to change their career. Welcome to the new Police Officers that at the academy, the new Finance Director, and the new City Manager. Upcoming events Food Truck Friday, May 7th with a Mother's Day theme and our Ward 3 cleanup on May 8th, I hope to have more volunteers and reminder to the employees, we did pass a policy where 2 days in the year, you can volunteer and use it as time worked, please take advantage of that, you can contact the HR Department to get further details. I want to address a comment that was made, keeping my constituents aware of things, is something that I do, and I am sad that it was taken out of context, but I did share with my constituents the different options that the city was experiencing and just as a reminder this whole thing was started by the Clayton Crescent, when you posted that article, Ms. Robin Kemp, got the wheel rolling. Councilmember Wells received calls and she forwarded to me and I went out and had a meeting with the constituents and brought their concerns to council. This has been going on for years and we are now trying to solve it. If you want to be part of the resolution become part of it, if you find fault you can do that as well, it is all about love, preach, teach, and spread love. I apologize for giving the different options, which was taken out of context. Holland Park we are working on the situation.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I would like to piggyback off Councilmember Gutierrez's comments about Holland Park, for a lot of years this has been an issue and things were said, but not followed through. So, I appreciate you for attempting to keep the residents informed. Wellness with Wells on tomorrow from 6pm – 7pm and on Saturday, April 24th, myself and Felicia Palmer founder of Jesus Jewels will be having a Health and Wellness Community Event, from 10am – 2pm at 528 Suite D Forest Parkway, with line dancing hosted by Nick Fitness, so come out and enjoy the event, we are just trying to bring the community together because there is so much hate and negative things going around and bringing one another down, we need to do things to bring us together. Welcome again to our City Manager and I hope and pray that you will do the right thing and I have faith that you will, thank you in advance. Thanks to Captain Baker and the Fire Department for making the changes and welcome to the new recruits. Thanks to everyone for joining us tonight.

Councilmember Mears – There was a Clayton County officer killed today and we need to keep the family in prayer. Police and Fire put their lives on the line everyday and when we are at home warm and safe, they are out getting wet and fighting. We owe them a lot of gratitude for what they do. I am happy to see we are expanding and doing well, which means the city is getting better. Thanks to both Police and Fire and to Interim Finance Director for the job she has done for the city.

Mayor Butler – I echo a lot of the sentiments shared by my colleagues, but I want to expand upon the CALEB accreditation, it is not just we received this the 7th time, but it is the first time the City was awarded an advance accreditation and that is to be commended and I want to you Chief Clark, for the work you did in bring this to fruition. Regarding Holland Park at Gillem, we all know that the root of the problem did not occur with this administration, but

I want you to understand that we are truly committed to bringing a solution. And yes, some information was prematurely spoken on, but it is important that we really allow the process to play out, because we do not want what could be an amicable conversation/possible solution to become adversary. So, we have hit a bit of a roadblock, and we are not ready to fully discuss what the options are, I do want you to know that in conversations with the apartment complex management company has not been as forthcoming as we had wanted them to be. We would like the residents to assist the city in speaking with the City Attorney, Mike Williams, in gathering some information, which will help us in trying to figure out we are moving forward. There is not one answer here, so we are trying to explore all our options and once we have something we can stand on, we will be coming back with some solutions for us to have a holistic conversation.

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 at 8:17pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

NOTE: Councilmembers Antoine and Akins-Wells left the meeting at 9:30pm

It was motioned to reconvene from Executive Session back into Regular Meeting at 9:33pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to approve and authorize settlement of litigation with Dwayne Hobbs as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

ADJOURNMENT:

It was motioned to adjourn the April 19, 2021 Regular Council meeting at 9:45pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears