



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, March 04, 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  
Michelle Hood, Interim City Clerk  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

## DRAFT REGULAR MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** It was moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:07 p.m.

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

**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		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; John Wiggins; Finance Director; Nina Robinson; Senior Staff Accountant; LaShawn Gardiner, Director of Planning & Community Development; Kwame Marshall, Multi-Media Specialist; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Rochell Dennis, Project Manager; Latosha Clemons; Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Administrator, Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; Pauline Warrior; Senior Management Analyst, Chief Criss, PD; 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 Antione.

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 19, 2024-**  
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from February 19, 2024.

Motion made by Councilmember James. Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

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

There were four (4) public comments:

**John Randle:** noted that PD had been called on him for popping fireworks. He noted he had a permit and spoke of the times in which he was allowed to do so. He noted that taxpayers' dollars were being wasted for police to come out for people popping fireworks, but not come out for gunshots and drugs. He thanked Chief Criss and noted he does a great job.

**Samuel Ibenez** – noted that he had noticed some differences in the public and wanted to thank the officers.

**Laverne Mitchell** – noted that there are fireworks popping day and night and it is disrupting their peace. She noted here and the other residents would like something done because it has been a continuous complaint.

**LaWanda Folami** – wanted to invite them over to the leisure center, noting all this week the kids are playing basketball in the center. She noted she would like to see some of them there cheering the children on. She noted she saw they discussed partnering with the High School. She noted she does not have a problem with the partnership, but with every one of them not knowing what is going on. She noted they want to partner with children overall, but what about the immediate ones in Forest Park? She wanted to know what happened to Arbor Day for the seniors and would like them to bring it back.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**City Manager Clark-** noted they are working on uniformity on what the park signage would look like. He noted they would try something to the Gateway sign, since the council and mayor liked it so much. He is looking for feedback from the governing body on which design they like and will proceed to send to procurement for pricing.

**Mayor Butler-** noted there are still some old Forest Park signs that are out and wondered if they would be replacing them.

**City Manager Clark-** noted they can now that there is some consistency.

**Councilmember James-** asked if there was a way to get some history behind the name of the sign posted on the back of it.

**City Manager Clark-** noted he did not know about putting it on the sign but they could do a display to give the history.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** wants to look into her sign glowing in the dark.

**Mayor Butler-** noted she could use her Capital Outlay money for it.

**City Manager Clark -**noted they may not glow in the dark, but their will be uplighting. He noted for the Home Program there are 122 pre-qualified and verified residency. He noted the respective number for each Ward is : Ward 1- 22 verified, Ward 2- 28 verified, Ward 3 -22 Verified, Ward 4-32 verified, and Ward 5-18 verified. He noted Pauline and the Council Aides have done an amazing job with this. He noted they are about to go through the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of sending out denial letters. He noted they will reopen the portal once they get through funding the Legacy Residents. He noted if they do not request the full 10 thousand dollars there will be funding left. He introduced the new employee Nina Robertson of the Finance Department. He announced the appointment of Rochelle Dennis as the Interim person in charge of the Economic Development Department.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** asked if they would provide a least of contractors for the home repair.

**City Manager Clark-** stated they would be able to choose their own. He noted there are 22 contractors already to assist with the program if needed. He noted instead of doing 3 rounds with the funding to contractors they will only be doing 2 rounds. To make sure they are not preying on the legacy residents they will receive a portion up front and the remainder once the job is completed.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **2. Introduction to the New Deputy Fire Chief of Operations–Geoff May-Forest Park Fire & EMS**

The Forest Park Fire and Emergency Services just appointed Geoff May as Deputy Fire Chief of Operations, effective March 4, 2024.

A Short presentation will be given by Chief Latosha Clemons.

Chief Clemons noted he has been serving the city for 37 years. She noted he is an excellent commander and would be over the 3 Battalion Chiefs A, B and C, and will manage all the operations.

**Deputy Chief Geoff May-** noted he is humbled and privileged. He noted he has been on shift for the entire 37 years. He hopes to make the department proud and take care of the men and women under his charge.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **3. Council Approval to Purchase five (5) Air Packs and Cylinders for the Forest Park Fire Department -Forest Park Fires & EMS Department**

It was moved to approve the Purchase five (5) Air Packs and Cylinders for the Forest Park Fire Department.

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

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

**4. Council Approval to Purchase 2 Ambulances - Forest Park Fire & EMS**

It was motioned to approve the Task Order for Schematic Design Services for the Forest Park City Center.

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 of a Latin American Association Partnership – Legislative Offices**

Point of Order, Councilmember James stated it is an approval with Clayton County Public Schools.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

**Council Comment/Discussion:**

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** noted the kids come from everywhere and thinks they should focus more on the kids in the community and let the school boards focus more on the schools.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

**6. Council Approval of an Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA) Appointment – Legislative Office**

Councilmember James made a motion to appoint Jasmine Julio. Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

Abstain: Councilmember Akins-Wells

**7. Council Approval on the Forest Parkway Median Landscape – Executive Offices**

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

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

**8. Council Approval on the City of Forest Park Blight Tax Ordinance – Executive Offices**

Point of Order Councilmember Akins-Wells – wanted to know if they would make the motion now to raise it to 10 percent.

Danielle Matricardi noted there would have to be a motion to the revision of the ordinance to change it to 10 percent.

City Manager Clark noted instead of 10 percent, 10 mils.

Councilmember Akins Wells. Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

### **Council Comments/Discussion**

Councilmember James asked if the approval to approve the ordinance is subject to 10 percent the same as going to be 10 mils.

**Attorney Matricardi** - stated yes.

**Councilmember Gutierrez**- asked about the process and if the first time they get cited will they get cited 10 mils.

**Attorney Matricardi** noted it had to be declared a Blight, which would be before the Municipal Court, then it will be accessed.

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

**Voting Nay:** Councilmember Antoine,

### **9. Council Approval of the Final Plat- Towne Manor Townhomes- Planning and Community Development Department**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

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

### **10. Council Approval of the Text Amendment-Termination of Conditional Use Permits – Planning and Community Development Department (Public Hearing Relative to Text Amendment)**

There was a motion to recess into a Public Hearing for the Termination of Conditional Use Permits.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione. Seconded by Councilmember James

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

It was motioned to open the Public Hearing Termination of Conditional Use Permits

Motion made by Councilmember James. Seconded by Councilmember Antione

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

There were no speakers in favor of or against the Conditional Use Text Amendment.

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears. Seconded by Councilmember Antione

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

It was motioned to reconvene the Regular Session.

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 approve the termination of the Conditional Use Text Amendment.

Motion made by Councilmember James. Councilmember Antione.

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 that The Journey was a wonderful production and would like to do this every year. She noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month is her Ward meeting, and she is asking the Mayor to host it since she will be out of town. She noted Sunday was the Hunger Walk to raise funds for those who are less fortunate in the community. She noted they are in partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. She noted they will be meeting at 9:30 at the New Vision Christian Church, and they are still looking for teammates. Councilmember James noted they have a list of roads that need to be repaired and feel they need to find a better way to get the information out on the roads that are going to be repaired because she is getting a lot of calls.

**Councilmember Antione** – shouted his Ward and wanted it to be known they are in good shape. He gave a shoutout to the new employees and thanked them.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – thanked everyone for coming and welcomed the new employees. He congratulated the new Deputy Chief of Fire and thanked him for his commitment. He noted he believes in everyone's freedom but wants to make sure the curfew for fireworks is being respected. He thanked everyone for coming out.150

**Councilmember Akins-Wells**- welcomed the new employees, congratulated Chief May, and thanked him for his dedication to the City of Forest Park. She noted she does not think people should have to tolerate certain things and would like to see what can be done about it. She noted she thinks people should be careful about whom they choose to put in office because they do not always have good intentions.

**Councilmember Mears** – congratulated the new Deputy Chief and noted he has known him a long time and he does a fine job. He recognized Mr. Finch and thanked everyone for coming out.

**Mayor Butler**- thanked everyone for coming. She noted the City Attorney is working on providing an Ordinance to strictly regulate the use of fireworks. She noted that rules on the state level are for special days like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, New Year's, etc. She noted it takes time to put these things together because of legality, but they hear what is being said.

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

It was moved to recess into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

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

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

It was moved to reconvene into the Council Work Session at 9:05 p.m.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:05 p.m.

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

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

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