



# CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, October 03, 2022 at 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Forest Park to enhance, strengthen, and grow our city by collaborating with our community to provide the highest level of service. Striving to be recognized as a diverse community that values and respects all members. We will strive to provide fair, professional, and courteous service through transparency and open communication. As we work to achieve this mission, we will have integrity beyond reproach while employing fiscal discipline and innovation. In this work there are no praises and raises for mediocrity.

**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

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager  
S. Diane White, City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

## MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 6:00pm and she read the Mission Statement.

**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		✓

Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development, Shalonda Brown, HR Director, Letasha Clemmons, Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, Bruce Abrahams, Economic Development Director, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager**COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:**

- On Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon the City's Clean Sweeps will be held at the recycling center, located at 327 Lamar Drive. You will be required to show proof of residency, as this event is only for Forest Park residents within the city limits. You may bring anything for disposal except the following - dirt, bricks, cement, eighteen-wheeler truck tires or unknown chemicals, flammable liquids, dangerous corrosive materials of any kind or acid. Car and pickup truck tires are acceptable but are limited to four per resident. For more information call (404)-366-4720 (press option 3 on the main menu).
- On October 7, 2022, is Food Truck Friday, from 5:00pm – 9:00pm held at 721 Main Street, Forest Park, GA. Come out and bring the family for tasty food, fun and fellowship.
- On October 8, 2022 at the Starr Park Amphitheater, 5031 Forest Parkway from 2:00pm – 6:00pm, we will have our Hispanic Heritage Festival for more information please contact Ms. Tenisha Dixon, [tdixon@forestparkga.gov](mailto:tdixon@forestparkga.gov)
- On October 15, 2022, Recreation and Leisure will have the Pink Panther Walk for Breast Cancer around Starr Park. Registration starts at 9:00am and the walk starts at 10:00am.
- On October 29, 2022 – Recreation and Leisure will host our Fall Festival/Ultimate Tailgate Experience for the UGA vs Florida game. The event starts at 12:00pm.
- information call (404)-366-4720 (press option 3 on the main menu).
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**CITY OPERATIONS:**

- **SPLOST Projects** – Per the Mauldin and Jenkins audit last meeting stating we had SPLOST Projects stalled since 2008. There were projects approved that were stalled specifically LCI Mainstreet Project Phase II, which was estimated to be 37.66% complete, Mainstreet Utilities project 21.91% complete and the Walkover Bridge over Forest Parkway (design & construction), which was estimated at 0.00% completed. Funding for both projects remains in the 2008 SPLOST accounts. There were twenty-two (22) projects approved in the 2008 SPLOST and Nineteen (19) finished, representing a rate of 86.36% completion. The LCI Mainstreet Project is currently under construction and the Walkover Bridge feasibility study is underway. There is

approximately \$1.2 million left in the 2008 SPLOTS for the pedestrian bridge design and construction and the rest has been rolled into the LCI Mainstreet project currently under construction.

### **EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT/SHOUT OUT:**

- **CONGRATULATIONS** – On September 26, the Forest Park Police Department held a promotional ceremony promoting Sergeant Sidney Jackson to the rank of Lieutenant and Master Police Officer Jimmie Arnold to the rank of Sergeant. Congratulations to you both!



- Congratulations Firefighter Brenton Lee and his wife on the birth of their new baby girl Ari'ella Lee, weighed six pounds and was born September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**COVID-19 / MONKEY POX UPDATE:** EMS Coordinator, Andrew Gelmini

Between 8/29 – 9/04 there were 81 new positive cases in Clayton County, a decrease from last month's 270 with only 5 hospitalizations and 0 deaths.

Case breakdown still shows approx. 58% of Cases to be female and 42% Male with any remaining to be unknown sex. Forest Park currently makes up 8.6% of County cases and shows tracking of 7 new cases last week. The 30 to 39 age group shows the highest percentage of positive cases.

We have Plateaued with vaccines from last month staying at 56% of County residents have received at least 1 dose of vaccine and 50% are fully vaccinated. 20% of vaccinated citizens have received the additional booster dose. The 35 - 64 age groups show the highest vaccination rate.

The CDC continues to encourage and recommend vaccination and boosters for Covid 19 which are available through several means. The current recommendations for vaccines are anyone 6 months and older. The current recommendation for boosters is at least 5 months after receiving the final dose of the first series for Moderna and Pfizer or 2 months after receiving the single dose Johnson and Johnson. A second booster dose is currently being recommended to people 50 and older with underlying medical conditions and should be administered at least 4 months after prior dose was received.

To locate a vaccine site. You can text your zip code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233 to find local vaccine providers. Contacting your Primary Care Physician or local pharmacy to see if they are giving vaccines and boosters or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). The Clayton County Health District is giving vaccines based on availability and are rotating their locations to allow for easy access. They are requesting people wishing to receive the vaccine or booster to call and make an appointment at (678) 479-2223 or visit [www.claytoncountypublichealth.org](http://www.claytoncountypublichealth.org). All of this information is also available on the city website under the fire department tab under Covid 19.

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Monkey Pox shows an increase in cases this month now totaling 1,785 cases in Georgia an increase of 340 from last month. Age group of 21-45 shows the largest numbers with men being primarily affected sex. Numbers are also showing 51% of cases in African Americans, 28% in Whites, and 17% in Asians. 38,500 Vaccines have been administered in Georgia for Monkeypox. It is important to understand that anyone, any race, any gender can contract this disease and that all should take precautions especially during activities of prolonged contact and especially intimacy to ensure safety.

The CDC continues to research the disease and its spread and is still working on the best course of action in vaccines and boosters to eliminate this outbreak. The CDC is recommending vaccines if interested and high risk, or with underlying medical conditions. This disease continues to show that it is rarely fatal and has only been listed in 3 deaths nationwide, all of which had other underlying health issues reported with the diagnosis.

For further information on the outbreak and vaccines visit: [www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox](https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox)

**PRESENTATION(S):**

1. **Update on Rental Assistance Program** – Chief Executive Office

**Background/History:**

On September 7, 2021, the City Council approved the City Edge Project to administer the city's rental assistance program for residents. The City Council set aside \$400,000 of fund from the 2021 American Rescue Program Funds to be administered under a fast-track rental program to help residents negatively affected by the pandemic stay in their homes.

City Edge gave an update on the Rental Assistance Program, the discussion was inaudible.

**Comment/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – The applicants on your waiting list, have they had services before or are they new?

**Ashley Beeler** - No they are all new. The ones that had reapplied I sent out new rejection letters letting them know the status of the disbursement program. I do have a list of them and if there is money for them again, I can reach back out to them.

**Councilmember James** – Thank you all for the services that you have provided for the residents. I know about 4 of them that have used your services, so thank you for that. As far as the Wrap Around Services, for those that have applied and gotten approved and received help before, are there Wrap Around Services that you provide to help them get on the right track, so they do not end up in the same situation again?

**Ashley Beeler** - I have referred them to some other programs. It depends on what their balance is. Some of them have a high balance and we can only cover so much. I send them to Clayton County or to the Community Services Authority, but they are out of money now. There is a website United Ministries, called UM Help.org that has a ton of resources on there. Click on find help and enter your zip code, and it gives you utilities, housing, food, whatever you need is on this website.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you so much. One thing I would like to highlight is that you all treat your people with respect, even if it is a denial. I send a lot of people over and I just like to check in to make sure, from a city perspective, you all provide the best customer service, and I always get praise from you all in your willingness to help. I would like to do a community program, where people can learn more about your resources and even about the resources that I came across of organizations that help our people buy homes, that way they can transition away from the rental program. Specifically target to our community and the income here. Rent is not getting any lower, and a few of my neighbors have said they are renewing their leases, but it is at a higher rate. Thank you again for implementing this program and for treating our people with so much respect.

**Councilmember Wells** - Thank you for treating our people like people and for taking your time and dedication to assisting the residence of Forest Park. Hopefully, we will be able to come up with more funds to continue to assist them.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2. **De-Annexation Request of Parcel# 13014D A002Z** – Department of Planning & Community Development

**Background/History:**

The applicant is requesting to de-annex parcel# 13014D A002Z, currently located in the City of Forest Park on Conley Road, to combine the subject property with an adjacent parcel owned by the applicant that is

currently in unincorporated Clayton County. The subject property is currently undeveloped and is 0.96 acres.

This is for PUBLIC HEARING at the regular meeting.

**Comment/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Lashawn Gardiner** – You basic have touched on all the points.

**Councilmember James** – The property is zoned as single residents, correct?

**Lashawn Gardiner** – Right now it is RS single residence.

**Councilmember James** – With the petition to De-Annex it from the city, do you know or has the company that owns the property gave any indication of what they will allow, and will it still be zoned in the same way if it is under the county, or is it something different it will be zoned as?

**Lashawn Gardiner** - The applicants have not disclosed any potential development at the time of application. Based on the information right now in unincorporated Clayton County, the property is zoned RS 110, which is also residential, which is the county designated zoning.

**Councilmember Antione** – What will they be doing with the property?

**Lashawn Gardiner** - That information was not disclosed, but their intent is to combine it with other properties that they own and is adjacent to that parcel, so they can have access to it. Right now, the property is located on Conley Road, across the street from Hendricks Drive and the church in that area.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I just want to know what it is for, if it is a home and they want to just share that connection just tell us. Will it make a difference Mike, if they just tell us that and then turn around and make it into a liquor store?

**Mike Williams** – Once it is in the county, you lose all control.

**Councilmember Mears** – Once we pass it on, we will not have any control, because it will be in unincorporated. It is in the city so we would have to give them permission, right?

**Lashawn Gardiner** – Yes, the applicants are asking for permission for it to be annexed, and they have already gone through the process with the county, for permission, and they authorized them to come to us.

**Councilmember Mears** – So, they are not giving you any kind of idea of what they are planning to do with it?

**Lashawn Gardiner** - No.

**Councilmember Mears** – We have been hit with something like this before in the last couple of years. So, do we have any way of safeguarding us from that reoccurring?

**Mike William** – The only way to guarantee it is to deny the application.

**Councilmember James** – I would like to wait to see what is presented at the Public Hearing. I would like to talk to some people in the county, before we decide on whether we will allow them to De-Annex from the city. I would recommend tabling this, depending on the outcome of the public hearing.

**Councilmember Antione** – What is your recommendation on this?

**Lashawn Gardiner** – That would be a policy decision for the governing body to come up with. Staff do not have an objection, being they have gone through the county process, and also gone through our process with evaluation and analysis, before it was presented.

### 3. **LIGHT PACKAGE FOR TRAINING CHIEF VEHICLE**– Fire & EMS Department

#### **Background/History:**

FPPD would like to purchase an Emergency & Siren light package from ProLogic ITS. The FPPD command staff vehicles are required to have emergency lights & sirens. The cost of this package on this particular vehicle is \$10,531.23. We would like to purchase from the Fire Hose funding account 100-61-3520-53-1133. The vendor that has been selected is based upon the FPPD has been utilizing this vendor for a number of years. Their cost is very competitive (actually lower) than Dana Safety and the turn-around time for the service is very short.

Fund: 100-61-3520-53-1133 Amount \$10,531.23

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

**Councilmember Mears**- It is a good idea to get all our equipment, we are manning up now and want our fire and our police department to be on top. Anything that is critical needs to be taken care of and we need to get them what they need to work with.

### 4. **Council Consideration of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the DDA-Legal**

#### **Background/History:**

The staff is recommending that the city enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the DDA to memorialize the operating relationship between it and the city.

The agreement outlines the obligations of the city with respect to staff support for the DDA and the DDA's use of city facilities. It also provides that the DDA is responsible for its own financial management of its affairs.

This agreement is an update of the existing IGA that was agreed to between the Development Authority and the City in 2018.

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

**Councilmember James** - This will be for item 4 and 5, because it has the same wording. Article 2 under funding and appropriation, item B that talks about the annual amount to supplement the salary of the city Economic Development staff. Speaking for the URA, we pay directly from the URA account to staff. Not sure if this would be appropriate to have an amount to pay annually.

**Mike Williams** - The recommendation for the amount the DDA currently pays for the salary is 38,473.00. Then when we get to the URA, that one is 24,673.00. These are amounts that they are already being paid. We have a separate IGA, if you approve this it will go away, and this will be folded into it.

**Councilmember James** – With the set amount set in this IGA, do that mean if the board decide, for whatever reason, they are asking the staff to do additional duties, that they are not able to give them that increase on their own, they will have to come back or have the IGA amended?

**Mike Williams** – You could do either. My recommendation would be if for whatever reason you wanted to increase the amount of work and it merited additional adjustment to their compensation that you amend this agreement, so it is all wrapped up into one. Their paycheck is coming from the city, and it would be a simpler method to do that.

## 5. Council Consideration of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the URA - Legal

### Background/History:

The staff is recommending that the city enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the URA to memorialize the operating relationship between it and the city.

The agreement outlines the obligations of the city with respect to staff support for the URA and the URA's use of city facilities. It also provides that the URA is responsible for its own financial management of its affairs.

This agreement is an update of the existing IGA that was agreed to between the Development Authority and the city in 2018.

**Mike Williams** – If I can add to that, the city entered into an IGA with the Development Authority, several years ago and that agreement is in the process of being updated. These two agreements are models based on that original document. This agreement is identical in most respects to the other agreements for the DDA, with one major exception for the executive director under this agreement is also your economic director. Whereas for the DDA, this board has the option of naming their own executive director, so the city does not have a role in that.

**Councilmember James** - Is there a way to not have Item B of the funding in there, so that we do not have to keep coming back and forth?

**Mike Williams** – You can opt to do it as a second agreement as it is now, take that out and have a letter agreement that relates to salaries and this agreement relating to the general operations, but we were trying to simplify the number of agreements going back and forth between all the boards.

## 6. Council discussion 2nd Round of ARPA Funding – Chief Executive Offices

### Background/History:

The City of Forest Park received its second round of American Rescue Plan Funds from the US Treasury. Attached are several on-going city initiatives that have already been funded, and the staff is recommending funding to further progress the city.

The City Manager is seeking direction from the Mayor and City Council on actions to be taken to determine how these funds should be appropriated.



**Comment/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**City Manager** – There are several items that were listed; however, those items can change based on the council's decision, we are looking for directions on how to move forward. We also submitted a preliminary survey that could go out based on what the council states. We could look at changing questions or things of that nature, but we are looking for direction on this.

**Councilmember James** – I looked at NLC, National League of Cities website, as it relates to our relief funds; and some of the things that were outlined that the funds can be used for are some of the sentiments that the residents have asked me about. This included home repair and home weatherization, so I would like some type of funds to be used for home repair. We have a lot of seniors in our community that are on fixed income and have issues with their homes that need to be updated. So, as I understand it these funds can be used for that as well, also assistance with paying delinquent property taxes. I do not know if we have anyone in the city with delinquent taxes, but the funds can be used for that as well.

It also, states council and legal aid to prevent evictions and homelessness. This may be something we want to look at as well, I have had several residents getting eviction notices. We can direct them to someone and possibly use those funds to help with their counseling and legal aid. Temporary residence for people experiencing homelessness, not sure how this will work unless we partner with the hotel and motels in the area for temporary residency, for people that are experiencing homelessness.

Then there are benefits for survivors of individuals who died from covid. We have several Forest Park High School students that lost their parents due to covid and we have rapped ourselves around them as a school community. I don't know if those funds can be helped to help those that lost significant ones, the breadwinners due to covid. Those are some areas that I would like to consider using the funds for. Also, they have cash assistance, so that is an option as well.

**Councilmember Antione** – I would like to see these funds go to City Edge. Can we use those funds for private property, Mike?

**Michael Williams** – The way that the feds have set up the permitted usage, it looks like you can.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I would like some of the funds to go to City Edge, they have proven to be efficient, and they are from our community. We have talked about the dangers of the trees here in Forest Park, maybe some type of grant where the owners can match. One of my neighbors received a quote for 2 trees and it was almost 4,000.00. I understand it is a lot of work but the cost to remove trees is just not feasible to have it done. Just trying to come up with something, because of the dangers of these trees.

Then depending on how much it is to fix roofs and other repairs on homes, it can get pricey. After driving around my ward, I noticed people's gutters needed to be clean and leaves blown off the roof. I would like to be able to give some of those jobs to our youth, or for someone from the city to propose something that is feasible. I have gone around with some of my students doing that for some of my neighbors. It makes a lot of difference when your gutters are clean and some of the leaves are gone off your roof.

**Councilmember Wells** - I agree with what he said, on my way here while driving down Ash Street, there is a tree leaning. No, I do not think we should be fixing everything on private property, but if it puts the residence in danger, then yes. This is something those funds can be utilized for. Things like that is what we need to focus on. If you get the chance ride down Ash Street, toward the Food Depot there is a tree leaning onto Ash Street. We cannot help everyone, even though I would too, but situations like this that put our

citizens in harm way is what we should focus on, as well as City Edge helping those going through hard times.

**Councilmember Mears** - There are a lot of people that need help, and we are fortunate to be in the situation we are in, but we need to set up a committee to meet, council and prioritize the best way the money should be spent.

**Councilmember James** – What is the time frame to specify the funds to be allocated?

**City Manager** – The funds have to be spent I think by 2025.

**Councilmember James** - Do we have to say what we are going to use them for first?

**City Manager** - We definitely have to report that. We are audited annually and have to give them a list. That is one reason why we were approved previously. Mrs. Gardiner was working on that and reported it and they said it was acceptable. That is why they approved us for our second round. So, yes, we definitely have to report list by list what we are using it for.

**Councilmember James** – Then the second round just for transparency, is it 1.2 million?

**City Manager** – No it was 3.7 million, for a total of 7.4 million for the city.

**Mayor Butler** – We did put in here 250,000 for City Edge, but Mike when we get ready to vote, are we voting on what is currently in the agenda packet, or do we have to say specifically we want to send out a survey?

**Mike Williams** – You have to have a budget amendment, where you identify the revenue and its sources. That is not in front of you, but in terms of priorities so we can prepare for that, and direction from staff would be helpful.

**Mayor Butler** – So we will direct staff to move forward with the preparation of a budget amendment?

**Mike Williams** – With priority.

## 7. Council Consideration of Pay Increase for Council - Legal

### Background/History:

It has been proposed that the City code be amended to provide for an increase in compensation for the members of the governing authority. The proposed ordinance will provide that said increase for Councilmembers be to \$38,635.56 annually and Mayor be to \$55,000 annually. If approved, it will become effective January 2024.

As required by law, ads giving notice of this proposed increase were run on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, Wednesday, September 21, 2022, and Wednesday, September 28, 2022.

### Comment/Discussion from Governing Body:

**Councilmember James** – I am not in favor of this increase. When we first started negotiations, the numbers were brought back to us, and I objected due to the fact we were being compared to full-time employees. Those numbers I guess stayed. I know we wanted to first give our employees their increase, before we

considered this, and I thought we would come back to the table to discuss the amount. The amount is just too much.

Right now, the council makes 14,000 and the mayor makes 23,000, it may be a little more than that. To go from 14,000 to 38,000 for what I do, and I am not saying that I do not do anything, but as an elected official, I am more of a servant. I am here on the required days which is not much, it is not even part-time. To consider being paid a full-time salary and I am not required to be here 80 hours or 40 hours or 20 hours, I am not in favor of this, and I am not going to be voting in favor of it.

**Councilmember Antione** – I am totally in support of this, as a public servant, of course the amount that I wish I could do I cannot do. A lot of people come to me for a lot of help. I am in favor of it, because I know the amount, I would be able to do if I had it.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I am in agreement with Councilmember James and Councilmember Antione. I do not think it is enough, I think the bare minimum is there. The amount of critical thinking that goes into this, the amount of decision making, and just because something is bare minimum does not mean that is where we set the bar. Realistically that is what the job requirement is, if we were to amend or change this. I do not do what the bare minimum is, it is about making the space better than when you received it.

This will make the job more appealing; we are giving time; you can say the servant thing, but you are giving time. Time away from our family is something that is invaluable. When you think of wasting something think of time because that is what you are giving away. When you spend 20.00 and that is what you spend an hour earning at your job, then that is what you are giving away. I spend a lot of time away from my family and I think it would be fair, at least, to get paid at the minimum poverty line rate. I think the amount is too much, but it will start the conversation. I do not want there to be a split decision on this, I think as a council, we need to communicate more like Councilwoman James said and come to an agreement, but I am not opposed to getting a raise as an elected official.

I am up here and when you call me you know my genuine intention in what I do, and I also believe in giving people what they are worth. I go to all the certification classes I can go to learn more and come back and bring those resources to our city. I think it is only right that we get compensated at a rate that is fair.

**Councilmember Wells** - I am 100 percent in disagreement with this, and it is really embarrassing. I am going to read something from our mission statement, "No praises or raises for Mediocracy", some of us need to read this daily. When we ran to be in office, we knew how much money it was. Some people do it for money, some because they have never been recognized for anything, or whatever the reason was you did, you knew what the money was. Some people up here do absolutely nothing, some go to the facilities drunk, residents complaining about that. You do not see them in the community until it is time for elections, and they are knocking on your doors, but you do not see them after that. You do not see them unless it benefits them, not in the community talking to the residence to see the need of the community. If it do not make them look good they are not there.

So, no I do not think we should get a raise if you do not want to be here don't be here. I thought it was ridiculous when you cut the pay and wanted to get a paycheck every week, like we are one of the employees and we are not. Yeah, I know I do my money worth, I'm in the community fighting for the community, I am a voice for the community, and I am not running from the people I am running to them. I will not sit up here and vote for myself, if you want more money get a job, this is not your full-time job, and I would really like to know who put this on the agenda.

Who came up with the numbers because I had nothing to do with it? It is really embarrassing and Ms. Trudy Smith, I probably have never agreed with you, but I agree with everything you said. We have senior citizens here that are barely making, some at the senior center and people do not even go down there and talk to them. People are struggling to feed their family and we have stuff we could be doing, that we get paid to do and if you do not like the pay do not accept the job, and if you want more pay get a job.

**Councilmember Mears** – I also disagree, if you take a survey of the surrounding communities, we get paid well for what we do. The pay is higher than the other council members in the area. Like Mrs. James said, we are here part-time and get paid pretty good. All the programs that were brought up at first, the money can go to help someone that really needs it. So, I am not for it.

**Councilmember James** - We have a lot of benefits to our jobs as well we are able to go to training and get our expenses paid. I understand the quality and the amount of work that you do, and you want to get compensated for it and that you are spending time away from your family, but it is a choice. It is a choice, it is not required and most of us are passionate about what we do, and that passion leads us to sometimes do things out of the ordinary and not always get compensated for it. This is just too much, if we had talked about it beforehand and came up with a better number, then that would be ok, but this is just too much.

**Councilmember Wells** - Even if we sat down and came up with a thousand more dollars, I still would not agree with that. We are only here twice a month for a council meeting, some people are not in the community, some people are not doing anything for the community, but you want a raise. We have employees here working 2 and 3 jobs to provide for their family, that is like a slap to their face, it is a slap in the residence face because we volunteered to run for a position and now, we want to come back and take money from the people. We have people stealing money and nothing is being done about that. Go out and get it how you have to, but the residence of Forest Park should not have to give it to you.

**Mayor Butler** – Dr. Cooper, explain how you came up with the numbers.

**City Manager** – When I was asked to look into this, I came up with the numbers based on the fact we moved the starting pay for city employees to 17.00, which basically, I did for the council. I moved them to 17.00 an hour. Looking at the delta between council and mayor was about 43 and something percent, which puts council salary at 35k and the mayor about 50k. If you add in the expenses, it takes it up to about 41k for council and 56k for the mayor if you roll the expenses into it.

**Councilmember Wells** – When things like this come up, we should discuss it as a council. So, who idea was this, to even look at raises.

**Mayor Butler** – This is not foreign, when this administration came to be, one of the first points of discussions was the raise. At that time, it was decided not to move forward, because I said we need some wins under our belt we cannot just give ourselves raises, because there was the perception that we would have the votes to have it passed. At the last retreat this topic came up and it continues to come up, so the fact that it is on the agenda now should not be a surprise to anybody. I am not embarrassed nor am I ashamed of this request. I think that part-time mindset is why Forest Park was in the position that it was in.

To say that people are not doing anything, we all do something in our own respective rights. You cannot take a municipality that had a 15-million-dollar deficit and turn it into a billion-dollar working investment and say no one is doing anything. You cannot say that, when the zoning had not been updated since the 50's, so you cannot say that nothing is being done. The people see the pretty picture that is being put together, but what is going on behind the scenes and the pushing that it takes to get this stuff done. The residents wanted Starr Park and it had been talked about for eon, and this administration brought it to fruition. Phase

2 of Main Street is coming, the mini-Public Safety building over at Fort Gillem, the new City Hall is coming, and we have 51 million dollars' worth of partnership coming and pouring back into our city.

**Councilmember Wells** – That is what they are supposed to do.

**Mayor Butler** – I have the floor, mam. All these things could not be done if no one was not doing anything. I could go on and on of the stuff we are doing.

**Councilmember Mears** – I would like to say one thing.

**Mayor Butler** - No sir, save it for your closing comments.

**Councilmember Mears** – May I speak?

**Mayor Butler** – No, we are done. We are going into executive session after the regular meeting. Is there a motion to adjourn?

**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 Council Work Session meeting at 7:07pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Wells, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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