



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING

Monday, April 07, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

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		•
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		•
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		•
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		•

John Wiggins, Finance Director, Diane Lewis; Deputy HR Director, Javon Lloyd, PIO; Talisa Adams, Procurement Manager; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Joshua Cox; IT Director; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Nigel Wattley; Deputy Director Public Works, Alton Matthews, Public Works Director, Rochelle Dennis Interim Economic Dev. Director; Nicole Dozier, Planning Community Director; Brandon Criss, Police Chief; Michelle Hood, Deputy City Clerk; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: none

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to remove item # 7, Telecommunications Week, from the agenda, and they will present it at the next meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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 March 17, 2025 - City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from March 17, 2025, with the recommended change to spelling of Director Maxwell's name.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were four (4) Public Comment Speakers.

Minister White talked about how she helps the homeless and is concerned about them and the seniors. She noted that many seniors take care of their grandchildren, and there is very little help for them and the homeless. She said that she is concerned about how the apartments owners are not fixing things but charging a lot of money and steadily going up on the prices.

LaWanda Folami thanked Captain Lester and the PD department for helping with the basketball event, for having the mascot, and for the gifts. She noted that it is volleyball season for them, and she is trying to bring some professionals out. She congratulated Councilmember Gunn on her seat and told Councilmember Gutierrez that she was proud of him. She thanked her friend from Clayton County library for coming out to share with the community about Chromebooks. She congratulated the city for being in unity.

Dr. Ozoh thanked the city for allowing the library to speak on the resources that can change the people in the community's lives. She noted many parents talk about \$250.00 a month. She said the library has Georgia curriculum-certified teachers who can tutor the children for free. She said there is something called the Wonder Book that reads to children. She also stated the Learning Express Library has hundreds of tests to help anyone with SAT, GED, MCAT to be a physician, etc. She said there are adult resources, universal classes that have over 600 online continuing education classes that are free, self-paced pace, and you receive a certification once complete.

Zack Parker noted he does not know why Roberts Rules are read because they are not followed or known because the previous person's time could have been extended. He said that the city is being run by Butler's rules of disorder, who is not a truthful person. He noted Officer Morgan had stalked him at his home with spotlights on several occasions without being called, and he filed a complaint. He said he reported it here and reported it to Captain Delk, who was promoted, and Morgan was promoted to Internal Affairs. He said Officer Sparks falsely arrested a woman for DUI even after she blew a 0.0, and Sparks was promoted to sergeant of the traffic division. He stated he follows all appropriate paths to address things and has been retaliated against on most occasions. He noted he does not know who he can trust in the community after almost a decade of abuse of power.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Clark noted that one of the public comments was about the homeless population, and he is happy to announce the new initiative called Elevate that the Government body supports. He noted in an effort to protect the individuals named who work for the city, for every complaint, there is a process. He asked that those complaints be directed at the Chief Executive Office because no employee should encounter remarks made about them that may or may not be true. He noted the Executive Office operates on transparency and accountability, and everything you hear about employees is not always true, and he owes it to them to protect them. A brief commercial for Elevate was shown. He noted the deadline is being extended until April 15 to pick people from their ward that they feel will qualify for the program who are unhoused and under-employed. He stated the city has partnerships with Home Depot, Kroger's, and other businesses. He noted the ribbon cutting for the new office will be on April 18 at 10 a.m. He stated that on April 28, there will be a planning session for people wanting to go through Zoning 101 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. He stated the Home Program closed in December, and 67 residents are either approved or in the process of completing the process. He thanked the Governing body for supporting the initiative.

CEREMONIAL:**2. Official Swearing-In of Councilmember Delores A. Gunn for Ward 2- Legislative Offices****Background/History:**

The Official Swearing-In for Ward 2 Council Elect Delores A. Gunn will be administered by the Honorable Judge Robert Mack of the Clayton County Superior Court.

Councilmember Gunns thanked God, the Mayor, the Governing body, directors, and employees. She said I speak unity over the city. She noted they can all make a big difference in the city together. She thanked all candidates in the race and encouraged them to continue to connect in Ward 2 and to continue to stay in the fight. She wants to continue to move in a direction that unifies the city, to move toward bigger and better things here in Clayton County.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted there is no one better and congratulated Councilmember Gunns.

3. Recognition of Ward 4 Yard of the Quarter- Councilmember Akins-Wells**Background/History:**

The Yard of the Quarter program celebrates community pride by recognizing Forest Park Ward 4 residents who go above and beyond in maintaining their homes and yards. Their efforts contribute to the beauty and spirit of our neighborhood.

This quarter, we're proud to present the award to the residents of 645 Glenn Drive for their outstanding dedication to keeping their property looking its best. Congratulations, and thank you for helping make our community shine!

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she likes to reward the residents in Ward 4 for helping to keep it looking beautiful. She noted the Robinson Family home on Glen Drive was chosen for this quarter. She stated she appreciated the work she has done to keep her yard looking beautiful.

PRESENTATIONS:**4. Presentation by Alan Owens-Waste Management Public Sector Manager- Executive Offices****Background/History:**

A Waste Management representative will showcase and explain the new WM ASL trucks that will be servicing Forest Park residents. They will also discuss the required distance for placing carts away from mailboxes, marking a significant change in service automation.

Additionally, the Mayor and City Council will receive a \$5,000 check for Recycling Education, followed by a photo opportunity.

Allen Owens congratulated Councilmember Gunn and introduced himself. He noted that Faith Banks would answer any questions after the presentation. He noted that ASL stands for Automated Side Loader truck. He stated the truck has CG fuel, which is not polluting the streets. He noted the truck will capture footage of residential carts while providing services. He stated that the placement of the carts is important because the trucks have an automated arm. He noted that it will be more efficient, as one man will be able to operate the truck. He noted with this truck it will alleviate some of the complaints and will speed up the process. He noted that the bins have to be 3 ft away from the mailbox and 3 ft away from one another. He said there is information that can be posted to the website or sent out to the resident showing and explaining the placement of the cart. He noted they will work with public works to make sure all addresses that pay tax bills in the city are loaded in the system so no one is missed.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James noted that she is excited about the new trucks. She stated they have to do better with educating the citizens. She said they have one trash and one recycling day. She stated there are people that religiously recycle but they do not know it is going to waste. She said there needs to be clear communication about that. She stated she was a part of a racial equity training through the URA Board and learned that some services were not provided in certain areas where people of color lived. She stated for instance waste pickup and that is how the word SLUM came about. She stated it was portrayed that people of color did not care about their community and neighborhood, because it was overflowing with trash. She asked, with the size of the community, if one day of trash pickup was enough because she saw trash overflowing in certain areas. She stated she wants to offer additional services to the residents, but not at a huge fee.

City Manager Clark asked for clarification. He asked if you could increase the number of days of commercial apartments, multifamily residentials, and large commercial plazas, and if it would be separate from residential?

Mr. Owens stated that is correct. He noted he thinks the education should come first. He noted that if that much waste is being generated that Forest Park has the ability for a resident to select 2 carts for one day and no recycling, but it may cost a little more.

Mr. Clark asked how can this be fixed?

Mr. Owens noted that from a commercial aspect, they could call Waste Management and say, "I have a six yard." He noted that with the amount of stuff generating even cardboard, there is no way they should have one time a week.

Mr. Clark noted they can gather that information for the next budget cycle to show what those numbers look like.

Director Walker noted that there are commercial areas and apartment complexes that get dumped more than once a week.

Councilmember Akins-Wells stated she thinks these trucks have been out for a while.

Mr. Owens noted yes, but their new version is where trash is dumped from the top, which eliminates trash coming out.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that she does not agree with the information because today is not like yesterday. She stated there are not a lot of people doing recycling, but she does see trash in the recycling truck. She stated it would be good to inform the residents and maybe get an extra day. She stated that in Forest Park, there are places cleaner than others and thanks to public works they do not live in the slums. Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that they cannot put all the blame on Waste Management and have to hold the residents accountable as well.

Councilmember Mears asked how serious the wheel placement and distance from the curb is, etc.

Mr. Owens noted it is very important to make sure that all the trash comes out of the can.

Councilmember Akins-Wells asked what happens if it is not placed correctly.

Mr. Owens noted that they will still dump it, and this is where the video comes in to pass along to the city to educate the citizens.

5. Forest Park Fire & EMS – 2024 Annual Report (Slideshow & handouts) – Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

The Forest Park Fire & EMS will present its 2024 Annual report:

- Strategic Goals
- Finance
- Operations
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Professional Standards
- Community Risk Reduction
- Emergency Management
- Highlights and Accomplishments
- Employee Recognition and Awards

A Slideshow will be shown as well as handouts for the Mayor and Council. Presenter: Fire Chief Latosha Clemons

Deputy Chief Mays provided an overview of the department and its 2024 annual report. He mentioned that the department operates with a \$9.3 million budget, covering 9.3 square miles with 89 employees. He indicated that the department responded to 7,200 calls last year, with an average response time of four to five minutes. Deputy Chief Mays noted that their achievements include zero fire injuries and fatalities, along

with saving \$8.8 million worth of property from fires. He mentioned that they installed fire alarms and extinguishers based on random requests and collaborated with the Red Cross to host a smoke detector event. Deputy Chief Mays pointed out that Mr. Gallman manages community events and training, while Division Chief Armstrong oversees community outreach, grant procurement, disaster planning, and the LEPC. He stated that she managed 298 severe thunderstorm warnings, 39 tornado warnings, and 74 flash flood warnings last year. He also remarked that awards were given for life-saving actions, and that Chief Clemens established a female firefighters camp, receiving an award for the program. He stated he cannot say enough about the department because they are the backbone of it.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James thanked him and his department for what they do.

Councilmember Gunn stated they were her superheroes and asked when they will get a Camp Believe Boys Program.

Deputy Chief Mays noted they have to bring it up to the chief.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked him for the presentation, and noted he loves seeing the pictures and the City Manager there.

Mr. Clark told Deputy Chief May it would be the perfect moment to tell them what the needs are.

Deputy Chief May noted that the fire department relies on Dekalb County's facility for critical live fire training but would prefer to have its own.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that it takes a great leader to have a great staff. She stated that the city has a lot of property and thinks the governing body should look into making sure the fire department has what it needs to be successful.

Councilmember Mears thanked him for his job. He encouraged them to come to him immediately so they could justify the things needed to do their jobs.

Mayor Butler noted after the Visionary Awards Luncheon, she received several calls from other Mayors and elected officials, and they noted they are going to use that idea.

6. Procurement Division Update Presentation-Procurement Division

Background/History:

Mrs. Adams will present a procurement presentation update to Mayor and Council.

Talisa Adams provided an update on the procurement division, introduced the procurement staff, and outlined the division's purpose, objectives, and accomplishments. She stated the procurement division focuses on productivity, accountability, communication, and teamwork, aiming to provide competitively led solicitations and procurement advisory services. She stated accomplishments for 2024 include streamlining the procurement requisition process, implementing standardized procurement forms, and enhancing the procurement process with the creation of a new purchasing policy. Ms. Adams noted the division is looking ahead to 2025, they plan to implement the contract module in OpenGov, develop a procurement staffing training plan, and apply for the National Procurement Institute's achievement of excellence award.

7. Recognizing our Telecommunication Operators for Telecommunicators Week- Police Department**Background and History:**

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is celebrated annually during the second week of April (April 13, 2025 - April 19, 2025), to honor public safety telecommunicators for their crucial role in public safety.

NPSTW is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel across the nation but more specifically in the City of Forest Park who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telecommunicators are the "first, first responders," often serving as the crucial link between the public and emergency services, handling thousands of 911 calls annually.

This item was removed from the agenda and will be heard at the next one.

CONSENT AGENDA: none

NEW BUSINESS:**6. Council Approval to Approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding to continue sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property- Planning and Community Development Department**

It was motioned to approve Clayton County pocket/skate park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding to continue sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James asked if it was for city funds or ward funds? She noted she could use her ward funds.

Mayor Butler noted it will be a second motion for the ward funds.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was motioned to authorize the City Manager to coordinate with Wards 1, 3, and 5 and allocate \$60,000, from their discretionary funds to support the construction of sidewalks for the Clayton County Skate Park.

Mr. Clark stated that all wards would participate and give \$10,333, including the mayor.

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

Councilmember Gunn was that amount coming from each Ward, and asked Mayor if she was included in this.

Mayor Butler noted yes, but hers is going toward signage.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she thought it was \$10,000 altogether.

Mr. Clark noted if you take \$62,000 and divide it amongst them that was the total, and noted they would need to rework it since Mayor Butler is going to put her money toward signage.

Councilmember Gutierrez noted he thought they were contributing to this.

Councilmember Akins Wells noted that is correct. It is in Councilmember James, Ward and they are just helping out, noting Councilmember James stated they can use all her funds to go toward this.

Councilmember Gunn noted and their contribution would add up to the rest.

Councilmember James noted she is fine with this.

Mr. Clark noted they would use all of Councilmember James funds and the rest of the governing body to make up the difference, with Mayor Butlers contribution going toward the signage.

Councilmember James asked how should the rescind the previous motion.

Attorney Matricardi noted they can just rescind the original motion.

The motion was rescinded.

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

It was motioned to authorize the City Manager to coordinate with the governing body and the Mayor to allocate \$60,000 from their discretionary funds to support the construction of sidewalks for the Clayton County Skate Park. Ward 1 funds would be exhausted, and the rest would be divided amongst the governing body.

Mr. Clark noted that would be \$3,703.00.

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

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

7. Council Approval to End Service with Shotspotter- Police Department

Chief Criss noted he plans to terminate the agreement due to inconsistent performance, false positives, and missed detections. He said the department has allowed the contract to expire, explored alternative vendors, and plans to bring in a new one in the next fiscal year.

It was motioned to End Service with Shotspotter.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Mayor Butler asked if they were allowing the contract to expire or if they were terminating it prematurely.

Chief Criss because it had expired.

Councilmember Gutierrez asked if the software and technology were theirs or the city's.

Chief Criss noted it was all theirs.

Councilmember Gutierrez asked if they would take it all and if the city would have to retrain the employees on the new system.

Chief Criss noted that is correct.

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

8. Council Approval to Decommission K-9 Krypto and to accept the Donation of another Bloodhound-Police Department

It was motioned to approve the Decommission of K-9 Krypto and to accept the Donation of another Bloodhound.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Mears asked if it had to be a bloodhound or if they could use another animal.

Chief Criss noted they already have dual-purpose animals, but the bloodhound will help with locating lost individuals.

Councilmember Akins Wells asked if they would be going through the interview process so they do not have to go through this again.

Chief Criss noted it will be a puppy, and he hopes the new K-9 will work out well.

Councilmember Gutierrez asked if they can vote on the name, because Crypto was not a good name from the start.

Chief Criss said yes.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James noted that she saw online that an adopted boxer puppy had attacked its owner and lacerated their arm twice after hearing a smoke alarm go off. She noted it was something in the animal's history and that the family like to take in rescue animals. Councilmember James said they had a Food Giveaway and gave food to over

250 families. She noted this was also the makeup day for the Hunger Walk since they were not able to do it on the original date. She noted the March Ward meeting is now available online to be watched. She highlighted that the Planning and Development department gave an update on the single-family development that will have 17 units going up on Scott Road. She also highlighted the Economic Development Workforce Program Elevate for the unhoused under-employed individuals. She shouted out Economic Development for having the longest table at Food Truck Friday and hopes it will continue. She stated the Ward meeting is on the third Thursday and invited everyone out to hear the different department updates. Councilmember James congratulated Councilmember Gunn on winning.

Councilmember Gunn noted that the Council Aides made Councilmember Gutierrez look good and noted that various members of the governing body, the residents, and city employees attended. She stated that a mailing list had been sent to the residents informing them of dates to come together collectively. She noted that on Thursday, April 10, there will be a meeting with department heads to get more insight and information.

Councilmember Gutierrez expressed his excitement about the skate park and congratulated Mrs. Dennis on her promotion. He also expressed his sadness about Crypto but knew she would find a nice home. He congratulated Councilmember Gunn and noted his gratitude for having her serve next to him. He asked if there was anything he could do to help someone reach out.

Councilmember Akins-Wells congratulated Councilmember Gunns and thanked her for running to represent Ward 2. She stated that April 26 is the Gospel Jam with Canton Jones, and she hopes it brings about unity in the community. She thanked Councilmember Gunns for coming in, asking about events, and being willing to help. She noted that she is a Minister with a beautiful singing voice and invited everyone to attend the event. She said the Community Closet is from 12–2 p.m. every third Friday at the council house. She thanked Councilmember Gutierrez for assisting a young lady who was in need by sending her to the closet. Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked Mr. Jerrod Finch for what he does for the seniors and the city. She noted a resident was having a medical emergency, and he was able to assist the paramedics with his friend's medical history. She recognized the Public Works workers there were present and noted the city looks like it does because of them. She extended her condolences to Mr. Goodson's family, who passed away, and the Gayler family, another lifelong resident of the community.

Councilmember Mears thanked everyone for coming out and stated that the city was blessed to have the employees it does. He noted that this is a great city and that everyone should be proud of it. He acknowledged Mr. Finch as the oldest person to attend the meetings and thanked everyone for coming out.

Mayor Butler thanked everyone for coming out and congratulated Councilmember Gunns again on her win.

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 8:49 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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

It was moved to reconvening the regular session at 10:18 p.m.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember James.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was motioned to direct staff to run ads for an increase of salary for the Mayor and Council for a 50 percent increase.

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

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember James

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 10:20 pm.

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.