



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, June 16, 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 8:05 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Bishop Fortson.

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		•
Delores Gunn	Council Member, Ward 2		•
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		•
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		•
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		•

John Wiggins, Finance Director, Jeremi Patterson; Deputy Finance Director, Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Talisa Adams, Procurement Manager; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Javon Llyod, PIO; Alton Matthews, Public Works Director, Tarik Maxwell, Recreation Director, Rochelle Dennis, Interim Director Economic Dev.; Nicole Dozier; Planning Community Director, Michelle Hood; Deputy City Clerk, Municipal Court, Brandon Criss; Police Chief, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: **There were no consent agenda items.**

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

Councilmember James noted she would like to add an appointment to the Beautification Committee.

It was motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Georgia Initiative for Community Housing and Renewal of Insurance Casualty and Liability Insurance, an appointment to the Beautification Committee, and the removal of #2 from it.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of May 16, 2025, Budget Retreat and Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2025 - City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the group minutes together.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There was (1) one Public Comment Speaker.

LaWanda Folami noted in 2013-2014 that there was a conversation about the Conley Road cemetery. She said the city is not in the cemetery business and expressed concerns about this, and a decision being delayed. She advised them to research the cemetery plot owners and expressed that the cemetery is historical and has veteran graves there. She mentioned the 43-million-dollar budget and the lack of communication regarding it. Ms. Folami expressed her concerns about the Data system project passed by the URA Board, and its impact on the environment and potential health problems.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: None

PRESENTATIONS:

2. **Recognition of Life-Saving Accomplishments**

Background/History:

On May 14, 2025, members of the Forest Park Police Department demonstrated exceptional courage, decisiveness, and an unwavering commitment to the preservation of life during a life-threatening incident.

In this incident, Lieutenant Arnold and Corporal Coley-Hebron responded swiftly and with the highest degree of professionalism. Their quick assessment of the situation, effective application of life-saving measures, and ability to remain composed under pressure directly resulted in a life being saved. Their

actions were not only a testament to their advanced training and preparedness but also a reflection of their deep sense of duty to the citizens they serve.

These officers embody the core values of the Forest Park Police Department—integrity, service, and excellence. Their conduct during these critical incidents represents the very best of public service and serves as an inspiration to their peers and the broader community.

Today, we honor their heroism and dedication. The City of Forest Park proudly commends Lieutenant Arnold and Corporal Coley-Hebron for their outstanding service and the extraordinary impact they have made through their brave and selfless actions.

This item was removed from the agenda.

3. Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report – Forest Park Police Department

Background/History:

The 2024 Annual Report from the Forest Park Police Department represents a comprehensive overview of the department's efforts, accomplishments, and strategic initiatives over the past year. This report serves not only as a record of our operational and community-based achievements, but also as a reflection of our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellence in public service.

Throughout 2024, the department focused on strengthening community relationships, enhancing public safety, implementing data-driven policing strategies, and investing in both personnel development and technological advancements. These efforts resulted in measurable progress across multiple areas, including crime reduction, officer training, emergency response capabilities, community engagement programs, and departmental innovation.

The annual report is a key tool in maintaining open lines of communication with the public and our city leadership. It offers a clear, factual, and honest portrayal of how the Forest Park Police Department continues to evolve to meet the needs of the community we are sworn to serve.

We are proud to present this report as a testament to the hard work of our officers and civilian staff, and as a symbol of our shared responsibility to build a safer, stronger, and more connected Forest Park.

Chief Criss showed his top 5 command staff members and highlighted the crime stats that he is very proud of. He noted that crime was down in every part one category by 36 percent. Chief Criss mentioned acquiring a mobile command unit and discussing real-time crime and its technologies, like ShotSpotter, FUSUS, FLOCK, and drones. He talked about onboarding 24 new staff members, noting the growth within his department. He said their social media page has reached over 166 thousand people and received over five thousand reactions. Chief Criss said they hired Chaplain Jeremy Tuck for spiritual support, emotional guidance, and compassion. He noted for transparency reasons; they set up a terminal inside the police department for people who may want to request any records. The Chief said they implemented a Special Operations Division in 2023, which is the Neighborhood Enhancement Team and Traffic Enforcement Unit. He stated Clayton County recognized its IMPACT Unit with the Community Impact Award. He said there is a large proactive approach within the community to lower crime and prevent accidents, which have been reduced by over 16 percent. The chief stated they have a K-9 in the police department to help find vulnerable missing people.

Governing Body Comments/Discussion:

Councilmember James thanked him for being proactive and advised him to continue to do what he does, because he does a great job.

Councilmember Gunn thanked him for being attentive, answering the phone, and for him and his department always coming through.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked him and noted he has bought back that community policing feeling. He asked what the new dog's name was.

Chief Criss said it was Nyla.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that he has changed her perception of the police department. She noted he is truly a blessing to the community because he has brought something different from the officers to the Community Impact Team. She said no department is perfect, and they hear things, but what she likes is that she can call him. If she is talking to a resident, he says they can get his number to contact him personally if needed. He is always there, available, and accessible, and there are no little people in your eyes. She thanked the departments for all they do in the community.

Councilmember Mears thanked the Chief for his report, the good work, and for making Forest Park safe.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

4. Council Approval on a Resolution on the Proposed FY 25-26 Budget- Third Public Hearing-Executive Offices

Background/History:

The Proposed Funded dollar amount of the FY25- 26 Budget is \$43,034,857.00. The budget meticulously allocates resources across various city priorities and programs. These allocations are made with the intent to enhance public safety, improve infrastructure, promote economic development, and provide essential services. From maintaining our parks and recreational facilities to supporting educational programs and ensuring the upkeep of our streets and utilities, the budget is designed to meet the diverse needs of our community. The City Manager will present a full overview of the proposed budget.

The regular meeting was closed to open the third Public Hearing.

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

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

There was no speaker for the Budget.

There were no speakers against the budget.

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the Regular Meeting.

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

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

There was a motion to approve the fiscal year 2025-2026 Budget.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Governing Body Comments/Discussion:

Councilmember Gutierrez does not think this is the biggest decision that has to be made, and he wants to make sure all his colleagues are ready to move forward. He noted that he knows Councilmember Wells has questions about it, and he does not feel comfortable voting unless everyone is on board.

Councilmember Akins Wells noted that she thinks the information should have been given to them prior to the meeting and does not agree with voting to pass the budget and then taking the information afterwards. She thinks it should be tabled.

Councilmember Gutierrez noted that Ricky said they were meeting on the 27th, and they could do it then.

Mr. Clark noted this meeting satisfies the public hearing with the adoption.

Councilmember James noted that it is the same information that was provided at the Budget Retreat, so it is nothing new. She stated she is okay with what everyone decides.

Abstain: Councilmember James

Councilmember Gunn asked if it was a chance they could revisit it on the 27th. She stated let's just move forward.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gunn,

Voting Nay: Councilmember Gutierrez

Councilmember Akins-Wells asked if she was voting yes to pass the budget.

Councilmember Gunn asked if there would be any modifications that would take place.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted but you are saying pass it now before you look at it.

Councilmember Gunn noted that they were the exact numbers she was previously provided. She stated her vote is yes, pass it.

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

Voting Yes: Councilmember Mears

Councilmember James asked if she could withdraw her vote and change it to yes.

5. **Council Approval of an Ordinance for Case # RZ-2025-01- Rezoning Request for 5116 Sargent Street-** Planning and Community Development Department

Background/History:

The subject property is a residential dwelling located at 5116 Sargent Street, at the southeast corner of South Avenue and Sargent Street in Ward 3. The property spans on approximately 0.208+/- acres and is currently zoned RS (Single-Family Residential District). According to Clayton County property records, the site contains a two-bedroom, one-bath, ranch-style single-family home. However, a visual inspection reveals that the structure now appears to be a two-story home, despite no recorded permits or documentation indicating that a second level was added. Surrounding properties to the north, south, east, and west are also zoned for single-family residential use and the applicant is requesting to rezone the property to RT (Two-Family Residential District) to permit the use of the home as a two-family dwelling (duplex).

There were no speakers for the rezoning.

There were no speakers against the rezoning.

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the Regular Meeting.

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

Mr. Clark noted that several conditions are associated with it, as presented by the staff.

City Attorney Matricardi noted that they are incorporated in the ordinance. She said adopting the ordinance would adopt those conditions.

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

Abstain: Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to approve an Ordinance for Case # RZ-2025-01- Rezoning Request for 5116 Sargent Street.

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

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Mears

CONSENT AGENDA: **There were no consent agenda items.**

NEW BUSINESS:

6. **Council Approval of an MOU to allow the Clayton County Board of Commissioners to use the Forest Park Senior Center for the Special Primary Election- Executive Office**

It was motioned to approve an MOU to allow the Clayton County Board of Commissioners to use the Forest Park Senior Center for the Special Primary Election.

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

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

7. **Council Approval of a Resolution for the Clayton County Board of Elections to Conduct the November 4, 2025, General Election for the City- Executive Office**

It was motioned to approve a Resolution for the Clayton County Board of Elections to Conduct the November 4, 2025, General Election for the City.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

8. Council Approval of a Resolution to purchase an upgrade to the Audio-Visual (AV) System Refresh in the Council Chambers- Procurement/IT Department

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to purchase an upgrade to the Audio-Visual (AV) System Refresh in the Council Chambers.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

9. Council Approval of a Resolution to enter into a contract with Russell Landscape Group for Forest Parkway (SR-331) Median Landscape- Procurement/Public Works Departments

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to enter into a contract with Russell Landscape Group for Forest Parkway (SR-331) Median Landscape.

Motion made by Councilmember James. There was no second, and the motion failed.

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to enter into a contract with Russell Landscape Group for Forest Parkway (SR-331) Median Landscape.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

10. Council Approval of a Resolution to enter into a contract with Georgia Highway Cable Barrier, LLC for Linda Way Sidewalk Rehab- Procurement/Public Works Departments

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to enter into a contract with Georgia Highway Cable Barrier, LLC for Linda Way Sidewalk Rehab.

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

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

Governing Body Comments/Discussion:

Councilmember James asked for a Point of Order, noting the other item that did not pass for lack of a second. She asked if there was something that would cause that money to be given back, since it was for the SPLOST funds that they have to use up.

City Manager Clark noted that since it died without a second, he assumes the Governing Body would like additional information from staff. He noted there could be some potential implications. He asked what additional information was being requested.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted it should be a better price.

Mr. Clark noted it went through a competitive bid twice, and procurement revised the document to ensure to get the pricing down. He noted Landscaping is not cheap and he thinks it is a fair price for the amount of work to be done.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she is a voice for the people, and it has to make sense she said there is no way landscaping on Forest Parkway is more expensive than all the work that has to be done on Linda Way. She said they should go back to the drawing board.

Mr. Clark noted if they did that, they would have to refine what it is that they want done. He noted they cannot control what companies are bidding on the project.

Councilmember Akins Wells said that's correct, but the Public Works Department can do. She asked if they are using them to cut cemeteries, why not use them to cut trees and replace flowers.

Councilmember Gunn asked if it was to be specifically for the project and if the residents voted for it on the ballot.

Mr. Clark noted it was.

Councilmember Gunn asked if they would lose the money and if it would come out of their General Funds.

Mr. Clark said yes.

Councilmember Gunn said let it run since it is not coming out of the city budget. She asked if it could be recirculated for a vote.

Mayor Butler noted they could recirculate it and asked for a motion.

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to enter into a contract with Georgia Highway Cable Barrier, LLC for Linda Way Sidewalk Rehab.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

11. **Council Approval of a Resolution to enter into a contract with Mr. Dee'e Electric Service, LLC, Shalom Visionary Strategies, and Capital City Electrical Services, LLC for On-Call Electrical Services and Repair (Annual Contract)- Procurement/Public Works Departments**

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to enter into a contract with Mr. Dee's Electric Service, LLC, Shalom Visionary Strategies, and Capital City Electrical Services, LLC for On-Call Electrical Services and Repair (Annual Contract)

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

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

12. Council Approval to enter into a contract with Falcon Design Consultants and United Consulting Group Ltd. for Geo-technical Environmental Services- Procurement/Planning & Development and Public Works Departments

It was motioned to approve enter into a contract with Falcon Design Consultants and United Consulting Group Ltd. for Geotechnical Environmental Services.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

13. Council Approval of a Resolution on Cemetery Maintenance: Consideration of Service Reallocation Options– Public Works Department

It was motioned to table a Resolution on Cemetery Maintenance: Consideration of Service Reallocation Options.

It was motioned to table this item.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

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

14. Council approval of the City's participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, including program requirements, benefits and alignment with local housing goals.

It was motioned to approve the City's participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, including program requirements, benefits, and alignment with local housing goals.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

15. Council Approval of the City's Property Casualty and Liability Insurance Coverage for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

It was motioned to approve the city's Property Casualty and Liability Insurance Coverage for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

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

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

16. Council Approval of the Appointment to the Beautification Committee.

Councilmember James motioned to appoint Mr. Willie Freeman to the Beautification Committee to replace Ms. Sparkle Adams.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James noted that the June Ward meeting will be canceled because of the Juneteenth holiday. She stated that there will be a Ward 1 block party on June 25, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at Scott Boulevard Park. She thanked Eve for coming out.

Councilmember Gunn gave an overview of the duties of a Councilmember from the charter, specifically Section 215. It emphasized the powers and responsibilities of City Council members. She highlighted that council members have the right to make inquiries, and investigations into the city affairs, subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, require production of evidence, and make individual inquiries to city employees about city operations. She noted there are 44 powers and stressed the importance of Councilmembers being able to do their jobs and ask questions. She said she will respect the city departments while doing her job and represent Ward 2 and her name to the best of her abilities. Councilmember Gunn thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Gutierrez supported Councilmember Gunns' statements about their rights as Councilmembers. He encouraged her to keep the questions coming. He thanked staff for the budget and explained his reason for not voting on the budget, as wanting complete transparency and full understanding. He mentioned that they have a Star Wars movie series every Wednesday in the park. Councilmember Gutierrez expressed concern for the Hispanic and immigrant communities and advised people to reach out to their neighbors because they are in fear and not coming out. Councilmember Gutierrez thanked Chief Criss for caring for the community, and everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked Councilmember Gunn and Gutierrez for their earlier comments. She noted that employees do have the right to speak freely as they do have the right to investigate and communicate with employees as outlined in the charter. She noted that when she votes it is not to follow the majority, and she is still willing to stand along as she has in the past when representing Ward 4. Councilmember Akins-Wells highlighted the importance of holding people accountable. She said they will not always agree, but their primary focus is on the people and their needs, which is something she is passionate about. Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she knew when she took the position it would come with conflict and challenges, but her commitment to the people is what guides her decision-making, and it will always be for the betterment of Forest Park. She thanked the staff and residents for coming out.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

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