



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, January 06, 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 Latresa Akins-Wells
The Honorable Allan Mears

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager
Randi Rainey, City Clerk
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

ACTION MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Elder Cook led the invocation and pledge.

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; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance, HR Director, Diane Lewis; Deputy HR Director, Fire Chief Latosha Clemons; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Joshua Cox; IT Director; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Nigel Wattley; Deputy Director Public Works, Public Works Director, Alton Matthews; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation Director, Marsellas Williams, Economic Director; Nicole Dozier, Planning Community Director; Michelle Hood, Deputy City Clerk; Brandon Criss, Police Chief; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to approve the agenda with the following addition: amend the agenda to select a Mayor Pro-tem.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2024**
- City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from December 16, 2024, with recommended changes.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were three (3) Public Comment Speakers.

Carl Evans noted that the city website does not have the date of the election and does not state that the Special Election is to fill the term of Ward 2. He noted that this could confuse people who are trying to qualify, as they may think it is for a 4-year term.

Ann Keith noted she would like to talk about transparency. She noted she looked out her window and saw two people walking around in a parking lot next to her home. She stated it was a developer and a builder. She said she was informed that they were looking to build retail/townhomes. She said she missed what was going on and that she was disappointed about the transparency when something was going on in the city. She wants to know how they can improve the process of letting people know what is going on in the city.

Zack Parker noted that leadership is about authenticity and meaningful change. He urges the governing body to prioritize action that serves the community over symbolic gestures. He noted that he has been treated differently by a member of the board while making his public comments, which has been disheartening. He noted that it is the start of a New Year, and he is starting his renewed efforts. He wished everyone the day they deserve.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ricky L. Clark Jr-

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Senior Center Updates -Recreation and Leisure

Background/History:

This presentation highlights key activities and program participation at the Forest Park Senior Center demonstrating our continued commitment to providing social, recreational, educational and wellness services to our Legacy Residents. Anne Foster, Senior Center Coordinator is present to brief the Governing Body on updates relative to Senior Activities and Programs.

Ann Foster-

CEREMONIAL: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Council Approval to deny Case # CUP-2024-04, Conditional Use Permit to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC). Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to recess the regular meeting to open for the 1st Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to open the 1st Public Hearing to deny **Case # CUP-2024-04, Conditional Use Permit to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC)** .

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

There were no speakers in favor of or against the conditional use permit.

It was motioned to close the 1st Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to deny the **Case # CUP-2024-04, Conditional Use Permit to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC)**.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

4. **Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-06 and TA-2024-07 Text Amendments for Article B. – Zoning Districts, and Design Guidelines Established, Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances.**- Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to open the 2nd Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-06 and TA-2024-07 Text Amendments for Article B. – Zoning Districts, and Design Guidelines Established, Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 2nd Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to approve the **Case # TA-2024-06 and TA-2024-07 Text Amendments for Article B. – Zoning Districts, and Design Guidelines Established, Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances**

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

5. **Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-09 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article G. – Fees, Section 8-7-81 Fee Schedule, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update fee schedule text.** - Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to open the 3rd Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-09 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article G. – Fees, Section 8-7-81 Fee Schedule, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update fee schedule text.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 3rd Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to approve the **Case # TA-2024-09 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article G. – Fees, Section 8-7-81 Fee Schedule, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update fee schedule text.**

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

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

6. **Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-10 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article B. – Procedure, Article C. Plats and Data of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, and update plat instructions.- Planning and Community Development**

It was motioned to open the 4th Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-10 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article B. – Procedure, Article C. Plats and Data of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update plat instructions.**

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

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

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 4th Public Hearing.

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

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

It was motioned to approve the **Case # TA-2024-10 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article B. – Procedure, Article C. Plats and Data of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, and update plat instructions.**

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

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

7. **Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-11 Text Amendments for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article E. – Tree Protection, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-142 Tree Bank Ordinance.- Planning and Community Development**

It was motioned to open the 4th Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-11 Text Amendments for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article E. – Tree Protection, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-142 Tree Bank Ordinance.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

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

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 5th Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to approve the **Case # Case # TA-2024-11 Text Amendments for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article E. – Tree Protection, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-142 Tree Bank Ordinance.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

CONSENT AGENDA:

It was motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

Council Approval to Surplus Vehicles: Fire and EMS Department

Council Approval to Adopt the City of Forest Park Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study- Planning and Community Development

NEW BUSINESS:

- 8. Council Discussion of a Resolution to Become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency and Participate in one or more of GIRMA Funds-** Human Resources

Background/History:

The Ashley Wilson Act (HB 451) mandates that all public entities in Georgia provide a supplemental benefit program for first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of exposure to traumatic events encountered in the line of duty. This legislation establishes a one-time financial safety net designed to help first responders cover uninsured costs associated with PTSD treatment and recovery.

The program ensures that first responders can access benefits quickly and confidentially, mitigating concerns about stigma or potential job loss. Importantly, this Act does not affect employer health plans, which are already required to cover PTSD and other mental health conditions.

This new program, referred to as the PTSD Program, becomes effective on January 1, 2025. Local government participation is required under this legislation, which includes completing an application and signing a participation agreement to implement the program. Approval of this agenda item will authorize the City to comply with the requirements of HB 451 and provide this critical benefit to its first responders.

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to Become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency and Participate in one or more of GIRMA Funds.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

9. Council Approval of the 2025 appointment of Mayor Pro-tem.

Mayor Butler noted it goes in chronological order and that Councilmember Akins-Wells had it in 2024. She asked Councilmember Mears if he was up for the challenge.

Councilmember Mears respectfully declined and nominated Councilmember James to fill in.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Akins-Wells

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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.