



# CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, April 18, 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) 366.1555

**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

## DRAFT MINUTES

### VIRTUAL NOTICE

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Hector Gutierrez at 6pm and he read the Mission Statement.

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large (arrived 6:07pm)		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4 -		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Darquita Williams, Deputy Finance Director; Kim Trawick, Human Resources Generalist, Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Tarik Maxell, Director of

Recreation & Leisure, Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works, James Shelby, Planning & Community Development Director, Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police and Javon Lloyd, PIO Director

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

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:**

- Forest Park Ministers Association and the City of Forest Park will host its Southside of the City Clean Up on April 23, 2022, from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Social distancing and facemasks will be mandatory. Hand sanitizers and gloves will be provided. Volunteers will meet at the Ash Street Baptist Church, 5370 Ash St in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Edie Yongue (770)-289-4640 or Dr. Leon Beeler (678) 207-8904.
- The Clayton County Water Authority will be holding its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, April 23, 2022, from 10:00am – 2:00pm for Clayton County Residents. A driver's license or utility bill is required as proof of residency. For more information residents can call 770-960-5200 or visit [www.CCWA.us](http://www.CCWA.us)
- The City issued a press release, and it was published with the Clayton Daily News informing residents that beginning April 20<sup>th</sup>, a portion of Cynthia Lane between Old Dixie Road and Pineridge will be closed to through traffic to install new piping in the immediate area. Detour signs will be installed for the duration of the roadway closure which is expected to last approximately 40 days. If the roadway closure needs to be extended or additional closures are necessary, another public notice will be issued.
- The senior living facility being built on College Street in the City of Forest Park is a private development. The city has no information or input on rentals or occupation at the facility. We have received numerous inquiries and we just want to remind everyone that the developer stated when they are close to completion, they will put their rental office at the property. If the city receives any information, we will ensure that it is posted and sent out via our contacts list for those interested.
- Over the past several months, the City of Forest Park has been dealing with several stalled trains owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway. According to officials from the rail company, the stalled trains are a result of numerous ongoing supply chain issues, which have been exacerbated tremendously due to the pandemic. Additional reasons for the stalled trains expressed by the company include crew shortages, weather, and even other logistical problems at neighboring rail yards in cities like East Point, Morrow, and Atlanta – all of which unfortunately impacts us here locally. The city unfortunately has no authority to regulate, ticket or force any actions on the rail system through our city. Congress is the only entity with authority over the train system, we have escalated our concerns to our congressional representative, and continue to file complaints every time the train is stalled. We need all residents to file complaints when this occurs, there is power in numbers. Anyone can submit an official complaint or report a blocked railroad crossing to the Federal Railroad Administration by visiting [www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings](http://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings).

**CITY OPERATIONS:**

- Champions of Forest Park Series is a vignette series featuring key community stakeholders sharing why they believe "Forest Park is on the move." To view the series please visit [www.forestparkga.gov/bc-dda](http://www.forestparkga.gov/bc-dda)

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:**

- Congratulations to Mr. Brad Munroe, Public Works Division, on his promotion to Building Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Munroe replaces Mr. Nigel Wattley, who was recently promoted to the Deputy Director position.
- Congratulations to Mr. Marcus Porter, Public Works Division, on his promotion to Park Supervisor. Since the supervisor position had been vacated Mr. Porter step up to the task and ensure the park division kept moving seamlessly.
- Congratulations Ms. Tonya Thomas and Mr. Bobby Jinks, who completed the 5 (five) required certifications for the city to officially apply and become Local Administered Projects (LAP) certified again. This is a certification that must be completed every 3 years and individuals must stay updated on any changes throughout the process. Once the city's application is approved this will open the door to Federal Funding to leverage the cost of street repairs/repaving and more. These are projects that the city was trying to cover from general fund dollars. We have others going through the certification process to ensure we retain our LAP certification long into the future.

## PRESENTATION(S):

### 1. **Third Quarter Budget Update** – Chief Executive Office/Finance

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

The City of Forest Park is committed to fiscal responsibility and ensuring our operations stay on track with our goals of balancing revenue collections and expenses, while ensuring we appropriate spending that enhances the safety and well-being of our community. With these goals in mind the Department of Finance presents our 3rd quarterly budget update.

Darquita Williams, Deputy Director of Finance & Chiquita Barkley, Director of Finance

**Darquita Williams, Deputy Director of Finance** – This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial report, and we are a little shy of where we should be on our revenue goals, however we do have some regular items that normally come in the fourth quarter that we are expecting from sales tax and franchise taxes that should close us out where we should be. Ms. Barkley, Dr. Cooper, and I are monitoring this very closely as we close out the year and will be allocating funds across the departments, as we prepare to pass our new budget.

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

**Councilmember James** – 75% is where we should be in the third quarter as it relates to revenues. Going over the numbers are we going to be able to meet our goals, because there are several different departments that are under the 75% threshold; we got legislative, chief executive, finance; and finance is low, is there a reason for that and do we have the revenues?

**City Manager** – the revenues are showing at the top

**Councilmember James** – It is a collective, we do not have it broken down individually by department

**City Manager** – No

**Councilmember James** – So, we do not know which department may be lacking with their revenues and where they are standing?

**Chiquita Barkley, Director of Finance** – (Inaudible) for the revenues that are due to be collected for the city.

**Councilmember James** – For example, the judge, their expenditures are way over budget, I would assume with 91%?

**Director of Finance** – The judge is one of those salary accounts that is reimbursed to the city and those figures must have a journal entry to correct that so that it will show in our revenues; that is not a concern, because it is really a wash.

**Councilmember James** – What about Economic Department?

**Director of Finance** – the same applies to them.

**Councilmember James** – So, from your perspective, we

**Director of Finance** – We are on target, as far as the department heads and leads they are doing exceptionally well. When you see expenditures at, we are in the third quarter, and they are below 75% and that is good.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – For a presentation, I can see what you are saying CM James. When you say we finance collects for everyone, so we in essence it is the only department that collects revenues?

**City Manager** – All the revenues go into the general funds.

2. **Council Discussion on MARTA's Transit Supportive Land Use Study** – Department of Planning & Community Development

**Background/History:**

To conclude the Clayton County Transit Supportive Land Use Study, MARTA is providing each jurisdiction with zoning recommendations for better alignment with transit supportiveness, as well as additional station area planning strategies. The recommended approach for implementing transit supportive land uses in Forest Park is to integrate key components of MARTA's TOD-Core Redevelopment/ New Build model ordinance into the City's current zoning ordinance. The creation of a new residential overlay based on the Residential Support model ordinance is also recommended.

No Action Needed.

**James Shelby, Director of Planning & Community Development** – This evening's presentation by MARTA and its consultants, we have been working with them for over two-years and have been working very closely with them to the point where some of the recommendations, that they will be talking about, are included in our current zoning ordinance that was recently passed. Ms. Allison Harrison, one of the consultants working with MARTA, is here to explain the transit supportive land use study.

**Ms. Allison Harrison** – It is a pleasure to be here tonight with MARTA and I would like to commend the City of Forest Park, you have been early adopters of our recommendations, so, thank you so much and thank you Mr. Shelby and staff. (Ms. Harrison shared a slide presentation and gave a summary of slides)

MARTA has been working very hard the past couple of years to be advancing high-capacity transit into Clayton County. We have been looking specifically at two different lines, one that travels along State Route 54 and one that we call the Southlake BRT. The one that is here in Forest Park is outlined in blue that says State Route 54, (she referenced the slide and information in packet). They have been working the past couple of years in collaboration with a number of jurisdictions in Clayton County and Southern Fulton and focused on what we call the big five of transit support on land use, we are looking at density and intensity, mixed uses, walkability, people-friendly design, and managed parking. We have been looking at places like Forest Park and other communities in Clayton County. We have drafted ordinances promoting something that is incremental, but flexible, we want development and we do not want it to be so difficult to come here and build in Forest Park that nobody wants to come so, we are trying to strike that balance with those recommendations. Forest Park's key recommendations are 1) deferring to the LCI Plan and zoning re-write processes underway; 2) Integration with Aerotropolis Greenways plans and 3) Redevelopment opportunities are greater closer to Jonesboro Road and the major recommendations are: 1) Integrate key components to redevelopment/new build model ordinance into the city's zoning re-write; 2) establish a residential overlay based on the residential support model ordinance and 3) collaborate with partner jurisdictions in future station area planning. The next steps are: from MARTA to prepare for National Environmental Protection Act Planning (NEPA); Forest Park – 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update to update the character area map to reflect station areas; and include key public infrastructure projects in the Community Work Program to support station area development; after the NEPA is done, work to establish station area working groups; and coordinate with other jurisdictions on the alignment for a corridor-wide LCI update.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Mayor Butler** – There was talk of MARTA purchasing on Main Street, I believe on this end of Main Street, Lake, and Main Street, is that still in the works, because I know we have been holding off on selling that land with the anticipation of MARTA purchasing it, can you address that at all?

**Tracy Roberson, MARTA** – In the Clayton Transit System Plan there are several different areas that we are intending to develop transit hubs, and Forest Park has been identified as one of those locations. The transit system plan and all the different transit hubs that we are going to implement have not officially gone through the board approval process, but we are intending for Forest Park to be one of those locations. It is possible we will need that property, we have not gone through the detailed analysis to determine location yet, but we make sure that it is on our real estate team's radar. I will be more than happy to reach back out to you with any updates from the real estate team.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 3. Council Discussion on the Appointment of a New City Solicitor to the Municipal Court – Chief Executive Office**

**Background/History:**

The former solicitor for the City of Forest Park's Municipal Court has been appointed a Judgeship within the Clayton County Juvenile Courts. The City Manager is requesting that Council considers the candidacy of Assistant Solicitor Andres Marierose to the position of City Solicitor.

**Comments/Discussion from the Governing Body:**

We will have a formal discussion in Executive Session, but Mr. Andres Marierose is present and if you would like to introduce yourself, you have the floor.

**Andres Marierose** – I am Andres Marie Rose, my first name is Renee, so I abbreviate that because I want people to understand that I am male not female so, usually I have to explain the spelling is different, but I welcome the opportunity to come and serve in the city and you have seen my resume, I have been doing this for over 20 years as a prosecutor in different positions, but I am very familiar with Forest Park, I love the people here and the officers. I propose the clerk, court, and judge, that I would be happy to come here and serve in anyway that I can, but my skill set is better for the solicitor's position. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, I would be glad to answer them.

**Councilmember James** – I will say that I know you are highly recommended; we like the fact that you are bilingual as well and thank you for serving Forest Park.

**4. Council Discussion on On-Call Real Estate Appraisals and Right of Way Acquisition Consultant Services** – Public Works/PBZ/Procurement Division

**Background/History:**

The Executive Offices on behalf of the Procurement Division, Public Works and Planning, Building, and Zoning Departments is requesting approval to enter into a contractual agreement with Colliers Engineering and Design, Inc. The Procurement Division conducted a request for proposals for On- Call Real Estate Appraisals and Right of Way Acquisition Consultant Services to assist the City with acquiring property and easements for projects including those that are Federally Funded. Projects with Federal and State funding must follow the procedures required by both GDOT and Federal Highway Administration Real Estate Division. Having this consultant firm will allow us to move forward with the City's sidewalk projects and be in compliance with the Federal Highway Administration and GDOT's requirements. The initial term of the contract will be for three (3) years, with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods if the City wants to continue with the firm based on their performance.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Mayor Butler** – In the contract, will there be a right of termination, if we are not pleased with their services?

**City Attorney** - Yes

**5. Council Discussion on Math Trail Memorandum of Understanding** – Chief Executive Offices

**Background/History:**

The Clayton County Board of Education's Mathematics Department would like to "STEMulate" a few community spaces for their new Community MathTalk Trail and is seeking support for a location in the City of Forest Park.

Clayton County Schools in collaboration with MathTalk PBC, Clayton County Parks and Recreation, and the Clayton County Community is building a community Math Trail. Clayton County will be one of only four communities in the country to feature a customized MathTalk Math Trail. Math Trail installations include math themed art, games, and structures designed by our students and community members and installed in community spaces with signage to provide game directions and conversation starters. Math Trails spark playful opportunities for open-ended math exploration and conversation. They are designed and located in



places that provide natural opportunities for families to engage with math content in ways that build interest, confidence, and enthusiasm for math.

The City Manager is seeking City Councils' approval to enter into an agreement with Clayton County Schools to include Starr Park as a featured location.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – This is very exciting, and I think that those contributing to this, I noticed that there will be special revenues, donations, and grant funds through the Clayton County public school system, but I am excited about this project and glad Forest Park was selected.

**Mayor Butler** – With the renovation of Starr Park, how will this affect the Math Trial?

**Dr. Cooper** – That is something that we will have to discuss once we begin conversation about the agreement, they are aware that there will be renovations, it will not be the full-fledged map until after the renovations are completed. It would give them the agreement to know that as they are planning, Starr Park will be a location.

**6. Council Discussion on Entering an Agreement with Laron Harlem for a Forest Park Mural Project – Procurement Division**

**Background/History:**

The Executive Offices and the Division of Procurement on behalf of the City is seeking councils' direction regarding a contractual agreement with Laron Harlem, Jr., Artist and Owner of A Bucket and A Dream. The Procurement Division conducted a request for qualifications for The Mural Project. The artist will produce a mural on three outdoor retainer walls located at Conley Rd and at the intersection on Pineridge Rd & Alder Dr. The mural project seeks to bring beauty to what would otherwise be a cold, blank wall and celebrate the energy and diversity of the local area. Given the wide range of potential visitors and diverse cultures of the residents that travels our streets, the mural will celebrate the "coming together" of all these diverse groups and highlight Forest Park's rich cultural history while developing new expressions for the current times and enthusiasm about its future. This mural will transform these walls into vibrant, colorful, and welcoming elements to Forest Park with the intent to deter graffiti. A Bucket and A Dream was the only artist to submit a proposal and their submission is within what was budgeted. We are seeking councils' direction on how they would like to proceed in this matter. The contract and project installation of the artwork would continue until artist completion.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Dr. Cooper** – The artist is not here tonight, and we are looking for direction as to whether council would like to go with this artist or if you would want us to put it out again for bid.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – What was this because I was not aware of it? And is it budgeted for?

**Dr. Cooper** – It was placed on the website where we post all proposals and requests for bids. There is money in the budget that was set aside for council to talk about doing murals on different walls, on Connelly and it was by the cemetery.

**Mayor Butler** – Have we seen examples of his work?

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I am super excited about this because that is a blank wall that has a lot of potential. I do want to put all the money into one artist, or I would love to hear from more, because I would have promoted something like this. I did not know about, but I am not opposed to it.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Mr. Geeter, what are your recommendations?

**Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Director** – I think we should move forward, he had some good artwork that he submitted with his proposal, good samples, so, it is not like he has not done this before, he has done it in other areas of the city of Atlanta.

**City Manager** – and there are photos of his work on his website that was sent out to council to review but again this was council's direction to us, and this was the only person to submit.

**Councilmember James** – Are we going to have a discussion with him, for me, in particularly the wall on Conley Road and the history behind the wall to be able to capture that; so, we are not talking about a blanket of whatever he wants to put up but a collaboration with council as to what goes up.

**City Manager** – Yes, the plan here is if council wanted to move forward with this vendor is to actually have him, because he has already looked at the areas, to have him submit sketches of the proposed art that he would do for each area and bring back to council to say what is he envisioning for the area based on the area itself. We did tell him that part of this was to capture not only the history of the city but to commemorate what was going on and we talked about the cemetery as well.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Is he familiar with painting streets? And can anyone tell me what happened to the mural that got erased by the foundation?

**Purchasing Director** – Yes, and they are to maintain the work.

**Councilmember James** – It is not erased but pulled down.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I will be honest about this, I am super excited about this, but I am a little bit disappointed in us and the communication of this, because with the youth committee, we identified like eight potential spaces, and now we are only talking about three roads, I think there are the special spaces. I had talks with Mrs. Gardiner, about establishing an art committee, so involving the people in this would also be great.

**Mayor Butler** – All is not lost councilmember and there are still opportunities for future are projects.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I agree with Councilmember Gutierrez, it is a great thing that will add to the city, but I would like to have been notified as well, because you have several different schools, you have artists in schools that could have been used and gotten different input from the community and I was not aware of it either.

**Dr. Cooper** – I just want to remind council that this has been discussed and that is the reason the project was actually put together to put out, because of previous discussion and I know there was talk about the areas and everything else; so, when we put the RFP together and out like we do any RFP and we did target certain artists and different things that we know of and then it was left out for anyone else to submit and this is the only submission. We followed our policy for RFP, and I apologize if I did not submit it to each of you to say this is what we are doing, but we followed the process that we were asked to do.



**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – I am not opposed to it, just thinking it would mean a little bit more if some kids or people from the community could have been involved and it would have saved some money as well.

**7. Council Discussion of On-Premises Consumption of Alcohol at Entertainment Venues – Legal**

**Background/History:**

It is proposed that the City amend the licensing requirements for the on-premises consumption of alcohol only to allow entertainment venues, such as concert halls, comedy clubs, dinner theaters and similar establishments to be permitted to sell alcohol during their events. The proposed ordinance would allow on-premises alcohol sales one hour before and after such events and require food to be made available during their hours of operation. Adult entertainment establishments would not be included within the definition of an entertainment venue.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – I am not in favor of the one hour after, because if the event is over and on your way home, you should not be allowed to drink anymore that time. I am okay with the hour before, but I just cannot agree with the hour after.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Because we do have some community building centers, does that mean if someone wants to have an event, they can sell alcohol at those events?

**City Attorney** – No, this would be for dedicated business, if you are a concert venue or comedy club, etc., this would be distinguished from a banquet hall or anything like that, that would have private events.

**8. Council Discussion of Amendment of Pay Period for Council Members – Legal**

**Background/History:**

It is proposed that the City amend the pay period for Council Members and the Mayor so that they are paid at the same time as City employees. Currently, City Employees are paid once a week while Council Members are paid once a month. The proposed ordinance would allow Council Members to be paid once a week but would not change the amount of their compensation in any way.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – First, I would like to know who put this on the agenda and two, we are not employees of the city, we are elected officials, and it is not going to change the pay, why is it so important to get paid weekly, we are not employees. We do not get all the benefits of any employee. I think this is a waste of time, if you need money every week then you go get a job that pays every week but, this is a part-time job, and we are not employees.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I would like to know the reason also, is it easier for staff, was this brought up by you Dr. Cooper?

*City Manager* – No, it was not brought up by me, but it is not more work for the staff, it is just changing the schedule and adding council to the weekly pay schedule. But is up to the discretion of council.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Whoever asked for this to be added to agenda and need their changed, can you change theirs and keep everyone else the same. I do not have to be paid every week; I am not an employee.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – I could go either way.

**Councilmember Antoine** – I think it is a good idea.

**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 for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate at 6:41pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into Work Session at 6:53pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Council Work Session at 6:53pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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