



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Tuesday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 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 Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Ricky L. Clark Jr., City Manager
Michelle Hood, Interim City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Butler.

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 -Arrived at 6:21 p.m.		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3- joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:33 p.m.		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Whatley, Deputy Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Brandon Criss, Police Chief; Tarik Maxwell, Parks and Recreation; and Joshua Cox, IT Director.

OLD BUSINESS:**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Council Discussion and Approval of Resolution Terminating Authorization for Double-Time Overtime Pay for Public Works – Executive Offices**

Background/History:

At the August 7, 2023, Council meeting, the City Council temporarily authorized “double-time” pay for Public Works employees for a period of 90 days to assist with catching up with grass-cutting around the city. The city has since caught up with the grass-cutting. Accordingly, it is proposed that the City Council now terminate the authorization for “double-time” overtime pay.

City Manager Ricky L. Clark Jr. noted allowing public works employees until the end of summer to catch up with grass-cutting, noted reviewing the budget in the next six (6) months to see if contractors will be needed to keep up with grass-cutting and is requesting council’s approval to terminate double-time overtime pay.

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilman Mears mentioned it being a good idea and noted bringing it back when needed and not getting behind. Mr. Clark included adding additional provisions to clarify what double time would be used for if it was brought back.

2. **A Review of Chief Criss 1st 100 Days as Police Chief - Police Department**

Background/History:

Chief Criss assumed his role as the Forest Park Police Chief on May 1, 2023. He has now completed his first 100 days in office and wishes to offer a concise overview of his initial achievements and activities during this period.

Chief Criss provided an overview of the accomplishments obtained within his first 100 days. Chief Criss noted, looking over the organization, and determined to reorganize and enhance operational efficiency, which deleted some top positions that were not needed; noted changing the CompStat meeting from monthly to weekly and being able to lower part 1 crimes; created specialized units such as the NET Team, narcotics unit, narcotics tip line (call 470-826-4997 for any complaints), traffic unit, and a six (6) officer honor guard. Chief Criss mentioned the rebranding of the agency with new patrol vehicles, noting blue vehicles will be driven by lieutenants and silver vehicles will be driven by officers with the new graphics and logo. Chief Criss also noted boosting the morale of the department with the implementation of officer of the month, employee of the month, and special operations of the month. Chief Criss mentioned bringing back conversation and coffee with the chief for more community engagements, with the first one being held at Chick-fil-A and the most recent one being held on September 12, 2023, at RaceTrac. Chief Criss made mention of having the Citizen Police Academy with a great turn out; noted having the first gun safety course for employees and has partnered with Clayton

County Sheriff's Office to help clean up trash on Cash Memorial Blvd as well as the Department of Revenue to see if underaged kids were able to purchase cigarettes and alcohol; and noted hiring over 30 new employees.

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine- noted that the council has been looking for someone to serve, noted respecting Chief Criss, and thanked Chief Criss for his services.

Councilmember Mears- thanked Chief Criss and expressed doing a job well done and has always said, "If you get tough with crime, crimes will go away."

Mayor Butler- echoed the sentiments and noted hearing nothing but good things going on in the Police Department.

3. **COVID Update - Fire Department**

With the ongoing conversation relative to an uptick in COVID cases, members of the Forest Park Fire Department have requested to provide an update to the governing body.

Andrew Gelmini of the Fire Department noted that COVID has gone from a pandemic to an endemic phase, with numbers being more county-oriented and broken down per city. Mr. Gelmini noted having a state-wide outbreak in late August, with Clayton County showing a low risk of transmission, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Mr. Gelmini noted an increase in the new variant named EG.5, a.k.a Eris, due to not taking proper precautions and being responsible for 17% of new cases in the county and 16% of new cases in the state. Mr. Gelmini noted the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) stated the current vaccine will work against the new variant and encourages people to stay vaccinated and get tested if any symptoms occur. Mr. Gelmini noted that COVID tests are still available at pharmacies, primary care physicians, and urgent cares throughout the state. For more information on vaccine recommendations, visit www.cdc.gov, and to schedule a vaccine, visit <https://qta-vras.powerappsportals.us/en-US/qtavras.poerappsportals>. Mr. Gelmini noted to help stop the spread of COVID, one should cover their coughs, sneeze in their sleeve, wash their hands frequently with soap and water, wear a mask, and stay home if sick.

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine- thanked Mr. Gelmini and noted being the one to request the information.

Councilmember Well- thanked Mr. Gelmini.

Councilmember Mears- thanked Mr. Gelmini.

Mayor Bulter- thanked Mr. Gelmini.

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 6:19 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Wells.
Voting yea: Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Wells, Councilmember Mears.

Councilmember Gutierrez joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m. via Zoom.

It was moved to reconvene into the Council Work Session at 7:05 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Wells.
Voting yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Wells, and Councilmember Mears.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the September 18, 2023, Council Work Session at 7:05 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Wells.
Voting yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Wells, and Councilmember Mears.