



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

**Website:** [www.forestparkga.gov](http://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  
Randi Rainey, City Clerk  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

## DRAFT ACTION MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Dr. Beeler led the invocation and prayer.

**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		✓
Dabouze Antoine	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; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley, Deputy Public Works Director; Fire Chief Latosha Clemons; Deputy Fire Chief David Halcomb; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Pauline Warrior, Senior Management Analyst; Javon Llyod, PIO; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; Marselles Williams, Economic Director; Nicole Dozier, Planning Community Director; Brandon Criss, Police Dept.; Talisha Clark, Procurement Manager, Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Director, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

**ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:**

There was a motion to approve the consent agenda with the removal of #5 to be placed on the regular agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:**

There was a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of item #5.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2024 - City Clerk**

There was a motion to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from September 3, 2024.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)**

**There were two (2) Public Comment Speakers.**

**Ms. Folami** thanked Councilmember Gutierrez, Tenisha, and Monica for collaborating on the volleyball banquet and noted a great turnout. She congratulated Ms. Hood for completing her courses and being recognized as a Georgia Certified Clerk. 1240 She said she heard they would be applying for some grants and encouraged them to apply for the most they could. She stated that Councilmember Akins-Wells did a great job with Forest Park Day, and it was a huge turnout. Ms. Folami noted that the Canton Jones event was rained out, but the community would like them to bring it back. She gave a shout to PD and Code Enforcement for a job well done.

**Elder Cook-** noted he is representing the Forest Park Minister Association and the Rock Church of Atlanta. He noted at their last meeting, they did get their business in order and had an insurance policy in place. He stated they will continue with the Day of Prayer this Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. He invited them all to come out and participate. He noted the Rock Church of Atlanta is celebrating 22 years of ministry. He noted they received a big boost in partnerships and averaged about 60,000 lbs. of food. He said they are looking for partners to come out and participate. This is held every Friday, and the 27th is the date of the church anniversary.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**City Manager Clark** acknowledged that Ms. Hood is not the City Clerk but has officially graduated from the University of Carl Vinson Institute of Government with her Georgia Certified Clerks Certificate. He noted the City Clerk is attending a Records Management Course to receive a certification. He commends the deputy city clerk for her recent

graduation and the public safety divisions for their awards. The Forest Park Police Department's impact unit is recognized for its outstanding public safety program. He noted the city's focus is on operational efficiency, including the Georgia Municipal Association pension plan and the operations and performance audit. The city manager's report includes updates on neighborhood sustainability, fighting homelessness, small business incubator projects, and community engagement efforts.

## PRESENTATIONS:

### 2. Financial Reporting of the FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial Report-Finance Department

#### Background/History:

The Finance Department is presenting FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial review of the City's financials. The purpose of the monthly financial review is to help us know how healthy the City's cash flow is and help evaluate department performance to see if the executive office needs to reallocate resources to achieve the financial goals for the City.

**Director Wiggins-** gave an overview of the August financial snapshots, ending 8/31/2024. He noted revenues were at 41,893,898, taken in was 1,234,442, and the YTD ending August 2024 is 1,937,812. He noted the expenses are 41,863,898, and the monthly spending is 4,731,349. He noted this is a slow month for the city, and its revenue does not pick up until October. He proceeded to give an overview of each department's spending, noting that spending is only around 11 percent.

#### Comments/Discussion Governing Body:

**Councilmember James** noted that the Development Authority uses its own bank and wanted to know if there is a record of the funds that can be reported.

**Director Wiggins** noted that they can report that separately because it is not part of the system.

**City Manager Clark** noted that since the audit cleanup, he thinks the accountants have been getting a copy of the bank statement every month.

**Director Wiggins** noted that this is correct.

## CEREMONIAL:

**Council Introduction for newly onboarded recruits at the Forest Park Fire & EMS Department -Introductions Only**

#### Background/History:

The Forest Park Fire & EMS Department has recently recruited four (4) new employees.

Barry Bellamy

Heaven Fagan

Janeya Davis

Tony Taylor

**Division Chief Keith King** will present the introductions. He introduced two of the four new employees: Barry Bellamy, a firefighter 2 EMTB certified employee still in training to obtain his advanced certification to be released to the line. The other firefighter recruit is Heaven Fagan, who is currently enrolled in the EMTB program, and in the next 4 to 6 months she will be certified and join the line as well. He also introduced Janeya Davis, who has years of experience as a paramedic, and Firefighter Tony Taylor, coming from Riverdale, with years of experience to pass along to the recruits,

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

#### **3. Public Hearing #3 and Approval for the Recommended Proposed Millage Rate-Finance Department**

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

The City of Forest Park has tentatively adopted a 2024 millage rate, which will require an increase in property tax by 1.57 percent due to property values increasing. Even though the City of Forest Park proposes to keep the millage rate at 16.74 mills, the increase in property values results in a property tax increase.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 16.74 mills, an increase of 1.57 percent. Without this tentative increase, the millage rate will be no more than 2.6 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000.00 is approximately \$10.40.

**Director Wiggins** noted finance is proposing a 16.74 millage rate.

**City Manager Clark** noted that they are proposing a flat millage rate, the same as last year. He noted that there is no recommended increase, and this is solely based on increasing property valuation.

It was motioned to close the regular meeting for the public hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

It was motioned to open the public hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

There was one (1) speaker in favor of the Proposed Millage Rate.

**Ms. Folami** noted that she favors this because of the fair market. She noted that many of the homes here were built in the 1940s and 1950s and said this is good for the city.

There were no speakers in opposition to the Proposed Millage Rate.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

It was motioned to close the public hearing

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

It was motioned to open the regular meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

It was motioned to approve the Proposed Millage Rate.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

#### **4. Council Approval on the Request for Blanket Purchase Orders-Procurement/Public Works Department**

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

#### **5. Council Approval on the purchase of firefighter uniforms from a cooperative agreement with Read's Uniforms, LLC-Fire and EMS Department**

**This item was moved under new business.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **5. Council Approval on the purchase of firefighter uniforms from a cooperative agreement with Read's Uniforms, LLC-Fire and EMS Department**

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**Councilmember James-** noted she was confused about the city of Sarasota that was referenced.

**Procurement Manager Talisa Clark-** noted they are the municipality that has this contract and give the permission to piggyback off of it.

**Councilmember James** asked if this was a normal process of how fire uniforms work.

**Talisha Clark** noted when there is not a contract that has been put in place, we have the means to find other contracts within the government municipalities that have a contract that the city has a need for. She noted they reach out to the vendor and municipality for authorization to use it.

**Councilmember James-** asked how it works for vendors and municipalities in Georgia.

**Talisha Clark** noted that Reed is a vendor in Georgia, and the city has already been purchasing its uniforms from them through the open market. She noted that the amount that they are spending should be on a contract.

**Councilmember Antione** asked how someone would learn about these types of grants.

**Talisha Clark** noted it is put out for a bid for solicitation. It is put on the website for vendors to submit a bid to provide those services.

Councilmember James asked for a point of Order to call for the vote.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

**6. Council Approval on a Budget Amendment for All Funds to Conclude Year-End-Finance Department**

It was motioned to approve a Budget Amendment for All Funds to Conclude Year-End.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

**7. Council Approval on the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant Pre-Application Request- Planning and Community Development Department**

It was motioned to approve the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant Pre-Application Request.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mear

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** noted that the Homecoming Parade is September 28th at 3 p.m. She noted that if any alumni would like to participate, they should contact her or Ms. Dixon to get in the parade lineup. She said her Ward meeting is this Thursday at 5 p.m., hosted by the Mayor, and refreshments will be served. Councilmember James noted that those who have not visited the new grocery store should because it is very nice and clean.

**Councilmember Antione** thanked everyone for coming out.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** thanked everyone for coming out and announced that he was excited and invited to the White House. He noted Food Truck Friday is the first Friday of the month, followed by clean up the next day. He noted that the Hispanic Heritage Festival is October 5th, the first Friday in November will be another Food Truck Friday, and the following day will be the Day of the Dead, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. He noted they had a great event this past week, and he thanked Ms. Dixon, Mr. Maxwell, and the Finance Department for putting things together so quickly. He stated he was thankful for the great staff here in the city. He noted for Fun Friday, he had never seen so many people at the park, and the beauty in this community is seeing all the diversity.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** welcomed the new fire recruit. She thanked the police department Impact Team for fellowshiping and being in the community. She congratulated Sanai Fagen, who went to East Asia to represent Team USA and won a gold medal and MVP. She noted the Community Garden workday is tomorrow from 9 to 1 pm. She said they would get Mr. Willie Finch Garden together and give him his flowers. She shouted at the Public Works Department for getting this set up. She noted she is big on being in the community, and an ex-employee said: If you don't make deposits into the community bank, stop trying to withdraw from it. She told the people to hold them accountable as elected officials because they work for the citizens.

**Councilmember Mears** recognized Mr. Finch as the oldest member to attend the meetings. He noted they should be thankful for their performance in the city, and you cannot give fire, PD, Code Enforcement, and public works enough praise.

Mayor Butler thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the new staff. She noted that Chief Clemmons and her Leadership Clayton group are having their "We Are One Clayton" festival on September 21st from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the International Park. There will be an "Up Early on Maine" event on September 21st at 8:00 a.m. with yoga and breakfast. Mayor Butler stated there will be a 5K and Homecoming Parade on the 28th, the State of the City Address will be October 10th, so please RSVP, and Blues on Maine will be on October 11th.

**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 7:54 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.