



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, October 02, 2023 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 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 ACTION MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at **6:03** p.m. by Mayor Butler.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Minister Justin Cook.

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		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Wattley, Deputy Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Police Chief; Brandon Criss; Tarik Maxwell, Parks and Recreation, and Joshua Cox, IT Director, Michelle Hood, Deputy City Clerk, Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager, Clark – noted there are several new members in the Police Department and wanted to introduce and welcome them. He noted that the Police Department is wearing pink in honor of National Breast Awareness Month.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation – “Bruh, Let’s Talk About It.” – Leadership Clayton

Background/History:

Since 1972, Leadership Clayton has engaged emerging and existing leaders in a nine-month program that broadens their knowledge of community issues, sharpens their leadership skills, and challenges themselves and others to seek solutions to key issues affecting our communities. Leadership Clayton is designed for men and women interested in making Clayton County a better place to live, work, and play. Leadership Clayton has over 800 graduates through the program's 50-year history.

One of the most important and rewarding parts of Leadership Clayton is the completion of the class projects. These projects are typically community service-oriented and are a fundamental part of the Leadership Clayton program. Each project team is responsible for creating and implementing their program with the end goal being a sustainable project for the community at large.

The current Leadership Class has requested to present a short presentation to Mayor & Council on their group project which is a Podcast called, “Bruh, Let’s Talk About It.” Their podcast is geared around men’s health, wealth, mental illness, and more.

Stacy Tolbert – noted that Bruh, Let’s Talk About It is a podcast that specifically targets men's health. The goal is to inform, inspire, and impact men’s health inside Clayton County. She noted that they are looking to invest in men's health.

Deidre Wheeler – noted they are looking to raise awareness and stimulate dialogue around topics that impact men’s well-being, the family unit, and the community. She noted the targeted audience is 18 years of age, and the demographic for men in Clayton County, was around 48 percent. She noted they were able to reach 5,478 people on Facebook and 103 people on Instagram, the first month that the podcast launched.

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember James- thanked them for what they are doing. She noted that it takes a lot for men to go to the doctor and that this is important.

Councilmember Antione – thinks this is a game-changer, and totally supports it. He noted he would be contacting them, and they could contact him if they needed anything.

Councilmember Gutierrez – states that he is a huge fan. He appreciates the genuine effort to bring awareness to men. He thanked them and asked them to contact him if anything was needed.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- thanked them and wanted to get some information to post and get the word out. She wanted them to know if there was anything she could do to reach out to her.

Councilmember Mears – thanked them for being there and thought it was a wonderful presentation. He stated you have to stay after men because they do not look after themselves.

Mayor Butler- echoed the sentiments of her colleagues and thanked them.

2. Proclamation – National Hispanic Heritage Month – Executive Offices

Background/History:

Each year from September 15 – October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized. This year the focus is on the themes of prosperity, power, and progress, recognizing the significant strides of Hispanics in the economic, political, and social growth of the U.S. under the theme “Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America.”

Our population growth, increasing political representation, and economic success pave the way for the rise and recognition of Hispanics as undeniable positive contributors to the country - Hispanic Stars. Despite obstacles, Hispanics persist and thrive, achieving remarkable success in areas that were once considered off-limits. From CEOs of Fortune 500 companies to Pulitzer, Nobel Peace Prize winners and City of Forest Park employees, Hispanics are driving America's economic prosperity and continuously driving innovation and economic growth.

Mayor Butler, read the proclamation to be presented, recognizing October as National Hispanic Heritage Month, and she and the council took pictures.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There was public one (1) Public Comment Speakers:

Michelle Copeland – wanted to know since the Recycling Center has been closed, what are the plans for the residents. She knows the Clean Sweep is coming up and would like to know what information has been given to the residents as to where they can take their trash and debris. She noted the mayor spoke about a home improvement grant and would like an update on that. Ms. Copeland wanted to know if the beautification program was for all of the Forest Park commercial and residents. She wanted to know if the residents would be considered to buy the surplus items also.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Council Agenda for October 2, 2023, as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Antione

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2023 - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from September 18, 2023.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Council Approval of Interdev Support Agreement -IT Department

It was motioned to approve the Interdev Support Agreement.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

5. Council Approval of Electronic Equipment Buy Back Policy – IT Department

It was motioned to approve the Electronic Equipment Buy Back Policy.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – wanted to know in reference to the comment made, if it is feasible.

City Manager, Clark – would like employees to have the first choice and after that, it could be Gov Deals. Nothing precludes them from having a yard sale and getting rid of the items. At that time, the residents would be able to bid on it. He does not think there would be a legal issue with it if the property is declared surplus.

City Attorney, Williams – Yes. He noted if the items are surplus, and it is estimated under \$500.00 there should be no issues.

Councilmember Gutierrez – is that per item?

City Manager – states if it is more than \$500.00, they would have to seal the bid.

City Attorney- noted the process established by the state code.

Councilmember Wells – wants to amend it to include the residents as well.

Mayor Butler – noted the first motion made by Councilmember James would have to be withdrawn. The feedback was to let the employees have the first right.

City Manager, Clark – noted that was correct. He asked Mike, if this were a policy adoption, it would not apply to the residents, correct? Director Cox would have to bring that list of items to be surplus back before the governing body and nothing precludes us from allowing the residents to bid on items \$500.00 and under.

City Attorney – noted he thinks that will be fine.

City Manager – noted that the policy is for employees and does not need to be amended. He noted they bring back the list, at the next meeting.

Josh Cox – noted they are working on it. He noted they will bring it to the next meeting with the values and their recommendation.

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

6. Council Approval of the GA Main Street Program – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the GA Main Street Program.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

7. Council Approval of Rapid Rental Assistance – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve Rapid Rental Assistance.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

8. Council Approval of City of Forest Park Accident Review Committee – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the City of Forest Park Accident Review Committee

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

9. Council Approval of Short-Term Rental Compliance Services – Planning & Community Dev. & Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the Short-Term Rental Compliance Services.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

10. Council Approval of Building Permit Inspection Fee Text Amendment – Planning & Community Development

It was motioned to approve the Building Permit Inspection Fee Text Amendment.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

11. Council Approval of a Resolution Rescinding the Condemnation Proceedings Against 314 Forest Parkway – Legal

It was motioned to approve the Resolution Rescinding the Condemnation Proceedings Against 314 Forest Parkway.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

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

12. Council Approval of Beautification Plan 2023-2028 – Code Enforcement Department

It was motioned to approve the Beautification Plan 2023-2028.

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

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

13. Council Approval to Amend the Police Department's Budget to Add a New Position of Communications Operator (Manager) and Remove the Position of Police Analyst - Human Resources

It was motioned to approve amending the Police Department's Budget to add a New Position of Communications Operator (Manager).

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Comments/Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – wanted to know if anyone was already in the position.

City Manager, Clark – noted the position was vacant.

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

14. Council Approval to Transfer the Staff Assistant Position in Planning & Community Development to the Code Enforcement Department - Human Resources

Background/History:

The Code Enforcement Department was established during the FY23-24 Budget. Since conception, the Staff Assistant in Planning & Community Development has served in the role performing administrative duties and functions within the Code Enforcement Department.

It was motioned to approve the Council Approval to Transfer the Staff Assistant Position in Planning and community Development to the Code Enforcement Department.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James- thanked everyone for coming out and gave a shoutout to the Forest Park Recreation Department, and the wonderful job they are doing. Mrs. James stated they had an amazing 5k race. She let Mr. Walker address the question about the Beautification Plan and hoped Code Enforcement would get on that.

Derry Walker – stated it is targeted at residents and commercial.

Councilmember James –agreed with the recycling comments and stated they are still having staffing issues. She welcomed all the new employees. She noted that the 3rd Thursday of the month is her Ward meeting, and it will be at 696 Main Street at 5 p.m.

Councilmember Antione – welcomed the new employees to the All-Star team and those that are visiting.

Councilmember Gutierrez – thanked everyone and the nonprofits that are doing work in the city. He thanked the city manager and the governing body for seeing the importance of recognizing the employees and businesses. He welcomed the new employees. Councilmember Gutierrez gave a shout to one of the residents during the public comments for mentioning residents getting access to the surplus items, which he says will happen. He mentioned the Senior Center will have a soup and cornbread luncheon, on October 20th from 11-2 p.m., and the cost is \$5.00. Hispanic Heritage Month continues this Thursday with the Unidos Dual Language School, Fall Festival at the park. Food Truck Friday is this Friday and there will be live performances at Bill Lee Park. Saturday Hispanic Heritage Month will be celebrated at the park, by the governing body. He noted that the clean-up for the week has been canceled, and he will announce the new date soon.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – thanked everyone for coming out and welcomed the new employees. She stated she will be supporting the Seniors to raise money. She went down to the Senior Center, and they were having a Gospel singing that she thought was amazing. Councilmember Wells acknowledged Mrs. Myia, for the work she does at the center. She is glad they are having the Clean Sweep. She noted she agreed with the residents. Councilmember Wells would like to know whose idea it was to get rid of the Transfer Station. She noted it is not fair to have a dump station in the community, but not have a transfer station for people to take their things to. She asked the City Manager to bring people to the table and bring this back up, to get the Transfer Station back open. She noted for the last 11 years she has been able to have turkeys donated to the less fortunate. This year she would like to donate turkeys and ham. The last Fun Friday of the year is October 20. Wellness with Wells is back starting November 14th, every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. She thanked everyone for coming out and wished the people a Happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

Councilmember Mears – thanked everyone for coming out. He noted this is where the people come to get their business taken care of. He recognized Mr. Finch for being the oldest resident to attend the meeting.

Mayor Butler – welcomed all the new employees to Forest Park. She noted that this was Hispanic Heritage Month and thinks everyday people should celebrate one another. She noted that they decided to bring the Home Improvement Grant in-house, and the person administering it will begin at the end of the month. Mayor Butler noted the program will roll out within the next couple of months.

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 8:02 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Session at 8:51 p.m.

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

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

It was motioned to amend the agenda to consider the Moratorium.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was motioned to Adopt the Moratorium.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the October 2, 2023, Council Work Session at 8:52 p.m.

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

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