



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, July 18, 2022, at 7:00 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**

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:03pm and she read the Mission Statement.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge of allegiance was led by Pastor Ricky Schoonmaker.

**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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Diane Lewis, HR Deputy Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, James Shelby, Planning Community & Development Director, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, Michael Brunson, Deputy

Police Chief and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. Proclamation for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America – Legislative Office**

Mayor and Council presented a proclamation to the Forest Park High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

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

There were no public comments.

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

It was moved to adopt the agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**2. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2022, and July 5, 2022 - City Clerk**

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2022, and July 5, 2022, with the noted corrections.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**3. Council Approval to Authorize to Award a Contract to BRTU Construction, Inc. for the Construction of a Complete Streetscape and Roadway on Mainstreet in Forest Park, GA- Department of Planning & Community Development**

It was moved to approve the Resolution to Authorize Awarding a Contract to BRTU Construction for the Construction of a Complete Streetscape and Roadway on Mainstreet

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

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

**4. Council Approval of Purchasing FLOCK LPR (license plate reader) - Police Department**

It was moved to approve the purchasing of the FLOCK License Plate Reader

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

## 5. Council Approval to Adopt Technical Fee Ordinance - Legal and Finance

### CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

**Councilmember James** – I wanted to find this to make an acknowledgment. I want to give accolade to our police chief. Forest Park Police Chief receives executive training in Israel. Chief Nathaniel Clark, of Forest Park Police Department has returned from Israel after intensive 2 weeks of Public Safety Leadership Training with the country's top police executive. Chief Clark was part of a 16-member delegation. The delegation partner with Israel police for the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, 29<sup>th</sup> annual peer to peer executive training program.

The GILEE, which is the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, is a research center with Georgia State University, Andrew Young School of Political Studies. It enhances public safety by nurturing partnership within public law enforcement agencies and the private sector. Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year the GILEE, focus on the protection of civil and human rights, and its development of executive leadership exemplifies the core mission of the school. That is huge and want to give a big congratulation to Chief Clark, and his actions. That is huge for our city to have our chief selected to go to Israel.

I want to remind everyone that this coming Thursday, is the monthly neighborhood ward meeting at 696 Main Street, and it will also be online virtually so you can get the information online. It would be at 5:00 o'clock and will focus on do you know. I want the residents to understand part of the education process of how to do certain things. Do you know when to put your trash out, do you know when to put recycling out and what is supposed to be in there. Do you know when to put debris out, when to put big ticket items out on the sidewalk. Do you know what services are available in the recs department? So those are things I want to focus on and educating our residence and it should be very informative.

Directors you all do not know this yet, but I will send the information out tonight. That is what the focus is going to be on Thursday. Congratulations to the FCCLA, always you all are the best. I do not know if you all remember they did a presentation once on the parliamentary procedures here in the council, they taught us a whole lot on how we should run business here in the city.

I want to also acknowledge one of the residents in Ward 1 and I thank you Dr. Folami, for bringing it to my attention. Amelia Wallace, from our ward passed away and I was able to reach out to her daughters and speak with them. Again, I did not know about the officer that had the accident, and I do think we need to reach out to those that work for our city, because we do love our employees. You all are the best and you make us look good and we appreciate you all. Thank you.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Thank you all for coming and continue to come God Bless.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you for coming out. Shout out to the FCCLA team, I am proud of you and how you represent us nationally. These students put in a lot of hard work, and I am glad you get to be recognized by your own city. We had an event with JenCare a community fair, we had NAACP come down from Atlanta and shared some of their resources with us. Thank you JenCare, for being a partner with our senior committee here and for providing

all those resources to our community. If you know any elderly needing care, JenCare is a great resource here in the City of Forest Park, right on main street.

Our next Food Truck Friday will be at Lee Park, and back to school is our theme. We will be showing the movie Sonic and we are going to be giving away school supplies for students. So, make sure you come to that. We have a new hotdog eating champion, Mr. Nael ate four hotdogs in 3 minutes and the fire department and police department has yet to win any of these eating competitions. That just speaks on the health and the well-being of our police force and our fire department.

My condolences to Mrs. Caroline, she was one of the members that use to come out to our bingo night and is not with us anymore. She passed May 29<sup>th</sup>, my condolences to the family. Thanks to everyone that came out and if anyone needs anything you know where to reach me. Lastly, we do have a scholarship from partnering up with Mr. Rashmir, it is in honor of his father, who has always supported our community. It is two scholarships one for 1,000 and the other is for 1500.00 dollars. We have extended it to July 20<sup>th</sup>, the requirement is that you are a Forest Park High School student, and you attend an institution, it can be a technical school or college. It is cash money to help with what you need. Thank you, Mr. White, for that partnership with us. If you have questions about that it is on my page, if you need it, I can send a direct link for it. Hopefully, other businesses will follow this and give some money to our kids, because they are our future.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Thanks to everyone for coming out, I too want to thank Mr. Jonathan Rashmir, for a long time me and his dad was friends, and ever since I have been in office, he has contributed to anything I have done in the City of Forest Park. Jonathan keeps it going and I appreciate you so much. We have successful Fun Friday, because you all come out and sponsor and do your thing and give funds when they are needed, and I appreciate it.

I wanted to speak on that, because Fun Friday was a huge success, and it was so much fun. The residence had a good time, and the band was amazing. On August 19<sup>th</sup> we will have our next Fun Friday, and August the 20<sup>th</sup> will be Forest Park Day. Forest Park day is when residents old and new comes to the City of Forest Park and set-up tents, we have entertainment for the kids and adults, and we have a good time. The community comes together, and it is something that they look forward to doing. If you have never been to a Fun Friday or Forest Park Day, come out August the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> so you can see what the community enjoys.

Also, on July 31<sup>st</sup>, I will have free haircuts for the boys going back to school, we will have bouncy houses out and we will have a D-jay out there. We will have local barbers to help take the strain off some of the parents, by giving back to the community. They will be cutting hair on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 2-5pm. A lot of people see good things going on in the city and want to give back, and I am excited about that. I want to thank Councilmember Gutierrez, for everything you do. Your events and giving back to the community mean a whole lot. So, mark your calendars for those days and we are going to have a good time like we always do. Thank you all for coming out and have a blessed night.

**Councilmember Mears** -Yes, I would like to say a little about our public safety. Anytime, we can buy our public safety stuff that will make the city safer, I am for it. You should not have to ask, but it is the formality and that is what we do. We are moving forward with the ability to keep our residents safe; we are in competition with a lot of communities around here that have a lot of money to throw around. I am a strong believer in supporting our public safety people. So, if any of you have any questions or any doubts, I want you to contact me. I want to say something about the city hall, if you are not doing anything you are not going to make mistakes. So just bear with us we have a long background of mistakes and things that have gone wrong that must be corrected.

We are putting the correct people in the right places to do these things. Until you know the whole story it is hard to see the big picture. So, the best thing is to continue to come to these meetings and stay informed about what is going on, but you need to remember that we are all up here working for you and the betterment of Forest Park. That included

all the members at city hall, all the members up here and Mr. Cooper. So, if you ever have any doubts here is the place to come where everybody can see it and hear and remember loose lips sink ships. So, if you hear it, it is a lie. Thank you.

**Mayor Butler** – I received this message a moment ago and it is the perfect footnote to end tonight’s meeting. Kindness is loaning someone your strength, instead of reminding them of their weakness. I want to thank everyone for what they do for our city and thanks to everyone that came out tonight.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the July 18, 2022, Council Regular Meeting at 7:25pm

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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