



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, March 18, 2024 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
Randi Rainey, City Clerk
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Mr. Evans.

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; John Wiggins; Finance Director; Nina Robinson; Senior Staff Accountant; LaShawn Gardiner, Director of Planning & Community Development; Kwame Marshall, Multi-Media Specialist; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Rochell Dennis, Project Manager, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Administrator, Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; Pauline Warrior; Senior Management Analyst, Chief Criss, PD; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS: There was no objection to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 4, 2024 - City Clerk**

It was moved to approve the minutes with the correct spelling of Yasmin Julio.

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

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

Mayor Butler asked if something needed to be adopted to ensure that when people are speaking in the Public Comment section, they are not being derogatory toward other members participating in Public Comments.

Attorney Matricardi noted there is already a policy so they can just amend it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were three (3) Public Comment Speakers:

Carl Evans - noted he had another missed pickup, which happens 5 to 6 times a year. He noted he knows it is a breach of their contract and it is stealing from them because they are paying for services that are not being rendered. He noted Allen Owens came to his house to address the issue. He wants something to be done, some kind of reimbursement for the missed pickups.

Mr. Chris – noted he lives on South Avenue, and he witnessed a stolen car being ditched in an apartment complex. He called Forest Park PD, and they came out. He noted there are no streetlights or cameras and he would like some installed.

John Randle – noted he knows there have been complaints about him popping fireworks on his property, which Forest Park responded to. He noted it was not a crime nor was it past the city curfew. He noted his neighbor discards his AK-47 almost every night and you have drug dealers going down on City View and Forest Park does nothing about it. He noted he knows they are trying to make a new law regarding fireworks, but he will fight it and win. He said the state overrides the city and that is what he will go by. He noted he does not like the law, because they are taking away a hobby, an activity, and someone's freedom. Mr. Randle noted when he puts in a complaint nothing is done about it. He does not hear back from anyone, and he does not get notified, but when it is a complaint against him you all of a sudden want to do your job.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Ricky Clark – showcased a video highlighting the first annual St. Patrick's Day event, created by Kwame Amuleru-Marshall. He noted Rochelle Dennis from Economic Development helped put the whole event together. Mr. Clark wanted to highlight some employees for their years of dedication. Diane Lewis Deputy HR Director has been with the city for a total of 26 years, and Neeketa Davis from finance is celebrating 19 years. He gave an update on the Legislative Office and the different city departments. He showed a slide with the new businesses and licenses issued within the different Wards. He spoke about the results of the employee survey highlighting the employees' interest in Mental Health, assistance, and a hybrid work schedule, which will be brought back in April when the Mayor introduces part 2 of The Leaf Light Initiative. He gave an overview of the City Center, the Lighting of

the Signs, and the Business Incubator. He noted the Landscape Median Project task orders have been completed, and they are waiting to begin that work.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Proclamation presented to Christian's Pharmacy on behalf of Councilmember Gutierrez

Background/History:

Councilmember Gutierrez would like to present Christian's Pharmacy with a proclamation.

The Mayor and Council took pictures.

3. Financial Reporting of the FY2023-2024 Monthly Financial Report- Finance Department

Background/History:

The Finance Department is presenting FY2023-2024 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.

John Wiggins, Finance Director- reported on the finances for February. He spoke on the total revenue received, the expenses, and the balance. Mr. Wiggins gave an overview of the total spent by each department in February and informed everyone of the different funds used by the city.

4. Operations and Fire Marshall Highlights Presentation -Forest Park Fire & EMS Department

The Forest Park Fire & EMS Department will present the new roles and responsibilities of the two Deputy Fire Chiefs. Each Deputy will introduce their roles and responsibilities and present highlights in the Fire Marshall's Office and Operations Division.

Fire Marshall's Division (Deputy Chief David Halcome) -highlighted the statics for the Fire Marshall office. He noted they work behind the scenes daily to keep the residents safe. He introduced himself as Deputy Fire Chief of Sports Services, and the Fire Marshall. The Fire Marshall Office is made up of 4 other people: Captain Sam Batten, Jim Oglesby, Fire Investigator, Public Educator and Inspector, Anthony Gallman Fire Safety Educator, Inspector, and Investigator, and Loana Armstrong City EMA Coordinator, Fire Investigator, Inspector and Educator. He noted they do annual inspections, reinspection, certificates of Occupancy Business License, vacant structures, construction drawing approvals, and inspector-initiated inspections.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James- asked if the vacant structures city owned property.

Deputy Chief Halcomb noted it was any business occupancy. He noted while on patrol they go from business to business doing inspections, or follow-ups. He noted if they see a vacant building, they make sure it is safe and secure, and they document it.

Councilmember James- asked if it was just for commercial buildings.

Deputy Chief Halcomb noted it is.

Operations (Deputy Chief Geoff May) noted he has worked different positions and has been promoted to oversee and manage all 3 shifts. He noted they work a 24/48 schedule, they come in at 7 am leave at 7 and another shift takes over. He noted that operational-wise, they received a total of 592 calls for EMS assistance, fire calls, and others for February. He gave an over of the different training his crew has taken. He noted the students in the AEMT program have completed all their bookwork and will hopefully be completing the rest of the course by next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Council Approval on the Renewal of Professional Probation Services Contract-Municipal Court Department

It was moved to approve the Renewal of Professional Probation Services Contract.

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

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

6. Council Approval to Condemn Real Property Located at 765 Forest Pkwy- Executive Offices

It was moved to approve to Condemn Real Property Located at 765 Forest Pkwy.

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

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

7. Council Approval on the City's Investment Management Policy-Finance Department

It was moved to approve the City's Investment Management Policy as stated for the 25 percent recommended by staff.

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

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

8. Council Discussion and Approval of a Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Solution Implementation- IT Department

It was moved to approve a Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Solution Implementation.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

9. Council Discussion and Approval on the Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Policy – IT Department

It was moved to approve the Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Policy.

10. Council Discussion and Approval to purchase an Asphalt Tar Kettle machine- Public Works Department

It was moved to approve the purchase of an Asphalt Tar Kettle machine.

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

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

11. Council Discussion and Approval of the ONE Light Initiative - Streetlight Upgrade- Public Works Department

It was moved to approve Approval of the ONE Light Initiative - Streetlight Upgrade.

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

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

12. Council Discussion and Approval of Perkins Park Basketball Court Resurfacing Contract- Public Works Department

It was moved to approve Perkins Park Basketball Court Resurfacing Contract.

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

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

13. Council Discussion and Approval on the Plumbing Repairs for the Outdoor Pool – Recreation and Leisure Services

It was moved to approve the Plumbing Repairs for the Outdoor Pool.

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

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James- thanked the Deputy Fire Chief and Chief for their service. She noted there may not be a Ward meeting on Thursday, because she will be out of town. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Antione – thanked everyone for coming.

Councilmember Gutierrez- thanked everyone for coming out. He thanked Mr. Evan for his comments and noted he was glad Mr. Owens took the time to stop by and see him. He noted he thinks it is a good idea to put the cameras on the lights. He noted Food Truck will be this Friday. Councilmember Gutierrez told Mrs. Gardiner he wished her the best in everything she does and appreciated her professionalism and everything she had done for the city. He thanked Mr. Geeter for all his explanations, and the City Manager for his thorough details of things. He noted if anyone needs anything to reach out.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- extended her condolences to the Mayor on the passing of her father. She thanked Mrs. Gardiner for all she had given to the city. She told her to do what makes her happy and wished her nothing but the best. She thanked Mr. Geeter for his transparency and for doing the process properly. Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she likes to be transparent, and in his report, he noted that someone mailed 102 letters to Haiti to get donations to ship a Water Buffalo that the city donated to Haiti. She asked why they were using city funds and city employees to do this. She wants to know how much it costs and does not agree with it being done with city funds.

City Manager Clark noted the governing body approved the surplus of a Water Buffalo and a Squad, which is still sitting on the city property. Haiti is a City Sister that the governing body was supporting. He noted Ward 2 Councilmember Antione has a listing of several individual companies and donors, and based on his directive the Council Aides drafted a letter requesting support. He noted he informed Councilmember Antione the city could not help with shipping those items.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted when the city donates things how long will they hold it?

City Manager Clark- noted the city could say at X time if the funds are not remitted that they can do something different with those goods that have been surplus.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted she did not want the tree planting at 2nd Street Park to be in vain. She thanked Director Walker and his staff for all they are doing in the city. She would like the community to come together to see whom they would like the tree to be in remembrance of. She noted she wants Ward 4 to come together and do a dedication for that individual. She noted if anyone knows someone who has done a lot for the community or is from the community and they would like that person remembered, to contact her. She noted the Job Fair will be at 696 Main Street, March 27th from 10-2 pm.

Councilmember Mears- wanted to thank everyone for coming. He wanted to thank the directors and fire department that they give monthly. He wanted to thank Mr. Willie for coming to every meeting.

Mayor Butler – noted she echoed the sentiments of her colleagues. She wanted to thank everyone for reaching out to her during her father's passing. She noted her father is her hero and her best friend and she is hurt by his passing. Mayor Butler noted they are looking for a representative to serve on the Clayton County Board of Health. She noted if anyone is interested that an application, resume, and/or bio has to be submitted. Mayor Butler noted she and the council would like to make that selection by April 1st.

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 8:28 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to exit the Executive Session.

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 reconvene into the Council Regular Session at 9:01 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was motioned to approve the settlement offer for Cole.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:01 p.m.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for Council meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 404-366-4720.