



**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED**

Friday, June 25, 2021 at 5:00 PM
Council Chambers

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

FOREST PARK CITY HALL
745 Forest Parkway
Forest Park, GA 30297

MINUTES

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James The Honorable Dabouze Antoine
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells
The Honorable Allan Mears

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager
S. Diane White, Interim City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler to call the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Mayor Butler stated for the record that Councilmember Adkins Wells left the meeting at 5:02pm.

Councilmember James – Asked the City Attorney, we have had meetings in the past when we all were on conference call. so why is there a problem today?

City Attorney – During COVID state of emergency that the Governor declared as well was done locally, we were given guidance that allow us to be more flexible with the Open Meetings Act Rules and during that entire time, you could have had totally virtual meetings or having call-ins. Since the lifting of the emergency, locally, the decision was made to go back to regular order when it comes Open Meetings Act requirements, which means you can have a councilmember call in, but you will have to have a physical quorum in the room.

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was not established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Councilmember, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Councilmember, Ward 2 – Mayor Pro-Tem Via telephone		✓

Hector Gutierrez	Councilmember Ward 3 Arrived at 5:02pm		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Councilmember Ward 4 Left meeting at 5:02pm		✓
Allan Mears	Councilmember Ward 5	✓	

DIRECTOR'S PRESENT: Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; James Shelby, Director of Planning, Building & Zoning, Bruce Abraham, Director of Economic Development; Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works; Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, and Latosha Clemons, Deputy Fire Chief.

Due to a lack of quorum the meeting was closed at 5:04pm.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called back to order by Mayor Butler at 5:36pm.

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was established

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Councilmember, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Councilmember, Ward 2 – Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Councilmember Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Councilmember Ward 4	✓	
Allan Mears	Councilmember Ward 5 Via telephone		✓

DIRECTOR'S PRESENT: Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; James Shelby, Director of Planning, Building & Zoning, Bruce Abraham, Director of Economic Development; Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works; Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, and Latosha Clemons, Deputy Fire Chief

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

Felicia Davis - on behalf of other residents that might not have had a chance to go over it, I want to commend the departments because you can tell in the budget that there was some give and take to arrive there. And so, I just wanted to step forward since I put the brakes on, in the last meeting to say job well done. The city manager and the department heads and all that had a part in making it all balance out. So, it looks good to me.

Lawanda Folami – I am here for the budget discussion and to rebuttal and agree. My problem is today there is no zoom link or anything for those constituents who could hear this and agree or rebuttal against it. You are doing the job that you must do. The moral to my story is it is about us being in unity, respecting those who are taxpayers as citizen, depending on you all to carry us through a journey because we elected you. We trust you even. They are apologetic for this Friday, and the meeting started late, but nevertheless, I want you to really look at what we are

doing. Meaning what about the citizen, the taxpayers, who paid each and every one of you. I know what Forest Park stand for, regardless of the past the yesterday, but most of all, today there is a followship. If you pass this budget without the taxpayers, you really deceiving and faulting yourself. The city looks upside down to us because when we traveled through our city, we do not see any new faces, no unity, the legislation that you do. People come in here and as councilmembers speak combatively and rebuttal against citizens, who are taxpayers. It is said do not talk to that person. A taxpayer has the right to comment to say whatever he or she feels.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Council Discussion and Adoption of FY22 Budget Ordinance 2021-09 - Interim Finance Director Darquita and City Manager Dr. Cooper.

There were comments made by the governing body:

Councilwomen James - I agree 100% with the budget. The only thing that I would ask is to change the "Wellness with Wells", no event should be named after a councilmember and because it is a fitness, I would ask that it be changed to 'Forest Park Fitness.'

Councilmember Gutierrez - I wanted to add three things; make an adjustment to the Day of the Dead event to \$8,000; add the event for the Asian community in May for \$8,000, Senior Committee and Teen Committee both at \$2,500. I want to work with the city manager to come up with maybe some bylaws or rules of what I imagined this to be, have a senior committee where they can meet every two months or whatever we come up with as a council where we would each appoint someone in. My intent with this is to bridge the gap between them and us and for them at the end of the year or sometime during the year where they can have an event. I would like to go over any new positions that we are talking about implementing just so the public can know.

City Manager - There are several new positions being proposed. In the executive office we are asking for two positions, one would be a deputy city manager and the other a public information officer. The only position at this time that I am looking to fill immediately would be the public information officer position. The deputy city manager position would be basically funded because that is a position that was approved by the council, and that position basically would be on hold until needed. We do have several other positions within certain areas of the city. I know that planning and zoning is looking for a project manager to manage all the major projects that coming up with the new bond referendum. We have an accountant that is needed for finance to help with general ledger entries. We would have a reclassification for a name of a position would be to deputy director of human resources. I will let Chief Clark give a brief update on the positions he will need.

Councilmember Gutierrez - What are their salaries for the proposed deputy city manager and the public information officer?

Dr. Cooper - Well, both positions are budgeted at the mid-point, does not mean that they are going to start at the mid-point, that is what we budgeted for budgeting purposes. So, salaries have not been set yet, and we have not done all the research, and this is based on the research that we have currently in our budget, based on the compensation study that was done the City of Forest Park.

Chief Clark - The police department is asking for two new positions. One will be an office coordinator / accreditation manager. This position would maintain state and CALEA accreditations and assist with other

administrative task. And we also asked for a management analyst, this position will be responsible for research, application, and the monitoring of grants for the department of public safety.

Councilmember Gutierrez - Will these be on website to view?

Chief Clark - Yes, sir.

Councilmember Gutierrez – what was the process before having a person?

Chief Clark - Prior to the request of this position, we were using sworn personnel. I want to take those sworn personnel and put them back in the field operations or other administrative tasks in which they are trained to do, bring in civilian personnel and allow the civilian personnel to look at being a CALEA manager and the office coordinator.

Mayor Butler - Chief correct me if I am wrong, but, CALEA is not something that we want to wait until the last minute to do there is data that should be gathered and collected and kept up with all throughout the course of a significant period, correct?

Chief Clark – That is true, when I took over, as I have said in the past, we found ourselves way behind because we have sworn personnel that was doing during this job, who left. We found ourselves in a seven-month time span and working around the clock, which normally will take three years. So, this is an on-going process, if we want to maintain our CALEA accreditation for state and for national. We must ensure that we have all supporting documents, download them, and know this is about a year out in advance when they come and start doing mock assessments. So, we must be on top of this.

Mayor Butler - when I look at our business license the pouring fees for hard liquors, they seem relatively low. So, I do not know, they are accurate. This is a question for you and Ms. Williams, how are we collecting or keeping track of those fees and is there a way to improve that process? Because it does seem like these are exceptionally low.

Ms. Williams - We have, if you look, we have the business, I forgot exactly how it is labeled, what it is the business license, what we get for the license. And the pouring is something that we have been discussing because those are fees that we get from businesses who have pouring license. So, we do have initiatives set up so that we can see which businesses, if they are businesses that are pouring, that are not paying that we do not have our radar on our radar. So, we do have an initiative going so that we can find those businesses and make sure that we are collecting all our revenues.

Councilmember Gutierrez - I had a training yesterday, a DDA training and the state, they talked to us, Mike, and I do not know, you might be unfamiliar with these, about all these new legislations that passed recently. And now basically they told us that their state laws now, unless we add ordinances to limit them, and some businesses can sell the drink in a cup, too. So do any of these, were any of these new laws, I guess maybe we can get on or tax.

City Attorney - That will be something we will have to look at on the staff level. We have talked about some of the changes you would like to make for downtown central LCI district, to make certain types of potential businesses, more interested in, in locating here, as it pertains to particularly alcohol and the sort. And so, we will be bringing some proposals back to the council in the coming months.

Mayor Butler - And my other question was there was a statement at the last meeting about meetings and convention line items, that people may not have attended any meetings and conventions, but their line items seem to have been depleted some. So, Dr. Cooper, can you please speak to why that would have been?

City Manager – There were amendments made, so it did not originally start off at, I think it was \$6,000, but we did recently do an amendment to that line. So, when you do an amendment that makes an adjustment on what the current ledger is.

Ms. Williams - And we do those amendments based on the fact that there may be other line items within the budget that needed that money. So those are the things that we bring back to council as for to reappropriate funds from one line item into another.

Mayor Butler - Thank you. My last is just a statement on the department of planning, building, and zoning in the first line item, the account number is not complete. The last four digits were left off for personnel services and EE benefits.

Motioned to approve the FY22 Budget Ordinance with changes.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

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

Motion to recess into Executive Session at 5:54pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Motion to reconvene from Executive Session back into Special Called Meeting at 5:57pm

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Motion to appoint S. Diane White as the City Clerk.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was motioned to adjourn the June 25, 2021 Special Called Meeting at 5:58pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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