



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, April 03, 2023 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
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

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 7:35pm and she read the Mission Statement.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The Invocation and Pledge was led by Minister Clinkscales.

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	✓	

Joshua Cox, IT Director; Pam Stevenson, Management Analyst; Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director; Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, Director of Human Resources; Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development;

Tarik Maxwell, Director Rec. & Leisure; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; Nigel Whatley, Deputy Director PW; and Sandra Johnson, Deputy Police Chief

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation presented to William Ross - Legislative

Mayor Butler read the proclamation to be presented to Mr. William Ross and she and the council congratulated him and took photos.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were two (2) Public Comment Speakers:

Tiffany McDay – Work with the Post Office and wanted to know if they would partner with the postal police, because they are being robbed at gunpoint. One carrier was robbed in Morrow, GA and the other was here in Forest Park, off Old Dixie. She wants the mail carriers to be safe and would like to know how they can bridge that gap between the postal and city police. On Morrow Road, speed bumps are needed, because people are speeding like they are on 285. There are school buses down there they must stop for, and sometimes they do not stop.

Carl Evans – I do not know who is responsible for the placement of the speed bumps, but they are not put in the right place. The one on my street is at the wrong end and the officers have written multiple citations for people running stop signs and for speeding. People are doing double in the residential areas, and nothing is being done. Signs are placed behind things, and you can barely see them, and the bumps that are out there do not have any white markings on them. At night or when it is raining you can barely see it, and the city is going to be held liable if someone tears up their car or has an accident. I do not want to see the city in a lawsuit, because someone gets hurt or killed. We also have a code enforcement problem. You all passed an ordinance about so many people living in one household. They have been told about it but will not investigate it. Code enforcement say if they don't have a lease, they cannot prove that they are living there. There are some places that are having multiple crimes committed at the house, and nothing is being done about it. Trash is hanging out of trash cans and blowing down the street into people's yards, and this can bring rodents. You have people complain about the waste station, but this is no different. Also, I would love for the new police chief to bring back neighborhood watch and the citizens police academy.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Council agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2023 - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session/Regular Minutes from March 20, 2023.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

NEW BUSINESS:**3. Council Approval Resolution to Enter into an Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc for New/Updated Tasers - Police**

It was moved to approve the Resolution to Enter into an Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc for New Taser/Updated Tasers

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

4. Council Approval of the Conditional Use Permit to Remove and Install Equipment on Self-Support Tower at 66 Barnett Road - Planning & Com. Dev.

It was moved to approve Conditional Use Permit at 66 Barnett Road.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

5. Council Approval of a Conditional Use Permit for a Small Event Party Venue at 1067 Forest Parkway, Suite A – Planning & Community Dev.

It was moved to approve a Conditional Use Permit for Small Event Party Venue at 1067 Forest Parkway, Suite A

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

6. Council Approval of an Agreement between COFP and Clayton County Public Schools for a Summer Food Service Program – Recreation & Leisure Services

It was moved to approve an Agreement between COFP and Clayton County Public Schools for a Summer Food Service Program

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

7. Sister Cities International Discussion – Executive Offices

It was moved to table this item to discuss at the budget retreat.

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

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – Thanks to everyone for coming out. Congratulations to Mr. Ross for your dedicated services to the city. I would like to remind you of my ward meeting , every month on the 3rd Thursday, at 696 Main Street. I will have the gentlemen there, that are building the town homes on the back side of Main Street. He will have renderings of what the town homes will look like.

Councilmember Antoine – Big shoutout to Dr. Cooper, and his team for the extraordinary work they did last week, for the police chief candidates. Shoutout to Rock Church of Atlanta, every Friday in that corner, you will see a lot of people getting help. They are doing their thing. Thank you to everyone that came out. I pray that council will vote on the Senegal agenda item, because Forest Park is not just local.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Mr. Ross, thank you, it is inspiring to see you stay faithful to our city. Thanks to the public comment people, Mr. Evans, we are going to address these things. Speeding is a common problem we have in our city, and we must get better at it. To the postal worker that is scary and thank you for bringing it up. The safety of our postal workers is very important.

The clean-up was postponed because of the rain, but we will be there this Saturday. We have Food Truck Friday this week, so thank you Director Maxwell, for funding these events. There will be an Easter egg hunt, and it is fun just to see the children out there. Shout out to Captain Ghant, and the police department for showing up for the women's panel. It was very inspiring hearing from you and the other panelist.

We have the Spring Festival coming up in collaboration with Unidos Language School, on the 15th we are having a Selena Day, and everyone over 55 is invited to the Senior Prom. On the 29th we will have a Wellness Festival in collaboration with one of our school board members.

Councilmember Akins-Wells - Mr. Ross, I want to thank you and your family for dedicating 55 years to our departments. Tiffany, is it being done at the post office or out random? Dr. Cooper, I think this is something we can check into, communicating with the police department and the postal service, to see what we can do to help.

Tiffany McDay – Off Old Dixie on Sylvia Road, and on Morrow at some apartments.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – How many code enforcement officers do we have because I agree with Mr. Evans? The city is looking bad and since the recycling center is closing, it will continue to look bad, because the residents need that. Again, I would like to know how many code enforcement officers do we have and if we need more?

City Manager – We currently have 5 and I would say you do need more.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – I agree, I think we should double that and try and include it in our next budget. With speeding, we must have more officers to put more people in the neighborhoods. A while back we used to have officers sitting on certain streets, where people complained about speeding. So, we should have more patrolling in the residential areas.

With Sister City, I am all in favor, and think it is an amazing idea, but I have to make sure the people here are okay first. If we can discuss this at the next budget meeting and maybe bring some of our things back for the residents, then I will feel better supporting this. We are local officials and must take care of things here first.

Forest Park Day and Fun Friday were taken out of the budget, and other things the community enjoyed. We are getting together to host a Forest Park Reunion. It is for anyone that ever went to school here, regardless of when. We

want to bring the community together and not let money stop that. We want the departments to come out and get involved too.

Thank you, officers, and Chief Clemmons, someone made a comment about you. You are amazing and even people in the police department look up to and respect you. When they made the statement the fire department love Chief Clemmons, they are happy, and she is doing an amazing job. We want that type of leadership, and it speaks volume to the type of person you are, and they deserve that.

Mayor Butler – Thanked everyone for coming out. I had the opportunity to visit Fountain Elementary School, and they had their class reunion this past Saturday. I learned a lot about Fountain, and the oldest class member was from 1953. I made the statement while there, you never really understand what a community entails until you are in these seats.

They had the old trophies on display that were once thrown away. Someone went and got them out of the trash and pieced them back together. We have been winning championships since the 50's. It was wonderful to see the photos from the PTSA, what an integral role they played at Fountain High School.

The Ladies of Favor had a wax museum on Friday. Just to know how optimistic I feel every time I leave our school is really a great feeling. We have a lot of great students coming through the pipelines. I feel pleased at the generation coming up after us and I think we are going to be in amazing hands.

Councilmember James – I would like to thank the mayor for the State of the City on March 23rd. If you did not get an opportunity to see, it was a beautiful address. I want to congratulate you mayor for putting it together, it was a great presentation.

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 for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate at 8:10pm.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into Regular Session at 11:10pm

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was motioned to adjourn the Work Session at 11:10pm.

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

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