



**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Monday, August 16, 2021, at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.1555

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

DRAFT REGULAR COUNCIL 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, City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:00pm.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Bishop Fortson.

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		✓

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Bruce Abraham, Director Economic Development, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, Shalonda Brown, Director of HR, Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police and Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were two (2) speakers:

Dianne Lunsford – Forest Park has moved on the list on the worst cities to live in Georgia from 10 in 2020 to 4 in 2021. I have a thing about Waste Management. The initiative to work further with the citizens that has been adversely affected from having a quality of life. Can we impose a fine on Waste Management for the lack of action? These families need to have some restitution. That is the only way we will get Waste Management to move forward and help the residents. It will take the trees 20 years to grow and that is a long time to ask our residents to wait. I wrote this to the Forest Park Fire and Emergency Department on August 4th. I wanted to share this with you all. “A huge shot out to the Monday night shift (August 2, 2021). What a great group of caring professionals that worked tirelessly on my neighbor. All of them were awesome in their effort to revive him. They were so caring and so respectful to the family. I am going to miss him. Thank you to Derwood, Gabby, Gaston, Hannah, and May for being on scene and doing all they could. Chief Clemmons has some outstanding people in her charge. Thank you to the Fire Department and God bless you all.

LaWanda Folami – I came to the last week at the previous meeting because I was so disturbed because I have been stalked. It has been going on for some years, but I know how to handle it. This time it has gone too far. Let me set the record straight, I called the Police Chief Nathan Clark with me and people that I selected to attend that meeting. How did they know where we were; I do not know, and I really do not care. I asked for this meeting due to each time Ms. Lunsford had to stand here and speak she would be rebutted. Comment time is comment time but the response from some of you comes back harsh. He took out the time to speak with taxpayers and that is what he is supposed to do. If a constituent calls on him to visit with him, he should not be in a bubble that he cannot meet with certain people. I refuse to be harassed by anyone. I do not want to back slide, I can be just like David, I can repent quickly. You know how it feels Madam Chair because you sued the city and got \$75,000. Now, you are doing the very same thing. Allegedly after that you go out to a venue as an elected official and physically get into a fight, I did not stalk you. So, I ask you to take into consideration to ask the governor to remove her from the dais. She does not represent the city in a proper manner and enough is enough. If you can get \$75,000 from the taxpayer and then you want to put people in a bubble for doing their job, I dare you Madam Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to adopt the Council Regular Agenda as printed.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 2, 2021 - S.**
Diane White, Interim City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from August 2, 2021.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Council Approval Resolution 2021-29 of Cemetery Initiative – City Attorney

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-29 Cemetery Initiative

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Approval of Resolution 2021-27 LCI-Transportation Grant - Economic Development

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-27 LCI Transportation Grant.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

4. Approval of Budget Amendment - Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director

It was motioned to approve the Budget Amendment to move \$14,000 from Reserve Contingency to Capital Outlay - Public Works for the logo to be place on the Forest Avenue Water tanks.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

5. Approval of Budget Amendment - Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director

It was motioned to approve the Budget Amendment typographical error in the Federal Contribution Act line which stated \$94,000 to correcting is to say \$9,400 and transferring the \$84,600 into the Reserve for Contingency.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

6. Approval of Resolution 2021-28 & IGA - S. Diane White, City Clerk

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-28 and the IGA with Clayton County Board of Elections.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember Antoine thank you all for coming here. Say a prayer for the country of Haiti.

Councilmember Gutierrez thank you all for coming, it is nice to see people here. I still have not received any invites to a barbeque, maybe I need to refresh my email. We had a successful Food Truck Fridays so shot out to Director Tarik Maxell and Tenisha Dixon who ran it while I was away at the GMA Convention. It was nice to be there and meet with other city officials and see what they have going on their cities. It really made me believe in the potential that we have and can possibly accomplish here and thankful that my city is not one of their cities. We are moving forward with some things regardless of the arguments we have. Conflict is good if it is respectful and healthy. If we all agreed on the same thing we probably should not be here in the same place. It is ok to disagree on things and it is ok to not have the same mind set on certain things. I appreciate all my colleagues up here. School started for me, and I am really adjusting but I am excited for my 2nd graders. If you have any Afghanistan veterans just thank them. For me, it has been difficult. I went to Afghanistan I met with people that did not return. I always wear my bracelet repping them. It is a little frustrating when they do not take ownership of their own country, but I am glad we are pulling out. It is a big sacrifice not just for the veteran but for the families. Please complete the survey and let us know how to utilize the funds. Welcome aboard to all the new employees that are here, welcome to our family.

Councilmember Akins-Wells this is ridiculous. This lady is saying someone is stalking her. I do not have the time. I care not what Dr. Folami is doing. So, I got a complaint and pictures sent to my.... (inaudible). I am sorry. I am trying to get better with responding to people, but some people push you to that point, but stalking her. Yes, I did sue the city and it was not the taxpayer's dollars that paid me and my family, it was the insurance. They stalked me for four years, so I have nor the time nor the care to worry about what Chief Clark is doing with these residents; or what Dr. Folami is doing, I do not care. When I get a picture sent to my phone and they are having a political meeting, but he cannot come to the meetings, yes, I am going to send an email to the mayor and that is what I did. When they bring up issues to me those issues then become my issues. So, yes, they had an issue with Chief Clark never being at a meeting but have the time to meet with political advocates in the City. But stalking her do an Open Records Request; check my phone, I do not care, I serve the residents that care about the City of Forest Park that are just not coming in here and speaking negativity and walking out the door. The same people who put me in this seat are the same people that can remove me. So, if you want to get a petition going; do it. Everyone in Ward 4 knows what Councilmember Wells do and it is not stalk Folami. I do not want that energy around me because I am trying to be a better person. So, that lie she told and that threat since everyone take notes, I hope you all have the threat on film; I do. I jotted it down. It is about the community. I run a business; this is not my life. I have a child that is #12 in the state in basketball and #17 in baseball, I do not have time to worry about what she is doing. What she is doing is dividing the people in the community, dividing the people up here. I do not have the energy. I am trying to be a better person, wife, mother and individual. Thank you and have a bless night. Fun Friday is this Friday, August 20, 2021, beginning at 7:00pm to 11:00pm. The Play Makers Avenue Band will be there and there will be festivities for the kids. Forest Park Day is Saturday, August 21, 2021, from 12:00pm to 8:00pm. Please come out and bring your friends and tents.

Councilmember Mears I appreciate everyone coming tonight. You all are getting a lot of lessons. I had a party for the kids in my ward Saturday it was called Popsicles in the Park. I would like to give Public Works Director, Bobby Jinks, and his crew a thank you. There were several events going on in the city and I know that it looks like we are spread thin, but they were there. I want to give kudos to Council Aide, Ms. Dixson and Mr. Rashmir and I apologize

for not attending your fathers.... We had plenty of school supplies, book bags and ice cream. We had about 50 kids that range from age 5-9 years of age. Thank everyone that help and thank you for coming out.

Councilmember James thank everyone for showing up tonight. Congratulations to all the new employees. Thank the H.R. department for the health gift. This is a reminder the monthly neighborhood meeting is this Thursday, August 19, 2021. It is a hybrid model so those want to show up we will be at 656 Main Street and those of you that want to join online we will meet via Zoom. I will give out book bags at the conclusion of the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Rashmir for the donation. Congratulations to City Manager, Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper for receiving the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) designation of Credential Manager. The 5k Run Walk will be held on September 25, 2021. Forest Park High School Homecoming Parade will be held October 9, 2021, mark your calendars. Sania Feagan graduated last year; her and the team won the gold medal at the 2021 U19 FIBA WORLD CUP in Hungary. Hopefully she will be a part of the homecoming parade and we can celebrate her. If you would allow Madam Mayor, to allow Chief Clark to respond to make it clear that your intent was not to meet with political people. If you can please put that to rest, so it won't continue to come up.

Police Chief, Nathaniel Clark I would like to thank the mayor and the governing body. As I sit here today, On May 14, 2019, is one of the happiest days of my life. I got accused with meeting with (inaudible). I question anyone in this room what political opponent. I am the Police Chief to everyone that lives here; the black community, the white community, the Hispanic community everybody that live here in this city; I am the Police Chief. Whether you are a political opponent or not? Are you telling me that if someone is running for political office I am not supposed to speak to that person if so, what kind of Police Chief would I be? I have been in law enforcement for over 34 years, and I am totally perplexed that I am standing here tonight because I am speaking to citizens or guests to this community. I hear that the Chief will not speak to us or come to meetings. What meeting have I not come to? I am one person; I cannot be at all places at one time. I guarantee you if I am invited to a meeting, I will try everything in my power to be there. You often accuse me of talking too much so you can't say I will not go to a meeting. So, I am shocked here tonight. It is like if Clark gets up too early in the morning let us point the finger at him. If he stays too late let us point the finger at him. At what point will this stop. I am not talking to anyone particularly, but I was asked to come up here and put this to rest. I was talking to concerned citizens; they called and ask for a meeting.

Councilmember James thank you Chief. I just want to make sure that was said. I apologize for putting you on the spot.

Mayor Butler I thank you all for being present with us today. I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks.

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

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was motioned to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:29pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.