



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, August 15, 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 at 7:30pm by Mayor Butler who read the Mission Statement.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Pastor Wanda Miller led the invocation and pledge of allegiance

**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, Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer, Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Diane Lewis Deputy HR Director, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst, Latosha Clemmons, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director, and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager

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

There was 1 Public speaker:

**LaWanda Falomni** - States she has a recommendation on recycling. Has worked with Climate, Wildlife and Recycling for the State of Georgia and thinks that if Waste Management teaches their staff not to pick up once they open the bin and see trash and recycling mixed together and to leave it. This will cause the household to call, and it will establish an inside communication. She also thanked the City of Forest Park for allowing them to recognize Ms. Judy Taylor, and stated they had a great time. She thanked Dr. Cooper, Deputy Brunson, Chief Nathaniel Clark, and Sgt. Lewis, and stated, it was an amazing turnout, everyone came out and supported them. They bumped heads with the fire department and the police department, which she does not like, it causes them to have to choose which public service event to attend. Ms. Taylor is here and will agree they had a great time and thanks to Dr. Cooper for being that grand marshal.

She was riding through the city and by some of the government properties and liked how groomed and nicely it looked. There is an area over by Cash Memorial, by the police department, that really needs some attention to help it look better and would like for interest to be shown throughout the city. She wanted to thank every staff member in the City of Forest Park that came out and helped coordinate the reading for the charter school. She received a recommendation from the DOE.

With recycling if we work together, we can get this fixed. We have been here numerous times, but because the administration changes, people do not think and feel the same or do the same. The best way to nip recycling in the bud is to leave it and someone will call to ask why the bin was not picked up. This will start the communication process throughout the city.

**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:**

- 1. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 1, 2022 -**  
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 1, 2022, and with the noted corrections.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2. Confirmation of New Director of Planning and Community Development – Chief Executive Office**

It was moved to confirm Mrs. Lashawn Gardiner, as new Director of Planning and Community Development.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Antione** - Hoped that she would take this seriously, because he receives a lot of calls from one of the employees that work in that department. Harassing businesses, harassing homeowners, causing them to no longer want to be here. He hoped that as a worker of Planning and Zoning, she will be a good negotiator and a good listener. This is a big issue right now that is not being talked about. A lot of businesses are not feeling like the city has their best interest. So, I hope that you will take that serious.

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

**Councilmember Wells** - Abstained to vote, because someone had just texted her asking who the new Director of Planning and Zoning was, and she had no idea. She states like anything else; she does not vote on what she knows nothing about or had the chance to look into.

**Director Lashawn Gardiner** - Thanked the council for their belief in her for the position and it would be her pleasure to work with them all. She stated as an employee they are a team and should be able to talk about the issue and come to a resolution. They may not always agree on issues but, is there to resolve the issues to the best of their ability and to be better stewards of the taxpayer's dollars.

**3. Council Adoption of an Amendment to the Code Enhancing the Boarded Windows Ordinance 22-13 -Code Enforcement, Legal**

It was moved to approve the Amendment to the Code Enhancing the Boarded Windows Ordinance

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

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

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – Reminded everyone about the ward meeting Thursday, at 5:00 pm, at the Hartsfield Community Center. If you are not able to attend it in person, it will be available on zoom., the information is available on the website. Wednesday, at 6:00 pm she will be at Forest Park United Methodist Church, which is located at 4473 College Street, she will be there along with the police chief and members of the police department, for the Ward 1 community meeting. The meeting is like a neighborhood watch meeting. There will be information available about the crime going on in the area and other information the police would like to give to the community.

She will also provide information on seniors over 62, that was sent to her, from Mrs. Gardiner. The county is doing home repair and improvements and that information will be available on Wednesday at 6 pm at the Forest Park United Methodist Church. I would like to acknowledge the Forest Park Fire Department, she attended an award ceremony and do not remember the name, but the firefighter of the year is an Alumni of Forest Park High School.

She stated there are people that have been with the fire department for a very long time. She stated to Chief Clemmons, that she was not able to be at the first part of the meeting but saw the wrecked car. There will be a homecoming game on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and they play Jonesboro Cardinals on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The new Forest Park Middle

School is coming soon and the kids as of now are being transported to the Old Morrow High School, for this school year.

On September 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a homecoming parade, and she would love for the alumni members of the police, fire, and public works department to help celebrate. Immediately, after the parade there will be a Co-ed Flag Football game at the Kiwanis Stadium. There will be contact information on the upcoming flyers in case anyone would like to sign up to be on the football team.

They will be selling T-Shirts in various sizes starting at \$15-20, and all proceeds will go to the high school. She would like people to think about participating by purchasing a T-shirt, going to the game, and just having a good time. Thanks, and we appreciate you.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Congratulations to the new employees and welcome to the team. Shoutout to the Indians, today is Indians Independence Day. We are sharing the good word with the students at Forest Park High School about how they can join the police and fire department. We have flyers all over the schools and we are mentioning it to the students. He has the chance to teach American Government this year and show, how it is not just at the White House or state capital. You have the government here right now, some may be a mayor, city councilmember, congressman, or president. Appreciates you all for coming and would like for you to continue to come. Thanks to all the directors and others that are making a difference within the city.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Happy Independence to Indian Americans. I am really excited about the kickoff with Jonesboro. He had a blast at the last bingo night. The senior committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday until Fun Friday time is up, then it will go back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday so that everyone can enjoy the city festivities. He enjoys learning from the elderly community and invites you to come have fun and play at the senior center. He missed the Food Truck Friday for back to school, but they gave out lots of supplies. Public works, council aides and Directors did an amazing job holding things down.

House Representative David Scott sent a letter stating, he allotted one million dollars for Clayton County Justice Center Hub, \$260,000 to Clayton County Legal Aides Office and one million dollars to the MARTA Safe Route Transportation. He also wanted people to know he has transitioned from teaching to a Community School Supervisor in Forest Park. He will be building relationships and bringing more resources to the children. When we go to these conferences and bring back resources, it is to better our city and keeping you safe. Please reach out with any ideas you may have for making things better. Thanks to you all for coming out.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Wanted people to know that she is Forest Park all day, and her son is one of the top athletes in baseball and basketball at Jonesboro High School. So please attend some of the games, because they will be interesting, because they are rivals. She thanked the sponsors of Forest Park Day which is this Saturday from 12-9 pm. There will be a live wrestling matching at 6 pm amongst other things. She wanted to thank Mr. Melvin Bell who is a huge sponsor, he is supplying the food trucks, bouncy houses for kids and other stuff for the kids to do. Forest Park is a community day for old and new to come out, set up their tents, and cook, meet their neighbors, get food from different vendors and to just have a good time, which she is really looking forward to.

Huge shoutout to Johnathan at Rumors, they wrote a check for \$1,500.00. She appreciates everything he does and how they contribute to the community and what the community love. You all do a lot of things for a lot of people and people do not recognize that, but I would like to truly thank you. Everyone come out, bring your friends and family, because we are going to have a great time. Again, it is from 12-9 pm, and wrestling match at 6 pm. Thanks for coming out and have a great night.

**Councilmember Mears** – He went to the celebration at the fire department and saw the new equipment and stated, Ms. Clemmons is doing a great job. He was amazed by it and wanted the people to know that the fire and police

department, with the car tag readers will put Forest Park ahead of the game. We have a new ambulance which looks good, and he has pictures of a new fire recruit.

He was really impressed with the quality of the equipment and the changing out of the suits. The fire station is old, but the new station is coming up, and we are getting the police fixed up. I just want the citizens of Forest Park to know It is doing well as far as public safety.

**Mayor Butler** – I am in the process of preparing for the State of the City address, and going through and gathering her notes, is reminded of just how far they have come within the last 4 years with this administration. She states it is amazing and will start sending out information to keep people informed of when that is going to be.

While walking her dog she stopped and had a conversation with someone that shared with her about the rival of Forest Park and Jonesboro. The point is no matter what is going on that is the game to be at. She would like for them to get back to supporting not just sporting events, but community events as well. She was pleased with the ShotSpotter and Omnilert presentations, and feel they will help increase public safety, and look forward to moving forward with them and other things that is coming.

Chief Clemmons, the open house was awesome. She has heard a lot of great things about you, appreciate what you are doing in the department and is pleased that you are in that role, and thanked her.

**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 7:54 pm

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, seconded by Councilmember James  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antione, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Meeting at 8:42 pm

Motion was made by Councilmember Mears, seconded by Councilmember James.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antione, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

It was moved to authorize a settlement agreement, which authorizes our insurance carrier to settle the Shalonda Brown litigation as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion was made by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Mears.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antione, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:43 pm

Motion made by Councilmember Wells, seconded by Councilmember James  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antione, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears