



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, June 06, 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
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

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler, and she read the Mission Statement.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Pastor Durham gave the invocation and led the 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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4 -		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director, Darquita Williams, Deputy Finance Director; Kim Trawick, Human Resources Generalist, Tarik Maxell, Director of Recreation & Leisure, Bobby Jinks, Director of Public

Works, James Shelby, Planning & Community Development Director, Joshua Cox, IT Director, Javon Lloyd, PIO Officer, Latasha Clemons, Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief, LaShawn Gardiner, Management Analyst and Nathaniel Clark, Chief of Police

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Council Discussion on PUBLIC HEARING – 2ND Reading of the FY23 Fiscal Budget Ordinance – Executive/Finance Department**

Background/History:

The proposed funded dollar amount of the FY2023 Budget is \$34,687,288 and the full FY23 Budget can be viewed on the City's website by clicking the link below:

https://www.forestparkga.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/finance/page/2771/proposed_budget_fy_2022-2023.pdf

It was moved to open the Public Hearing for the FY23 Budget

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

There are no speakers for the Budget. There were two speakers against the budget

Lois Wright -I want to know what it is for. You say the budget is about the money, what does that pay for? Is it for events, for employees what is that money used for?

LaWanda Folami- I stand in opposition. As I reviewed it, I saw that the finance department has more allowance to do operations than the public service police department. I can't understand how an in-house Financial Institution has much more in their budget than our public services police department. I just had that question because we just got rid of the finance director for wrongdoing. Public Service and recycling is a passion of mine and if something affects the police for coming to our aide, I am going to stand for it.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing for the FY23 Budget

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

2. **Council Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Budget Ordinance 22-11 – Executive/Finance**

Background/History:

The annual budget for the city for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023, is **\$34,687,288**. The budget includes all revenues and expenditures for governmental and enterprise purposes as detailed in the accompany budget documents herein incorporated is hereby adopted in accordance with Georgia Law.

City Manager gave a brief overview of the budget.

Comments/Discussion from Council:

Councilmember James – In our I.T. department, I am pleased that we are looking to have Wi-Fi in Star Park. Also, in the recreation and leisure department, the additional funds that Director Maxwell, needed to continue expanding his program is something that was increased in the budget. Related to the courts forming, I know that there are some new positions. My questions are do we have the new positions job titles, descriptions etc. for the courts? With fire and EMS it is not clear to me what their knew titles were going to be and the new positions. I want to make sure we get clarity on those positions as well. With the police department, I am excited about the new vehicles we will be getting, which is something in our budget also. The gang and drug unit, I know that required new positions. I know it is under the Capital Overlay Project, but does that project include positions?

City Manager- With police we did add the monies back for the creation of a narcotic and gang unit, which included 5 new positions. This do not include the 46 vacancies. That was added back to the budget.

Councilmember James- So with the new titles and positions and job description, is all included.

City Manager-Yes, it is all included in that gang unit proposal that chief requested. With the fire department we added no new position. They requested for reclassification, and they did request new positions but there are currently 24 vacancies that they are trying to fill. There are some reclassifications such as emergency management coordinator, fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, and division coordinator. Those positions will be reclassified but there want be any money added to the budget. They will be a title change only and we do have the job descriptions and title changes. As far as I.T. there is one new position. In this new budget there is a total of 8 new positions in this budget. Five are for P.D., two are for recreational and leisure and one is for I.T. support tech senior position. Those are the only new positions that have been added to the budget.

Councilmember Gutierrez – I am happy with the budget. I think we were successful, we got to hear from other directors. Dr. Cooper, had to reel everyone in to let us know what we can afford and what we can't. My only disappointment lies with all the events we lost. The cultural celebrations, I think as a city we must embrace other people that live here and getting rid of them I do not think was a good solution. We should have talked like adult, elected officials, and came up with a solution. Like marketing guidelines for issues like people faces being on the flyers, and I feel we could have fixed that, or just make them City of Forest Park event. I did not have a problem with that. I was shocked because I was supposed to put my name on an event, so we need to embrace our people and have stable events like our neighbors in Morrow, that have less people and smaller budget, but they embrace their people and I admire them. Unfortunately, we are not doing that currently with no cultural celebration. Our director Maxwell does amazing things, but I wish that we would embrace these celebrations like other cities do. Even after going to the board retreat and two of the chairs were here, we heard from the experts on what bring the community out. The help us bridge the gap by meeting them where they are at, especially when they are a different culture and nationality. Hopefully, our council can see the importance of these events and we continue to put them on as a municipality. That is my only issue and I have enjoyed being up here with my colleagues.to talk about everything and listen to the directors.

Councilmember Akins-Wells -With police and fire, you said there are 46 vacancies in police and 24 in fire and we added 5 new positions to the police department.

City Manager- Yes mam, for the gang unit that was requested at the retreat.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- So with the positions we currently have is there no way we could have changed some of those titles instead of adding new positions?

City Manager- Yes, those 46 vacancies are throughout the entire department. They are not all just for officers on the street. So, the five new positions that are being requested are being requested specifically to operate the gang and narcotics unit.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- To add to what Councilman Gutierrez was saying. I am all for the budget the way it is. Just because I am transparent and like to keep it real with the public, we received a letter, and everyone know that Councilman Gutierrez does a lot he does more than me. Right now, he has a lot going on with his name on it with the City of Forest Park, sponsoring and as well as myself. We do community events that the community love, so to hear people talking about taking events out of the budget is baffling to me. These are the taxpayers' dollars, and they enjoy these events regardless of who is initiating them. Therefore, I agree to him as far as sitting down like adults and talk about these things, because it is about the community, not anyone personally. It's Councilwoman Wells in the City of Forest Park that's an issue so we want to take it out of the budget, so we are totally disregarding the community, because these are events the community take advantage of. I had a talk with the mayor saying, why don't you all come to some of these events, come out it don't have to be about one person, but that is all the people see. Then people initiate it, it's across the state of Georgia, and across the county. We have signs up right now. We just received an email about someone putting signs out on our stop signs. People do this everywhere so; I don't understand why it is an issue other than being personal and why we would take something from our community.

Councilwoman James, Councilman Antoine, and Councilman Mears, all signed this letter saying they want to put a marketing and promotion policy for events as well as identify other funding sources. The award project should remain the same, that's our reward money we do other things with. This is saying each person that does events in the city need to find their own way to pay for it. I think it is distasteful and it is a slap in the face to the community. Before some of us got on the council the City of Forest Park was dead. There was nothing to do, and there is still really nothing to do other than attend some of the events we have. So, to take that away from the community because people feel personally about somebody or do not like someone name. Just take my face off it don't take away from the community. Take a name off it because it is not about me, people make it about me and Councilman Gutierrez. That is the only issue I have with the budget; we work for the taxpayers, and this is their money, and we should have things to entertain them in the city where they live.

Councilmember Mears – Yes, I am one of the one's that signed the letter Mrs. Wells is talking about. The nature of my signature is that the funding needs to come from outside for the city. I personally don't mind parties and dances, but we are not up here to social leaders, we are up here to take care of business for the city. It is fine with me to have the parties, but we need to find some other way to bring in some revenue for these kinds of parties. Its leisure, but it is not the city position to have a party every weekend or every other weekend or once a month.

We need the people that have the most parties to find outside resources and it saves the city that much money. I have been here almost eight years and the budget has about doubled since I have been on council. Now I know wages and other things go up and we must have these things, but you must find some resources other than the city resources to put on some of these activities. That is the reason I bought it up and signed the letter. I will go along with the budget; I think it is a little bit high, but we are a growing city. We have a lot of needs and a lot of things to pass. In lieu of Mrs. Wells comments it is fine to have activities,

but you must find other resources to sponsor them. The city can't be a big party city all the time. They need to get help by bringing people in here that want to help them take care of the parties. Thank you.

Mayor Butler- Of the 46 vacant positions for P.D. how many is designated for officers? These accounts that P.D. has fund some of the items that they are requesting, i.e., their vehicles. What will we have to do to move the money out of the general fund so that they can use those specific line items for some of these items?

City Manager- Chief do you have that number?

Chief Clemmons- We have approximately about 37 vacant positions at this and approximately 25 are officers.

City Manager -Mayor it is not necessarily moving the funds. The certain accounts that P.D has with the forfeiture, and certain things they do confiscate during certain criminal activities. Once it goes through the forfeiture process that money is turned over to the city and could be used under law for police training and equipment purposes. So, it is not necessarily saying you take those items out of the budget to do that. What you are doing is instead of requesting 300,000 dollars to purchase police vehicles from the general fund, the department comes forth to the council to state there is a certain amount of money in a particular fund that was chosen to be used. That is where the 300,000 will come from and they would be asking approval to purchase with the money out of there. That is just one of the line items you can take from the general fund and reallocate that money to do another such as buying a new ambulance or one of the other items.

Mayor Butler- My question about the officer vacancies, goes along with what Councilwoman Wells was alluding to. If they already have a certain number of vacancies, why give additional when need to fill those positions. If they need to be reclassified for the specific unit then we may need to look at that as well. I think we need to fill the vacancies and then add more positions if needed.

Councilmember James- My question is about the court. Dr. Cooper, I don't think you touched on that. The new positions in the court.

City Manager- The city attorney and I discussed that the courts would be separated. If the budget is approved and I think it is under the same ordinance for the sake of continuity that the council would be approving the budget and make the court their own department. The courts are fully funded with their own department. They have all their job descriptions; different things are shared with the P.D. There is enough work for the courts to keep a clerk busy for a full day, as well as P.D. The court ware that we are asking the council to approve, they will basically be working in the same system, running tickets, citations, and dockets through that system from one to the other. We do have all those positions there and I think that only adds 3 additional positions for the court if it is created.

Councilmember James- I am looking at the proposed organizational chart for the municipal court and the environmental court division. I see, the new is the court administrator, then under that is the two new court clerk positions. This is in addition to the clerks we have now in P.D. because as I understood it at the retreat, they still need their own court clerk, so this is in addition to.

City Manager-Yes, mam.

Councilwoman Akin-Wells- Yes, I want to respond to what Councilman Mears said. It is not a party every weekend. Just because you do not do certain things do not mean that they are things that the community do not like to do. Fun Fridays are once a month, Food Truck Friday is once a month, Forest Park Day is

once a year and is for the entire community. It is not a party it is a live band and bouncy houses for the kids, and it is vendors and food trucks and small businesses doing advertising. So, when you say a party, I would not say it is that. It is not a whole lot of money, yes, the budget has gone up, but it is not because of events. We still must get sponsors in addition to what the city gives. So, 5,000 dollars for Fun Friday, 8,000 dollars once a year for Forest Park residents is not a lot.

My question to city attorney, if we are going to get technical, as far as the ward meetings and keep ward 1,2,3,4,5 beautiful and the fact that are names and pictures are on those signs will that be cut out. The ward meeting is an event as well, so we cannot give our citizens information needed because, people don't want people names on things or advertising a certain way. We are elected officials and that is what elected officials do. No disrespect to anyone, but the three people that signed the letter don't really do anything in the community as far as giving the people something to do. That is my question as far as the ward meeting, how is that going to be impacted. That is considered an event as well. So, are we not going to be able to have ward meetings and inform the people about what is going on?

City Attorney- My understanding and I do not presume to read the minds of the council members, but there are specific types of events listed.

Councilmember-Akin-Wells -What are those events. The specific types?

City Attorney-The events alluded to in the letter. I do not know if they were listed specifically but the ones that had previously been in the budget and funded. Like Food Truck Friday, Day of the Dead, those things that had funding that was removed. The ward money that you continue to have could be used for some of the activities that had been going on absent the events

Councilmember-Akin-Wells- So, you are speaking on the 4,000 dollars we get for the year.

City Attorney- To do those activities to support your operation of your office.

It was moved to adopt the FY23 Budget and Ordinance 22-11

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Mears

Voting Nay: Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were (4) speakers for Public Comments:

Mr. Lawrence-I have a couple of comments about our pending change to Waste Pro. Remember we are Forest Park and in part of our new agreement here, there is a maximum of 8 bags of leaves now that is a small point. It used to be 13 bags and even then, I had to put a good bit on the carport so it wouldn't get wet for the next week. You might want to consider the numbers there. Also, as we transition from one company to the other the driver for my street does a great job. He is a very responsible young man by the name of Brandon. They pick up the trash, they are there on the right days. Sometimes before sun comes up, they have been there at night after sun goes down with flashlights picking up the trash. They don't drop anything, they don't run into anything, they do what they are supposed to do. So, I hope they are somewhere here in this transition, and they will employ the current folks in the new company if we go with them.

The other thing we have not mentioned here is the transfer station. Who is going to be responsible for that? Is the new company going to take all the rats with them or are they not going to worry about them? I think we do need to address that problem. Thank you.

Lawanda Folami -I am here to talk about the budget, as a taxpayer me and others did not have the opportunity to view it online. I do not feel it is fair. I am hearing a lot of unfairnesses up in here today. When it comes to the event of the community, I think it should be up to the community. To strip events like the Fun Friday and cultural events that bring out stake holders and people of color we do not basically see in this room. I do not think it is fair to the taxpayers. Let's get to the recycling part. I have been here for 45 years, and I have been recycling ever since it came. I work with Wildlife Science with the Forest Park High School, to teach the youth about recycling.

What you have today with Earth Link comes off what I started with my colleagues in the beginning. I brought them here before you before. We have educational fund right now and Earth Link program need funding. Find our money and give it to our students. Let me move on because I have great news. My volleyball team did make the championship. I want to give kudos out, so I have to shift my atmosphere. I want to thank Mr. Jonathan, who really gave me a fabulous donation to take my kids down to the water park, Jazzy Hair Salon, Judy Taylor who purchasing all the trophies. Songs Shop Wise, who is sponsoring the food. So, if you want to move the budget around somehow about doing it with leisure, because I am volunteering for over 35 years. I have had to get out and solicit and ask my stakeholders to help us. We have the budget if we adjust it right. So, when they win a championship, we should have someone in the city that ca receives our children. I think a lot of things is getting out of hand, won't never get back right. People want the fun, give them the fun. People want to celebrate their way, they the taxpayers let them choose what they want to do.

Nobody says anything when you all go on retreats and behind locked gates and we can't get in. Let the people decide sometime. You guys must pull it together, represent us as we sit here and listen to you all tell us to hush. We want you all to hush and go sit down like adults and represent all of us who give you all our money to serve us.

Felecia Davis -The first thing is waste recycling. When it goes to the landfill is wasting your time. Organic waste is the heaviest, so we thought about composting and doing things differently in the broader area of sustainability, which I have brought to the council over and over. The city attorney can stipulate for that, we need a sustainability plan, it is a climate action plan, a clean energy forward-looking plan.

Next is the public safety stuff. Last I checked there is some mental instability rolling around and I didn't hear that in the budget. I know we can't police ahead of crime, so we need new solutions. I think that Councilman Gutierrez has done some things with young people. Young people and mental health need to be in Forest Park budget. I am a little different and may need those services on occasion.

I want to thank Timolin for bringing the machine, because I can now take off my mask. Any building we can get them in we must do that. Councilmember Mears do not seem to understand that when people come together which is the only way I know my neighbors because I stay in my house. If I do not come out to the Forest Park events, I don't know the neighbors and their children. My safety and I think chief can vouch for this, the more eyes we have on one another, the more we look out to extend to one another if it were not for the events, I would not know some of these people. We can talk about what type of events and how frequent, but to take it out of the 30 something million-dollar budget, really. I don't think the city manager know how hard before you sat in that chair, we had to have Forest Park Day, to make it possible for some of you to sit there. So, we need to reconsider what is happening here.

Kelvin Walters -I am here again because I am the owner at property 5370. I have come here before you all and was approved to have a school and a church on that property. The mayor vetoed my school and my daycare because of hearsay. The trucks that were on that property I own them. If you look the trucks up, they don't have tags, they were never run, and I thought I was doing the right thing by putting the trucks on something that I own. I am hurt, after 33

years of living in Forest Park, I can't even put a business here and I been here for 33 years. I have coached in the park, gave to kids, helped them go to college. Now, I bring something back to help the community and you shut it down because of hearsay. That is embarrassing and hurting, because in this community everybody knows Walters, done gave it all.

I sat with the mayor two Thursdays ago and gave her the information. She said I did not give her the information about the school, she went and found it, but the information was there. She said I got a fine. Yes, I did, but did you go back and look at the record. The week before I came in here to you, I was told to remove the trucks before the 5th if I do not have the right to have them there. When I came before you the trucks were gone.

It is hurting to have someone to take something from you when you worked hard for it. I bought something to my community where I have been for 33 years, and she took it away because of something she heard. She didn't walk in and say I see you doing something wrong. When you told me all I could have been, a church and school every business in the building was gone. We were getting ready to start school for the next year. It is hurting that you can't depend on the people you pay taxes too. I pay taxes on a business and can't have what I love. That's education black children, all children in general. That is what hurts the most and for her to veto it because of what she heard is wrong.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Council Agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3. Council Approval of Council Work Session for May 2, 2022, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2022, and Special Called Meeting from May 23, 2022 - City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session Minutes from May 2nd; the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 16th and the Special Called Meeting minutes from May 23, 2022

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Council Adoption of Short-Term Rental Ordinance 22-10 – Legal

It was moved to approve the Short-Term Rental Ordinance to include a provision for Council to review the fees annually.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

5. Council Approval of Waste Pro Contract– Public Works

It was moved to table this item

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Antoine

6. Council Approval of Waste Management Contract Extension– Public Works

It was moved to approve an extension of Waste Management's contract.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

7. Council Approval of an IGA (Inter-Governmental Agreement) Joint Crime Suppression Team – Police

It was moved to approve the IGA for the Joint Crime Suppression Team

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

8. Council Approval to Accept Donation from The Timolin Corporation for Indoor Air Quality - Executive Offices

It was moved to approve the donation from The Timolin Corporation for Indoor Air Quality

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

9. Council Approving the Purchase of Courtware Software (JusticeONE) - Police

It was moved to approve the purchase of Court Ware Software (JusticeOne)

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James – Thanks to everyone for coming out. We look forward to moving forward in our next budget. We have some great things happening in the City of Forest Park. Don't worry we will have recreation and leisure. We need to get policies and processes in place. Once they are in place certain individuals in the community want to come to me and say we are using city money to promote individuals, that is not what we want to do, we want to do our job and that is what we are going to do. Thank you.

Councilmember Antoine – Thanks to everyone that came. I see the new faces and I want to give a shoutout to the new employees that joined the all-star team. Welcome, my name is Dabouze, and I represent Ward 2. I am more than welcome to serve you; it is never a chore. The events that we are talking about, will still be happening. Director Maxwell, do a wonderful job. The community is still going to come out of these events, so there are going to be events. However, we must make it clear. What I signed was no to stop events. Maxwell is a great thinker he has a great imagination. There are going to be great events for the kids, the families of Forest Park, and we are still going to be number one in the city in Clayton County.

I signed it because, I have events that was cancelled. It is all of us here. We cancelled all our events so we could make the budget look better for us. In terms of the events that are going on the recreation department is going to be doing and if you want to see something, see him. We love you guys, God bless.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Shout out to the new people welcome to the family. I am open to any new ideas you may have. I just want to also commend our staff for the Asian Heritage Festival we had at the park. The shirts were designed by two high school students that are going to SCAD now, that was amazing. Our council aides did a great job reaching out to the community and walking into the diverse businesses that we have here. It was a first-time trial for us, we don't have an Asian population. Our employees that reflect our population. A Hispanic population with our employees that reflects our population, but I think we are making strides to amend that with Dr. Cooper and the directors. Our Food Truck Friday event was amazing we have a new champ. The taco eating champ of Forest Park is Mr. Nahim Williams, Ms. Victoria son. He ate 8 tacos in 3 minutes. He beat one of our firefighters who ate 7 tacos in three minutes. It was a good time to be out there with the community.

I am very proud to announce that we have lunched a scholarship in partnership with Mr. Rashmir' s family, in honor of his legacy. Before he passed away, I went to him telling him we needed this for our Forest Park High School students. So, we started two cash scholarships for two of our Forest Park students, one for 1500 dollars and the other one for 1,000 dollars. We are partnering up with United Voices Foundation just to be clear and that way the money does not come to the city and then we are giving out the money. I followed our attorney's advice on that. So, thank you Mr. Rashmir, Mr. White, and United Voices for having this. The links are in my social media. If you know any Forest Park High School students that want to apply, they are more than welcome. Ms. Davis, thank you for the education on the recycling, I am not a guru on environmental awareness. However, I would like to have a sustainability plan and making sure we are moving forward and not making the carbon footprint bigger that what it is.

Lastly, I am slightly disappointed in the council. Even though my colleague said his events were cancelled, none of the other events were cancelled because their events were in the budget item except myself, mayor, and Councilwoman Wells. Yes, we do have events but not pertaining to specific communities and they are not cultural events. Not that Director Maxwell cannot have them, we can go to him, but we did not even have a conversation about this specifically when I reached out to people to talk about this. We are elected officials and we are supposed to be here to move the needle forward and represent the people, regardless. If we disagree, I am not taking any of this personal it just hurts me because it is for people that do not usually come out. The Asian Festival was full of people that never come out for any of the events, and I had a hard time communicating with most of them. But they were out there, they felt represented, and they had a shirt representing the Ear of the Tiger.

There were a lot of vendors that were approached by the city for the first time. We educated the community on what the council is and what the city elected officials were. These are people that live her in our community that we need

to make sure we represent with things like this. For the council, I saw a quote that said, other people were oppressed. So, when you have the power do good for others, and others mean everybody that you represent. Thank you for coming out and I am glad I have the children to balance this out, because I am a little hurt today.

Councilmember Akins-Wells –I would like to thank you all for coming out. We really appreciate you. Huge shout out to the fire department, I am proud of you guys and congratulation to everyone. Welcome to the new employees. What I will say, and I agree with Councilman Gutierrez, because at this point it is like you are fighting a losing battle when you are one of the people that try to give back and do good things in the community. You have some people that just don't care and some that base things on personal feelings. Everyone knows certain people are not a fan of Councilwoman Wells, but I don't care. I am here to represent the people and I will do right by them.

Yes, we will still have Fun Friday, and I will get sponsors because I am all about my community. When Councilman Antoine said his events were taken, but I have never known him to have anything. I know his name to be put on a flyer because of the recreation department, but I have never known him to have an event, so it didn't bother him. I have never known Councilwoman James to have anything, and I have never known Alan Mears to have anything. So, I think people need to take their personal feelings out of it and think about who got you here. I agree with Ms. Davis we had Forest Park Day, when the mayor was elected. I took her around and introduced her to the citizens of Forest Park, which helped get her elected.

These events matter to our community, they may not matter to you because you do not attend them, or you don't care about the community that put you in place, but we work for the people. So, when you make those type of decisions you should get input from the people that put you in these positions. You don't work for yourself you work for the residence of Forest Park. The same people that put you here can take you out.

Some people want to be in power and they want to control everything, and when someone is made to look better than them that is an issue, and we must stop that. So, I hope the people know and the people see and that your eyes are open. We put money in the budget for this and that, but the community is not worth 5,000 dollars for 5 months. We have a 34-million-dollar budget, and we are allocating money for positions, and we have 40 something positions in departments, 20 something in other departments and we are reallocating money for them but, damn the citizens.

Let us be real and you all are going to do what you want to, and it do not matter at this point it is ridiculous and you all are sad. It is embarrassing to be sitting up here with a group of people that do not care about anyone but themselves. They care about how they are going to look; they have yo-yo's controlling, so they must do certain things to please other people. I do not work for anyone other than the residents of Forest Park and will continue to be a voice for them whether you like it or not, because that is what I was elected to do.

To take the community events because you do not want to see somebody face, well you gone see me. It may not be on the flyer, but you are going to see me. That flyer does not make me and Councilman Gutierrez. Out of all the things he done none of them were there. These are Forest Park sponsored events and none of them were there. But you want to control it. Yeah, you may have 4 more years or 3 and a half more years, but you all must be smart when it is time to vote. It starts right here locally, and you must be mindful of the people you put in place.

Pay attention you have some that are controlled and is going along with certain people because they have something over their head. Well, nobody has anything on me, and I am going to say what I have to say. You can file an ethics complaint; I do not care. I work for the people, I am going to be transparent, and I am going to let them know you all are dirty. You do not care about the community because if you did you would not take things from them. You have a councilman right here and he was censored. You are talking about the events gone still go on, but you are being controlled because people have things dangling over your head. You took that money, you admitted to it, and nothing happened. But you want to sign a piece of paper to take something from our community you just in a taking mood.

It really messes with me because, I am from this community, and this is where I grew up. I am going to keep saying it. You have people up here that moved here to run for office, that want to make it about them. You have people that send money over to their country and make it about them, but you want to take from the people that put you in place. You all should be embarrassed.

Councilmember Mears – I do not have any rebuttal to that it was a good statement. The situation I want to talk about, is I do not care what kind of events and things we have here. You need sponsors. I lived in Forest Park before Wells, was born. So, she cannot tell me anything about Forest Park.

The comment on the events is anything that we have in here in the city for the city and the people of Forest Park is fine. But these hip hops or whatever they call them, just ride around, and look at the car tags. The lady that left and said her neighbors come and do this and that. Do her neighbor live in Fulton County or Dekalb County. Just ride by and look at the tags.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- I just want to let you all know that the first Fun Friday is June 17th. will be from 7-11pm and we will have Ear Candy Band coming out. There will be bouncy houses for the kid's food trucks and vendors coming to promote their business. Yes, look at the car tags it is good when people come from different communities to celebrate your community. It is a great thing You all have a great night.

Mayor Butler – About the transfer station it is owned by Waste Management, so regardless of who has the contract they still must go through Waste Management. From my understanding, Waste Pro has had an agreement with Waste Management to use their transfer station. So, we are still trying to figure how to work that out.

About the school I did have a meeting with the representative from the schools and there are still a lot of things that are unclear. Initially, after the meeting there was one document that I asked for that I have yet to receive. So, until then my veto stands. And we do have executive session.

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 and Real Estate at 8:13pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

It was moved to reconvene the Regular meeting at 8:44pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Council Regular Meeting at 8:44pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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