



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, May 06, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)  
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**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

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager  
Randi Rainey, City Clerk  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

## DRAFT REGULAR MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge were led by Elder Miller.

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James-7:04	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		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; John Wiggins; Finance Director; James Shelby, Interim Director of Planning & Community Development; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Rochell Dennis, Interim Director Economic Development; Geoff May; Deputy Chief Operations; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Administrator, Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; Pauline Warrior; Senior Management Analyst, Chief Criss, PD; Major Smith and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to approve the agenda with the deletion of item # 10 and item #12.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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 April 15, 2024 and Special Called Meeting from April 23, 2024 - City Clerk**

**Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2024 and Special Called Meeting from April 23, 2024 - City Clerk**

It was moved to approve the minutes as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

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

There were two (2) Public Comment Speakers:

**Rosemary White-** noted her complaint was the removal of the portal potties.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** Point of Order. Noted she would like to go ahead and respond because she may not be there during closing comments. She noted she did not know they were going to remove them but was okay with it. She noted they are in the process of renovating 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Park and Perkins Park. She noted they will be closed, and no one will be using them. Councilmember Wells noted they have been moved because they are unsanitary, not being cleaned like they should be, and no other park has them. She noted once the parks are done being renovated, they will bring the Porta Potty back.

**Rosemary White** noted they removed the Porta Potty but not the public and are still having events. She noted if it is closed, chain it down or put up a closed-down sign.

**Councilmember Akins Wells** noted they would and thanked her for her comment.

**Laverne Mitchell-** noted that the 25 MPH speed limit on Nancy Drive is being ignored. She noted she has asked about speed bumps and that has not happened. She noted when you phone Waste Management it takes forever to get someone on the phone. Ms. Mitchell stated there is a real problem with getting things picked up and they do not want to attract wildlife, rats, and things of that sort. She noted that she has received a lot of rudeness from people who are newcomers, and she hopes they start extending respect.

#### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**City Manager Clark** noted as of May 6, 2024, that the Home Program has 55 applicants who have been approved, and he noted there are about 60 notices that have been sent to the prequalified candidates for eligibility documentation. Mr. Clark stated the legacy resident could still qualify but has not responded. He said the next step is to choose from the list of contractors and anticipate giving some updated numbers closer to the summer to see if they can open back up. He noted that Code Enforcement Director Walker and his crew had completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> demolition. Mr. Clark noted that people should let the city know if they have properties that are a nuisance. He noted the past weekend was Code Enforcement's first weekend they worked, and they plan to do this twice a month.

**CEREMONIAL:****Proclamation in recognition of the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerk's Week-May 5-11, 2024-Executive Offices****Background/History:**

Municipal Clerk's Week is celebrated during the first full week of May. It's a time to recognize the vital role that municipal clerks play in local government. Municipal clerks are responsible for various administrative duties, including record-keeping, maintaining official documents, managing elections, and facilitating public meetings. They often serve as a central point of contact between government officials and the public. During Municipal Clerk's Week, communities may hold events or ceremonies to honor and thank their municipal clerks for their hard work and dedication to keeping local government running smoothly.

The Mayor and Council took pictures.

**PRESENTATIONS:****2. Recognition of Ward 4 Yard of the Quarter-Legislative Offices****Background/History:**

The purpose of the Yard of the Quarter program is to promote goodwill and recognize and support City of Forest Park Ward 4 residents who demonstrate exemplary efforts in maintaining their homes and yards to enhance the overall appearance of the entire community. The award this month is being presented to residents at 5212 Ash Street.

Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Gutierrez, and the residents of 5212 Ash Street took pictures.

**3. Presentation on Water Safety-Recreation and Leisure Department****Background/History:**

Water safety encompasses a broad spectrum of practices and guidelines aimed at preventing accidents and injuries around bodies of water. Whether it be swimming in a pool, enjoying a day at the beach, or participating in water sports, understanding, and implementing water safety measures is crucial for individuals of all ages.

**Marquessa Moore, Aquatics Coordinator-** noted her life purpose is to decrease the drowning rate amongst the minority children and children period. She noted about 800 children drown every year between May and August. She noted that some of the common causes of drowning and other water injuries are lack of swimming, lack of supervision, failure to wear life jackets, and the use of alcohol. Her tips to stay safe around water include learning how to swim, swimming with a buddy, and remembering to supervise your kids. She noted the city pool is always packed and they hire teenagers and adults to help with the supervision of the kids. Marquessa noted it is also important to know the ABCs of water safety which include adult supervision, barriers around bodies of water, and starting a class (CPR or Swim Lessons) at the City of Forest Park. She noted the opening date is May 24<sup>th</sup> and the Grand Opening is May 25<sup>th</sup> and there will be a DJ, icees for the kids and a whole lot of fun. She noted her most popular class is the Aqua tat Class with the babies and swim lessons registration will open on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James-** thanked her and noted her 4 adult kids learned to swim at Forest Park. She also noted she has a 2-week-old grand baby and noticed there is a 6-month-old classes and she is looking forward to that.

**Councilmember Antione-** thanked her and asked about what was going on with the movie in the park.

**Marquessa Moore -**noted that they won an award with GRPA for their movie in the park night and they will be doing it again. She noted that it is once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.

**Councilmember Gutierrez-** noted she did a great job, and when he met her, he loved her energy. He stated she did a good job speaking.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** thanked her for all she does and noted her energy is always the same.

**Mr. Clark** noted, for the first time they will have an opening for employees and governing body members. He asked Director Maxwell for that date.

**Director Maxwell-** noted there was a conflict for May 18<sup>th</sup>, so it will be May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilmember Mears-** thanked her for the presentation. He asked her if she could swim.

**Marquessa Moore** stated she was a competitive swimmer. She noted she has been a USA Coach certified for over 20 years.

**Director Maxwell** noted that the Movie in the Park is the dive-in, it is at the pool, and it is shut down. He noted the kids get to sit around on floats and watch a movie.

**4. Presentation on Older American Month-Recreation and Leisure Department****Background/History:**

Designated by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, Older American Month has made way for federal initiatives providing comprehensive services for older adults like the Older Americans Act of 1965. Celebrated every May and led by the Administration for Community Living, Older American Month promotes powerful themes to help celebrate the impact of older Americans. The 2024 theme is Powered by Connection, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on the health and well-being of older adults. In accordance with this year's theme we recognize one of our Legacy members of the Forest Park Senior Community, Virginia Wise, who is receiving President Biden's 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service.

**Director Maxwell-** noted he has a great leadership team and Mr. Clark has taught them to put their team out there to expand on what they do. He has challenged his team to come before the Council. He introduced Ann Foster as the new Senior Coordinator. He noted she has been doing an amazing job with getting the Legacy Seniors more involved.

**Ann Foster Senior Coordinator-** she noted it was originally called Senior Citizen Month and was changed to Older Americans Month. This led to the founding of the Older Americans Act which was the federal initiative to provide comprehensive services for older adults. She noted the Atlanta Regional Commission is the area agency on aging that provides health, wellness, and other services for seniors. She noted they

would like to recognize Bishop Julia Virginia Wise for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Services. This award is given to men and women who give their time to humanitarianism volunteering and helping their communities. Ms. Wise is 91 years old, and her hometown is Baltimore Maryland. She started a homeless shelter for women and their children and has mentored young people to become ministers and pastors, one of whom is a Grammy-nominated entertainer. She has put together an organization of seamstresses to help make dresses for children in Haiti and, she is very instrumental in getting cursive writing back as part of the curriculum for the school systems. She is an active preacher, author of 3 books, and known as the rapping grandmother. Ann noted at the Senior Center every Thursday at 1:30 and everyone is welcome to join as she leads the choir. She also invited them to come out on May 17th at 11:00 am as they celebrate all the Legacy Members.

**Councilmember James-** thanked her.

Councilmember Antione- thanked her.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** thanked her for what she has been able to come in and do. He noted he love the idea of celebrating the legacy members.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** thanked her and advised people to go hear Ms. Wise play the piano. She noted it is amazing to know Ms. Wise and thanked her for all she has done throughout her life and the City of Forest Park.

**Councilmember Mears-** thanked her.

**Ms. Wise-** noted she moved to Georgia 9 years ago and wondered what she would do here. She noted she asked the Lord to help her, and she was led to First Baptist Church and began to play with 2 guitars and a drummer. Then she went to the center and played there. She noted she has 6 children, 15 grands and 19 great-grands. She stated God had been good to her and began speaking to her at night and she wrote a book called "Without a Song". She proceeded to read a poem she wrote "They Call Us Old Folks".

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

5. **Council Approval of six (6) new recruits to the Fire Department (introductions)-** Fire and EMS Department
6. **Council Approval to Purchase Additional Fire Suppression Gear (Bunker Gear)-**Fire and EMS Department

It was moved to approve the Purchase of Additional Fire Suppression Gear (Bunker Gear).

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

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

7. **Council Discussion and Approval of Stryker Annual Service Agreement (Yr. 2 Renewal) in the amount of \$23,580.58-**Fire and EMS Department

It was moved to approve the Stryker Annual Service Agreement (Yr. 2 Renewal) in the amount of \$23,580.58.

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

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

**8. Council Discussion and Approval for an Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine- Fire and EMS Department**

It was moved to approve for an Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine.

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

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

**9. Council Approval of the Purchase of a Life Pak 15 v4 Monitor/Defibrillator for Rescue truck-Fire and EMS Department**

It was moved to approve the Purchase of a Life Pak 15 v4 Monitor/Defibrillator for Rescue truck.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**10. Council Approval of a Line-Item Transfer Request in the amount of \$10,500- Human Resources Department**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**11. Council Approval to enter into a contract with NOVA for Building Inspection Services-Planning and Community Development Department**

It was moved to approve to enter into a contract with NOVA for Building Inspection Services.

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

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

**12. Council Approval of the Senior Center Floor Repairs in the amount of \$31,750-Recreation and Leisure Department**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**13. Council Approval on an Agreement Between COFP and Clayton County Public Schools for a Summer Food Service Program-Recreation and Leisure**

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 Mears.

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

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James-** thanked everyone for coming out and noted she appreciates all the new staff members and is looking for more great things in Forest Park.

**Councilmember Antione -** welcomed the new hire to the Allstar team. He wanted to give a shout-out to the K9 expert. He gave a shoutout to Ms. Wise for doing God's work and for what she does for Haiti. He noted Ward 2 is looking good and sent his blessings.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** thanked everyone for coming out and welcomed the new employees. He thanked Lona from fire for being innovative with ideas, and for bringing money to the city. He noted he is proud of his colleague, and the staff. He noted they had a Budget Retreat and the directors presented what they needed and being able to agree more is helping the city move forward. Mr. Gutierrez told Ms. Wise she is a blessing, and they are happy to highlight the people of Forest Park in this manner.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** thanked everyone for coming out. She noted that Ms. Wise is a phenomenal lady and she thanked her. She thanked all the directors, the City Manager, and the employees for everything that they do.

**Councilmember Mears-** noted the budget went well and he learned a lot from it. He noted if you need something or see something say something. He noted he would like to make sure the police, fire, and public works department leaders come to them and present what they need. He noted they are here to help.

**Mayor Butler –** noted they are there because of the work the legacy residents have put in and she thanked them.

**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 7:57 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was motioned to reconvene into the Council Regular Session at 8:08 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Wells.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm.

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

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

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

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