



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, April 21, 2025 at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: [www.forestparkga.gov](http://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 Delores A. Gunn  
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells  
The Honorable Allan Mears  
Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager  
Randi Rainey, City Clerk  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

### DRAFT 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 Pastor Paden

**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		•
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		•
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		•
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		•

John Wiggins, Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis; Deputy HR Director; Javon Lloyd, PIO; Talisa Adams, Procurement Manager; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Joshua Cox; IT Director; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Nigel Wattley; Deputy Director Public Works, Alton Matthews, Public Works Director, Rochelle Dennis Interim Economic Dev. Director; Nicole Dozier, Planning Community Director; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Director Municipal Court; Brandon Criss, Police Chief; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

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

It was motioned to adopt the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

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

It was motioned to adopt the agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2025 - City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from April 7, 2025.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

Abstain: Councilmember James

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

**There were three (3) Public Comment Speakers.**

**Zack Parker** noted he was there to put the City Manager and the Mayor on public notice. He emphasized that they do not have the authority to dictate how, when, or where he exercises his First Amendment rights, nor who he brings his grievances to. He addressed claims that his public criticism was inappropriate because he spoke at the public meeting rather than in private, asserting that holding officials accountable should not be confined to closed-door discussions. He noted it was stated that complaints should be directed to the City Manager, but he is a public servant and does not get to decide how or where citizens hold them accountable. He noted when he speaks it is for himself and for anyone too afraid or too exhausted to come up there. Mr. Parker noted the system failed them and it failed him. He said the first amendment allows him to petition the government for progressive grievances. Which means there in public and not in a side office where the truth gets buried, not emails that go unanswered and meetings where he is nodded at and dismissed. He noted the remarks were dangerous and implied that public accountability should never be optional. Though he wants to move forward, he admitted that it has been difficult and hope they have the day they deserve.

**Bruce Abraham** noted he thinks they all are great, and he is the former Economic Director for the city. Bruce stated the city was loving and kind and he was happy to be there to speak. He noted while working for the city he got involved as a volunteer with the Hunger no More Food Bank on Courtney Drive. He noted the food bank feeds about 2500 people monthly and is a 501c3 nonprofit run by volunteers and donations. He noted they rely on an old box truck to ship the food from Atlanta to the food bank and it often breaks down, which prevents food from being delivered. He noted they are there to alert the people and give them an opportunity to help their neighbors who struggle to feed their family. He noted they are hosting an online fundraiser through Donor Box to purchase a good reliable truck and

the goal is 50,000.00. He noted there is going to be a greater need for something like this in the future. He stated when enough money has been raised, they will have an event to celebrate it.

**Rev. Michael Clinkscales** thanked Bruce and the Governing body, and those that have been able to come and volunteer.

**Joy Francis Springs** declined to speak and noted he is there for support.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**City Manager Clark** noted gave an overview and the functioning of each department, and events put on by the legislative office. He noted that the work on the home program is ongoing, and they are trying to get some contracts facilitated so the work can continue as it relates to home renovations. He noted that the Code Compliance had 78 cases of junk vehicles and 74 of those cases have been resolved. He noted that 4.2 million dollars were generated by the finance department in the overall general fund revenue. Mr. Clark noted next month will be the budget proposal retreat for fiscal year 25-26. He said he is proud of the integration of the AP automation system for the finance department, and it will help streamline payment processes and help to pay the vendors faster. He congratulated DeAndre Robbins, Aaron Jackson and Kyle Grace who completed the skills testing and met the required standards to serve as area relief drivers. He stated that the Municipal court had a mock trial, and they are eager to collaborate with Miss. Cox to help organize another one, and to work with Forest Park High School to start their own. He told the Councils that there is a Zoning 101 training session in a few weeks, and he is inviting them to come out. Mr. Clark stated there will be professionals coming in to discuss the zoning code and zoning law for the State of Georgia. He stated within the public works department the Pothole Wranglers will begin to repair potholes around the city. Mr. Clark stated that baseball, softball, soccer and T-ball will begin April 26.

## **CEREMONIAL:**

### **2. Proclamation Recognizing Georgia Cities Week April 21-26, 2025-Executive Offices**

#### **Background/History:**

Georgia Cities Week is an annual event in the state of Georgia dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness about the importance of cities and local government. Typically held during a designated week in April, it aims to highlight cities' role in providing essential services, fostering community engagement, and driving economic growth.

During Georgia Cities Week, municipalities across the state organize various activities and events to engage residents and promote civic pride. These activities may include open houses at city facilities, educational programs about local government functions, community service projects, environmental initiatives, arts and cultural events, and recreational activities for residents of all ages.

The council and directors took pictures.

### **3. Recognizing our Telecommunication Operators for Telecommunicators Week- Police Department**

#### **Background and History:**

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW) is celebrated annually during the second week of April (April 13, 2025 - April 19, 2025), to honor public safety telecommunicators for their crucial role in public safety.

NPSTW is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel across the nation but more specifically in the City of Forest Park who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Telecommunicators are the "first, first responders," often serving as the crucial link between the public and emergency services, handling thousands of 911 calls annually.

**Chief Criss** noted that the telecommunication team plays a vital role in the protection as it relates to public safety. He noted these are the voices that you hear when you call 911 and they have to work in a calm but hectic environment. He noted they are the first responders when there is an emergency, and they then dispatch them. Chief Criss noted they have made huge strides with technology in the 911 department. He noted there was a 5-year-old that called 911 because his mother had collapsed. He stated it was only him and his 4-year-old sister and even though they did not know their address the new technology that is in place allowed them to go straight to that address.

**Mayor Butler** noted there is special recognition that the chief would like to give to Ms. Johnson.

**Chief Criss** noted that Ms. Johnson took the Emergency Number Professional Test with the Nena Institute and passed it successfully. He noted in addition to this they will be able to start basic life support over the telephone in the event there is an emergency.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** suggested the telecommunicator be presented with a proclamation for the work they do.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **4. Financial Reporting of the FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial Report**

#### **Background/History:**

The Finance Department is presenting FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial review of the City's financials. The purpose of the monthly financial review is to help us know how healthy the City's cash flow is and help evaluate department performance to see if the executive office needs to reallocate resources to achieve the financial goals for the City.

**Director Wiggins** gave an over for 24-25 March summary financial report, ending 3.31.2025. He stated that revenue and expenses were budgeted at \$43,752,359.00 and the monthly take in was \$4,267,913.00. he stated spending for the month of March was \$31047.879.00. Director Wiggins showed a slide for the percentage per department for how the budget is being used. He stated only 68 percent of the budget is being used overall, which is good, because usually around this time 75 percent is being used. In conclusion he showed a slide of the other funds and how much is being used.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

It was motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

### **5. Council Approval to enter into a contract for On-Call Real Estate Appraisals and Right of Way Acquisition Consultant Services- Public Works/Procurement**

**6. Council Approval to Renew the Agreement with Flock Safety - Police Department/Procurement Department**

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**7. Council Approval of the Acquisition of Permanent Easement Rights Located at (Lot 78, 13th District) 5201 Albert Drive, Forest Park, Georgia 30297 - Executive Office**

It was motioned to approve the Acquisition of Permanent Easement Rights Located at (Lot 78, 13th District) 5201 Albert Drive, Forest Park, Georgia 30297.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**8. Council Approval regarding Major Medical renewal benefits package for FY' 25-26- Executive Office**

**Councilmember James** recommended option 3 with the 4.7 difference as suggested by the City Manager.

It was motioned to approve Major Medical renewal benefits package for FY' 25-26, option 3-w/4.7% change recommended by the City Manager.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**9. Council Approval to Purchase Body Worn Cameras and In-Car Cameras - Police Department/Procurement Department**

**City Manager Clark** asked them to specify in the motion that the payment will be coming from fund 214.

It was motioned to approve to Purchase Body Worn Cameras and In-Car Cameras, with the initial payment coming from fund 214 account.

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

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

**10. Council Approval of a Fee Waiver for the Use of Starr Park Amphitheater – Recreation and Leisure Services**

**City manager Clark** recommended approval with the condition to include that the applicant provide a Certificate of Insurance in the amount of 1 million dollars, listing the City of Forest Park as an additional insurer.

It was motioned to approve a Fee Waiver for the Use of Starr Park Amphitheater for the "Jam for Peace Festival", with the condition to include that the applicant provide a Certificate of Insurance in the amount of 1 million dollars, listing the City of Forest Park as an additional insurer.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**11. Council Approval of a Fee Waiver for the Use of 696 Main Street for Clayton County Department of Children Services– Recreation and Leisure Services**

It was motioned to approve a Fee Waiver for the Use of 696 Main Street for Clayton County Department of Children Services, to include applicants providing a certificate of Insurance in the amount of 1 million dollars, listing the City of Forest Park as an additional insurer.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** noted that May 15 will be the Baccalaur to honor the Valedictorian and Salutatorian at New Vision. She stated May 17, is Community Field Day as well as the Senior Caravan for Class of 2025. She noted May 21, at 4pm will be graduation for the graduating class. Councilmember James noted that her award meeting is the first Thursday of every month. She stated August 23<sup>rd</sup> is the annual homecoming and ask all Forest Park graduates to participate. Councilmember James gave a special shoutout to the Economic Department, Rochelle Dennis and her team with Food Truck Friday and the longest table, something they would like to bring back at the next food Truck event. She stated Sania Feagin is in LA and the city will be celebrating her. She is a graduate of Forest Park High School and attended the University of South Carolina where she was on the national winning team. Councilmember James noted she is the 21<sup>st</sup> person to be selected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick for the LA Sparks. She thanked everyone for showing up and noted they are always trying to do things that highlight and showcase their community, staff and members of the community. She gave a shoutout to the executive team on the Elevate Program and noted it was a hit. She stated they are trying to bring the underprivileged from homelessness to elevating their life.

**Councilmember Gunn** asked everyone to stay attentive and to tap into the Forest Park page to see upcoming events. She stated that Ward 2 is going to be coming together, but she is inviting all of Forest Park to come out May 8, to the town hall meeting at the senior center from 5 pm to 7 pm. She stated department heads will come out to address certain questions. She stated March 31, they will do "Boots on the Ground" and invited them to attend. She stated that "Elevate Ribbon Cutting was something to be proud of. She stated that Forest Park has its own resource center, and she is proud of it.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** thanked everyone for coming out and gave a shoutout to the 911 responders. He noted the incident he referenced was real while in Atlanta. He noted he saw this homeless individual upside down with no clothes and thought they were deceased. He called 911 and was placed on hold and was very frustrated. He noted he appreciates 911 in Forest Park for being here for the city when it is needed. He thanked the Council Aides for making Salena Day a success, and all that they do. He closed with congratulating Mrs. Dennis for her promotion. He gave a shoutout to Rock Church and noted they are going to make the truck happen. He stated he see how they try and feed the people not just in forest Park but from everywhere. He stated he will contribute and keep sharing until it happens.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** thanked the Chief for recognizing his employees and she would like to make sure they receive a proclamation, because they are the first responders. She asked for a clear cut off time for residents to be present to speak at the 7 o'clock meeting. She said she does not want them to be turned away if they are present before the 7 o'clock meeting starts. Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that even though she does not agree with



everything Mr. Parker says, she is never going to turn her back on a resident because they are their bosses or an employee because they are what makes the city look good. She stated she agrees with his statement about it being their platform to let them know how they feel. Councilmember Wells noted they should be listening and should not have to go behind closed doors to meet with anyone.

She thanked Jay Springs for all they do in the community. She stated the "Jam for Peace" is great and will bring people together on a positive note. Councilmember James told them to reach out if they need anything. She also noted that Wellness with Wells is tomorrow at 696 Main Street and will end the first week in May, but Ms. Brown has one going for the employees. She stated the Gospel Jam is this Saturday, April 26, and Canton Jones will be present, Councilmember Gunn will be singing, there will be local churches and pastors participating. She invited everyone and thanked them for coming out.

**Councilmember Mears** acknowledged Mr. Finch for regularly attending the meetings. He stated he hopes everyone had a blessed Easter and encouraged people to keep coming out.

**Mayor Butler** thanked everyone for coming out and noted they do have to return to 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 at 7:57 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

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

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

It was moved to reconvene the regular session at 8:49 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

## **12. Council Approval of the Indemnity Agreements for the tax sale of the Sang property.**

It was moved to approve the Indemnity Agreement for the Tax Sale of the Sang Property, located at 816 Needle drive.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

## **13. Council approval of the Indemnification agreement for Courtney Gore Smith at 4693 City View Drive.**

It was moved to approve the Indemnification agreement for Courtney Gore Smith at 4693 City View Drive.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

## **14. Council Approval of the Indemnification agreement for Edward Garceia at 550 Bridge Avenue.**

It was moved to approve the Indemnification agreement for Edward Garceia at 550 Bridge Avenue.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at 404-366-4720 at least 24 hours before the meeting.