



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, February 06, 2023, 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) 366.4720

**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 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 7:32pm by the Mayor and she read the Mission Statement.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** The invocation and pledge were led by Dr. 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 – <b>Via Zoom</b>		✓
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		✓

Javon Lloyd, Public Information Officer; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, Director of Human Resources; Bobby

Jinks, Director of Public Works; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Sandra Johnson, Deputy Police Chief; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development and Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager,

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

**There were two (2) speakers:**

**Clyde Pellegrini** – Asked for an update on the American Rescue Funds Rental Assistance program. Wanted to know the numbers of people served, number of people that applied, amount rewarded and the amount that is remaining. He also asked if the City Manager could include in the packet that is online a copy of his report, for those that watch at home, since they cannot see what he is reading off the screen.

**LaWanda Folami** – Wanted to congratulate Parks and Rec for being honored at the BOE, along with their colleagues. Stated since 2021 they have been looking for Zaxby's and someone is not at the table during the process. For example, the City Attorney, City Manager and Mr. Abraham all should be at the table. This is an investor, and his family has been here for a long time, and I know them.

I understand what you are saying about the waiver, but he is part of this city. A great investor throughout the region, just looking to come home to leave something to his next generation. On behalf of the men and women in blue, kudos, you all look great. There was an incident on Main Street, and you all came out to serve and protect. To my basketball team, you all know I love them, they are going to the championship and I invite you all to come out on Saturday if you are not too busy.

Last week I had about 100 people from the city and the county come and read at Seven Pillars Career Academy. Again, let us move forward with Zaxby's, it has been going on since 2021 and the people have been asking for it. I hear you saying you do not want the liability on us, and we do not want to put the liability on you all.

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

It was moved to adopt the Council Agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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 January 17, 2023 -**  
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2023, with the correction in Councilmember Gutierrez's comments - the name should be Abrahams not Avery.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2. Council Approval of the Health Accident Fund – Human Resources**

It was moved to approve the Health Accident Fund by increasing the amount available per employee to 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the weekly salary as a benefit for six weeks.

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

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

**3. Approve Conditional Use Permit at 721 Morrow Road - Planning & Community Development Department**

It was moved to table the Conditional Use Permit at 721 Morrow Road until the March 6, 2023 Council meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**4. Council Discussion on Waste Management Contract - Public Works**

It was moved to approve the Waste Management contract.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**5. Council Discussion of a CCE Contract Lobbying Services – Chief Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve the CCE Lobbying Contract Services

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**6. Council Approval on Zaxby's Request for Waiver Letter – Economic Development Department**

It was moved to approved Zaxby's Request for a Waiver Letter

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – Thanked everyone for coming and apologized for not being at the meeting in person, but she is under the weather. On March 12<sup>th</sup> she will have her Hunger Walk Run, with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Their team is Forest Park High School, and if you would like to sponsor someone to run or walk on your behalf, and get a T-shirt, reach out to her.

She is looking for sponsors for the event. This will give them an opportunity to have food drives for the community. They recently had one two weeks ago and feed over 150 families in the community and would like you all to help in this great endeavor once again. Thanks again and she looks forward to seeing you all soon.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Shout out to the new recruits, welcome to the All-Star team. Shout out to Mayor Butler and Jonathan Rashmir, they share the same birthday month, Happy Birthday! He received all the emails and is making plans to have a great ward meeting soon. Thank you all for coming.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Thank you all for withstanding this long, but informative and educated meeting. Shout out to the new officers that are about to be roaming the streets. Also, the Social Media guy thanks, and hopefully you can bring some innovative social media tactics to the city and work with Mr. Lloyd to get all the information out.

Thank you, Mr. Pellegrini, for the public comments. We need these comments to better us and make sure the information is getting out there. To the Zaxby's gentleman, I would like to apologize on behalf of my city. I do not want this to be the narrative of how we do business. There are hiccups sometimes, but I am glad you ran into somebody at that meeting, and it was able to be brought to our attention.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Rashmir, one of the pillars in our community who supports everything. Happy Birthday to my Mayor, her birthday is tomorrow and Happy Birthday to my wife. Shoutout to PD for going out to bingo night, we really appreciate you all. The seniors love you, love talking to you and anytime you can make it down there come out.

Make sure you support the fundraiser, and other events, it is to support the Senior Ball. The Senior Staff is just doing great things. Food Truck Friday will be the first weekend of next month. Be on the lookout for programs for Black History Month, it is very important that we do not forget that since we live in a community that is diverse. We are amongst great leaders that are of the African American Community. Let us also make sure to educate the young ones about past struggles, and things we have accomplished.

As a Latino, I am proud to live here, the African Americans started the Civil Rights movement, and without that we would not have much. Basketball and baseball season is kicking off, try and support our Forest Park Panthers, if you can come by the high school. If you need anything I am here.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – Thank you Mr. Zaxby's for coming out, I will have to get your name, I am all in favor of you coming to the community. Thank you for willing to invest in your community, because I too am a lifelong resident of Forest Park. To come back and be able to serve your community is different, so thank you so much. Thank you, Deputy Chief, for all that you are doing in the absence of a chief, and welcome to the new employees.

I received a few calls about why I was not at the Budget Retreat. The reason I was not there is because we could have had it here, and not spend so much of the taxpayers' dollars, plus I had to work. I do not feel we should drive for an hour, we can have the meetings here where residents can walk in and be involved and not feel like we are not being open to them.

Mr. Pellegrini, thanks for bringing this up. I am not sure if everyone is aware of what is going on with this alleged corruption stuff in the county. However, you should look a bit deeper because people can pretend very well. I would like to know the same thing, because it is being discussed in the county, about receiving nine million dollars and who was helped. I want to see the record of every person in Forest Park that was assisted, when it come to this government

money, and I want to know where the rest went, and the residents want to know too. Dr. Cooper, I would like a copy of the list, addresses, phone numbers and any other information.

Happy Birthday Jonathan, I am sorry I did not call you. Fun Friday will be back, we have people that are willing to invest, because that was taken away from the residents. This is another reason I will not go and sleep in a 3- or 4-hundred-dollar room. We take things from the residents, but can go have nice meetings at lavish establishments, then we can bring some of these events back.

People recognized this and wanted to bring Fun Friday in June. Forest Park Day will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in August, and Fitness in Forest Park is still going on. I would like to give everyone a heads up about the BOC meeting tomorrow at 5:30p. I will be there and if you would like to know what is going on within your county, please support our meetings and your commissioners' meetings. We are the ones that put these people in their positions, and they need to be held accountable, and so do we.

Lastly, I would like to give a shout out to my senior son, who has received multiple scholarships to different colleges like the University of Kentucky, Alabama State, Southern Illinois, and Virginia State. He is an all-around great kid and has been named Player of the Game, for the last 3 months. He is doing a great job, he has never given me any trouble, always a humble kid, and he is going places, Mr. Jacquez Akins at Jonesboro. Thank you all for coming and have a great night.

**Councilmember Mears** – Mr. Zaxby's, we are glad that you are picking our city. I am not trying to pick on you, I want to make sure you and the water people can get together and get it right. I appreciate the police for being here. Things must be done, you look and plan ahead and know that people will take our places, but if you keep things in order the city will continue to progress and move forward. Happy Birthday to the birthday people and I appreciate everyone for being here and thank you.

**Mayor Butler** – Thank you everyone for coming out, now to add to the Zaxby's talk. It is not that I was opposed to your presence, but I do believe that there is a work around to what was already been approved, that I think was being neglected. Being it was unanimous; my veto would be pointless. If anything, it would be to let you know, that I do recognize a work around and that would be my stance. If there is a workaround, I think it needs to be considered instead of just ignoring that.

**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 at 7:55pm into Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Council meeting at 8:35pm

Motion made by Councilmember Gutierrez, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Feb. 6, 2023, Council Regular Meeting at 8:35pm

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

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