



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

Website: 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

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

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Butler.

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

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

John Wiggins; Finance Director, Lashawn Gardiner; Director Planning & Community Development, SaVaughn Irons, Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley; Deputy Public Works Director, Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development; Latosha Clemons; Fire Chief, David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, IT Level 2 Support Engineer; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; Dorth Roper-Jackson; Court Administrator, Pauline Warrior; Senior Management Analyst, Captain Ghant and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the agenda as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from January 2, 2024 -**
City Clerk

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from January 2, 2024, with the recommended changes.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

John Randle – noted that on February 2nd he will be having a birthday party that will consist of fireworks being popped. He noted he has read the city ordinance, and he has spoken with the Governor about the law. He noted the state law deadline is 10:30 p.m., but he will obey the city ordinance of 9:30 p.m. He thanked Chief Criss because his officers did a fantastic job helping the public when they were in distress. He noted they did a great job when the family did a welfare check on him. Mr. Randle wanted to make Mayor aware that there will be an investigator coming to City Hall to speak with someone about the incident from April 25, 2023, for the violation of his Civil Rights.

Mrs. Empress- thanked the ones who took the time to give her advice over the weekend. She wants the city to put up a 1-800 number for people to call, and report things. She noted her poppa lost his life when driving to work by a fallen tree. This is near and dear to her and her family.

Ms. Wright – noted she has been in her home since 1997 and her street has never been fully paved, only patched. She asked of the 68 percent that is left, will they please consider Lee Circle? She noted the streetlight that has been blinking for about 3 weeks and it is annoying. Lastly, she noted information needs to be able to get out to the citizens. Things are going on in the community that some people know nothing about. She noted she knows what is happening through Facebook, but not everyone is computer literate.

Zack Parker - noted he is glad some people have had a favorable experience with the officials but, he is here to continue to speak for the people who have not. He noted he spoke at the last meeting including the Mayor, the City Council, and the City Manager. He noted several sessions of the code have been broken, and they seem to think it is amusing. He noted that in 2023 all the Council Meetings were not had and they still have not refrained from having side discussions while conducting the meetings. He noted the third thing is they continued to make rude comments toward one another. Mr. Parker noted the Council and the Mayor embarrassed themselves and the city for not knowing an extension of Public Comments must be put to a vote and won by a majority to be allowed to occur. He noted they all have their own section in the Code of Forest Park.

Mr. Parker noted Ward 1 Councilmember stated you all do not kick the can, you crush it. He noted as usual there were snarky comments and no substance or action at all. He noted his questions are still going unanswered. He noted there are codes in place so that no favoritism or retaliation takes place. He noted the code is for all and to be followed by all. He noted as they continue to kick the can, he will continue to come and remind them and the audience of this governing body's ways. He noted he is leaving them a copy of Title I and Title II of the Code of Forest Park.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager, Ricky Clark- noted that a lot has been completed in a short amount of time. He noted since being the City Manager, he has made it a priority to reinforce the notion while serving the constituents that it is all about trust. He highlighted Pauline Warrior, Senior Analyst, and the Council Aides on the work that has been done with the Home Repair Program. He noted there are 151 applicants and 87 have already submitted their pre-qualification status. He noted that the Code Enforcement Department has begun implementing the City's strategic Beautification Plan to beautify neighborhoods and commercial districts. He thanked the governing body and the city for trusting him to lead it to its next greatest height. He gave an overview of the progress and events from 2023.

Mr. Clark noted the Main Streetscape Project has been completed. He noted the Starr Park renovation is moving forward, and they plan to move the amphitheater to the side field and out of the park to allow enterprising. He noted the sign project for \$296,000.00 has been completed. He spoke about the City Center, the pool facility, and the Public Safety building at Gillum. He noted there is a supervisory position open with the Beautification Committee. He noted there are some projects for townhomes and restaurants about to launch north of Main Street, and a presentation will be presented in the next 30 days. He noted he is proud of the men and women of the police department and how they ensured all the departments were locked down during the active shooter event. He encouraged everyone to use the One-Click app to report what they see in the city.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Beautification Committee Members Swearing-In- Code Enforcement Department

Background/History:

As a part of the Beautification Plan 2023-2028 that was approved on October 2, 2023, included the creation of a Beautification Committee. On November 6, 2023, the Mayor and council approved six (6) members to serve on the Beautification Committee. I am requesting that the members be sworn in on this day January 16, 2024, and serve a one-year (1) term.

Director Walker- noted the Beautification Committee is to make sure things are identified in the area that needs attention. He noted they will also assist the elderly community.

The mayor swore in the Beautification Committee: LaShawn Boykin, Sparkle Adams, Lois Wright, Kwadernica Rhea, and Ann Keith. She and the council took pictures.

3. Presentation on the Mid-Year Review Financial Reporting for FY2023-2024- Finance Department

It was motioned to approve the Mid-Year Review Financial Reporting for FY2023-2024.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine.

Point of Order by Councilmember James. She wanted to know why they had to approve this.

City Manager Clark - noted 8 months ago he stated they should receive a report of the finances every month of what is approved into the record. He noted it is a financial report for the period, which is approved into the record similar to what they do with the other boards.

Councilmember James- wanted to know what they were approving because she did not understand.

City Manager Clark- noted it is their financial report. He noted they will receive this every month, which will be on the agenda for ratification.

Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Council Approval of Task Order for Schematic Design Services for the Forest Park City Center – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the Task Order for Schematic Design Services for the Forest Park City Center.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Council Approval on the Renewal contract with Piper Sandler, Ed Wall, as City of Forest Park Financial Advisor – Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the renewal contract with Piper Sandler, Ed Wall, as the City of Forest Park's Financial Advisor.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

6. Council Discussion on the Security Camera Upgrades – IT Department

It was motioned to approve the Security Camera Upgrades.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

7. Council Approval to enter into a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to develop a Feasibility Study for a pedestrian bridge over Forest Parkway- Planning & Community Development Department

It was motioned to approve a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to develop a Feasibility Study for a pedestrian bridge over Forest Parkway.

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 of an Outdoor Lighting Service Agreement- Project ID#000-0285-011- Public Works Department

It was motioned to approve the Outdoor Lighting Service Agreement- Project ID#000-0285-011.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James- noted February 3rd she will host a Business Breakfast with the cluster of schools, at Forest Park High at 9:30 a.m. Following the event will be an expo for the Atlanta Legends and the Forest Park High School Marching Band. She noted March 10th is the Hunger Walk. The Atlanta Community Food Bank does a hunger walk with Forest Park High School. It is to raise money for the food giveaway and 100 percent of the proceeds go there. May 18th will be Community Field Day to celebrate the graduating seniors. She would like to have a Black History dramatic presentation with dancing and arts.

Councilmember Gutierrez- thanked everyone for coming out and noted he is excited about having the Beautification Committee. He noted they need to work on reaching everyone in the community. He noted Javon does great with the Newsletters, but they need to talk about how to improve getting the information out. He noted he did not understand what the issue was with Mr. Parker but would like to email him or something to address it. Councilmember Gutierrez noted he did not know what they were doing wrong but would like to get some feedback and change whatever needs to be changed. He noted he would like to revisit the conversation about tree removal.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted some of the things Mr. Parker stated she agreed with, like having side conversations. However, she does not think any elected official knows all the Ordinances. She noted when something comes up that they refer to the attorney to look it up. She noted that she relates to Ms. Empress on the issues with the trees, and she lost a relative to one. She thinks they need to address the trees on city property. She noted that they will be looking to the community to let them know because they cannot see everything. Councilmember Akins-Wells stated Mr. Clark has the information on the streetlights and the paving and will look into it.

She noted that at Lee Circle they are trying to get the Willie Finch Community Garden together, and the Public Works Department did an amazing job on the new Gazebo. She noted they are going to put garden beds out there and she will get with Councilmember James and Gutierrez once the fence goes up. She would like a few high school students to add a splash of paint to it. She noted she spoke with Mrs. Adams, and she shared some beautiful pictures of corridors with her and asked that she share them to see what can be done on Main Street and Forest Parkway. Councilmember Akins-Wells thinks they should start listening to the community and some things as simple as flowers, that could make a huge difference. She noted Wellness with Wells is still every Tuesday, and she wanted the council to know a resident approached her and asked if it could be extended. She noted the job fair is January 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 696 Main Street and they have a total of 15 companies that will participate.

Councilmember Mears- noted it was cold and for people to keep an eye out for their space heaters and to leave their faucets dripping. He thanked everyone for coming out. He noted that Mr. Finch won for the oldest senior for attending the meetings.

Mayor Butler- noted since the temperature is so low, to keep your water dripping. She noted that Councilmember James Ward's meeting will be held Thursday at 5:00 p.m. at 696 Main Street, but it will be available online. She thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the Beatification Committee for stepping up to serve the community.

Councilmember Gutierrez- wanted to shout out Mr. Joe and Betty Shoemaker on Elam Church Road. He noted he turned 88 yesterday.

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 8:05 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

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

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Session at 8:56 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 8: 56 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember Gutierrez, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

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