



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, April 17, 2023 at 6:00 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 by Mayor Butler at 6:00pm and she read the Mission Statement.

**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		✓

Joshua Cox, IT Director; Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, Director of Human Resources; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works; Nigel Wattlely, Deputy Public Works Director;

Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Tarik Maxwell, Director Rec.& Leisure; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; and Captain Kayla Gant, Police Department

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:**

- Tuesday, April 18, 2023, is Special Election Runoff Voting Day in Clayton County. The polls are open from 7:00am – 7:00pm. Photo I.D. is required. On election day go to your assigned polling location, if you need assistance locating your polling location, please visit [MVP.SOS.GA.GOV](http://MVP.SOS.GA.GOV). Go and express your right to vote. This runoff is for the position of Clayton County Sheriff.
- On Thursday, April 20, 2023 @ 5:00pm, Councilwoman Kimberly James will be hosting her monthly Ward 1 Meeting at the Hartsfield Community Center – 696 Main St, Forest Park, GA.
- On April 21, 2023, from 5:00pm – 10:00pm the City of Forest Park Recreation and Leisure Department in partnership with our Senior Panther's in Action presents its Senior Prom with a Western Night Theme at 696 Main St, Forest Park, GA 30297. For more information please contact Council aide Tenisha Dixon @ [Tdixon@forestparkga.gov](mailto:Tdixon@forestparkga.gov) or Senior Center Coordinator Myia Williams @ [mwilliams@forestparkga.gov](mailto:mwilliams@forestparkga.gov)
- On April 22, 2023, from 9:00am – 2:00pm, along Hendrix Drive from Conley Rd to Main St the Forest Park Fire Department in collaboration with the American Red Cross will be hosting the “National Sound the Alarm Campaign”. This campaign will be installing free smoke detectors in homes along the route. Training will be held at the Forest Park Baptist Church, located at 634 Main St. (immediately following the training, volunteers will head over to Hendrix Drive to install the fire alarms for residents). There is no advance sign-up for this event, it is strictly a canvassing campaign.
- On April 29, 2023, from 11:00 am – 3:00pm the City of Forest Park and Lifelink of Georgia presents a Health and Wellness Festival at Starr Park, 5031 Park Ave, Forest Park, GA 30297.

**CITY OPERATIONS:**

- On April 7, 2023, Deputy Chief Sandra Johnson, Captain Kayla Gant, and I met with the supervisor, union representative and postal workers of the Forest Park Post Office to address their safety concerns on their routes. It was reported last meeting that there were two robberies of workers, which occurred in the areas of unincorporated Forest Park. We have committed that the Forest Park Police Department will have special patrols and pay special attention to postal workers on their routes. DC Johnson gave a talk about what to do if they are approached on their route and information that could be helpful to the department in catching the perpetrators. We also committed to facilitate the conversation with the Clayton County Police Department.
- A partial road closure on both northbound and southbound Park Ave between Forest Parkway and Georgia Avenue will be taking place from April 17 through July 28, 2023, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00pm, weather permitting. The City of Forest Park is conducting work inside the Forest Park Recreation Center and moving heavy equipment near the east side of the building. Detour signs will be installed around the immediate area prior to and for the duration of the closure.
- Municipal Court Citations issued by the Police Department, Code Enforcement and others had represented Forest Park City Hall as the court's location. This has been addressed and updated to reflect their correct address 320 Cash Memorial Blvd, Forest Park, GA 30297.

**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT/SHOUT OUT:**

**THANK YOU AND HUGE SHOUT OUT** to Public Works own Daryl Carter, who dressed as our very own Easter Bunny for Food Truck Friday's Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you, Mr. Carter, for everything you do.

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

Captain Ghant introduced the new recruits – Mooi, Elhadi, Joshua Peterson, Channing Kimbell-Green and Ashira Reed

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. **FY 2022-23 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report** – Finance Department

**Background/History:**

Presentation of COFP's 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report for FY 2022-23 for review and discussion.

Chiquita Barkley, Director of Finance - gave an update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials for the city.

There were no comments from the governing body.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2. **Discussion on an agreement between the City of Forest Park and Clayton County Public Schools on RedSpeed system revenue sharing – Executive Offices**

**Background/History:**

On May 6, 2019, the Governing Body approved resolution 19-10 to Execute the Agreement with Red Speed. The revenues generated by the system, excluding RedSpeed's monthly fees and any fees associated with electronic processing of violations, are wired to the City of Forest Park on or about the 15th of the calendar day of the month. Per the 2018 Georgia Code Title 40 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 14 - Use of Speed Detection Devices and Red Light Cameras - Article 2 – section 40-14-18 - Speed Detection Devices states in part that the money collected and remitted shall only be used by such governing body to fund local law enforcement or public safety initiatives.

It was stated that there was a verbal agreement between both the Chief of Police with Clayton County Public Schools and the City of Forest Park at the time that five percent (5%) of annual RedSpeed revenues would be appropriated from the City of Forest Park to the Clayton County Public School to help fund law enforcement and public safety initiatives.

Since no written agreement could be found between the City of Forest Park and the Clayton County Public Schools designating these terms, the city manager is seeking the council's direction on how they wish to proceed with this matter.

**Comments and Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** - I would be in agreement with the verbal agreement, of 5 percent or more if the council chooses.

**Councilmember Antoine** – I agree with that.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Yes, I support this.

**Ms. Victoria Williams, Clayton County Public Schools** – It will be used to help with the crossing guards. The company we currently use does not have enough for us, so would like to hire our own to make sure kids get from school safely.

3. **Discussion and Approval for Funding of Specified Events – Legislative**

**Background/History:**

It was discussed that the governing body would like to fund certain events that had not been funded in the FY22-23 Budget. The total appropriation needing to be identified is \$14,500. The events to be funded are as follows –

100-20-1110-52-3913 - Special Events – Friday Nights (June 2023) for \$4,500

100-20-1110-52-3927 – Food Truck Friday (May and June 2023) for \$2,000

100-20-1110-52-3929 – Asian Heritage Month Event (May 2023) - \$8,000

The city manager is seeking direction and/or approval to identify available funding within the FY22-23 budget and reallocate the same to fund these respective events.

**Comments and Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember James** – The reason some of the funds were taken out of the budget is because of some of the comments we received from the public about funds being used to promote individuals. I would make sure that we have that in place. If the city is going to fund these events, it would be promoted as a city event and not an individual person.

**Councilmember Antoine** - We voted to send to pieces of equipment from the fire department, to be given to sister city in Haiti. They have a population of 12 million people and only have 5 fire trucks in the whole country. Forest Park has more than 5 fire trucks and only a population of 19 thousand people. It is sitting in the back collecting dust. If I am going to support this, I need you guys to support shipping the equipment like you voted on.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - I am glad you are bringing this back up; it is good for the community and gives us a chance to bond outside. For a lot of the city this is the only way they get to get out. They do not have cars to go to the city but can walk here to the park and enjoy themselves. I hope we can support this.

**Councilmember Wells** – It is all about the community. I am not trying to negotiate what our community wants; it is what our community needs. If you feel like this is what the community needs, you will support it and if you do not you want. It is not about an individual name; elected officials support the events they initiate. It is not about promoting or voting for Councilwoman Wells, having an event, because I do it for the community. I am glad to see this back on the agenda, and yes, we voted for this. However, I will not negotiate on what the residents need here and what the residents need in another country. I serve the residents here.

**Mayor Butler** – I put this back on the agenda, because I recognize where compromise is key. I went to the members of the governing body and humbled myself. There are things that I really wanted and opened up the conversation with, it is not fair for me to ask for something I wholeheartedly believe in, and not being able to extend and reciprocate that same respect. With that it was a simple ask to have this placed back on the agenda, for the council to vote for. As we go through the events and initiative put forward, it is considering the project from start to finish. We agreed to the fire trucks being sent to Haiti, but we did not consider the cost to ship them. There have been some nonprofit organizations identified to aide with the cost and I encourage the legislative body to seek alternative funding, to aid in some of the expense. Which will include helping to get the trucks over there.

**Councilmember Antoine**- Point of Order

**Mayor Butler** – State your point.

**Councilmember Antoine** – The city manager did the research and found a budget to send the fire trucks, which was thirty thousand dollars.

**Mayor Butler** – Dr. Cooper

**City Manager** – No we did not find the money, I told you that was the cost. We did not find it in the budget to do that.

**Councilmember Antoine** – No, I did not say we found it in the budget. I said you found the budget, which was thirty-thousand dollars.

**City Manager** – That is what will be needed, that is the minimum of what would have been needed, to ship them over.

**Councilmember Wells** – I am all about supporting Sisters City, but the residents here come before anything. If we here negotiating a Fun Friday event or an Asian Heritage Festival for the residents of Forest Park, for something they want, but what our community needs. You are saying you want support this unless the city, the taxpayers pay \$30,000 dollars, to get a truck to another country.

**Councilmember Antoine** – That was not stated.

**Councilmember Wells** – It was.

**Mayor Butler** – Thank you both for your comments.

4. **Council Confirmation of the Police Chief Candidate** – Executive Offices

**Background/History:**

City Council confirmation of candidate for the position of Chief of Police.

This item will be discussed during 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 6:18pm for Personnel, Litigation and Real Estate matters.

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

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, 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 Council Work Session at 7:05pm

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Council Work Session at 7:05pm.

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

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