



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, November 06, 2023 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  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

### DRAFT MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Butler.

**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		✓
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; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; SaVaughn Irons, Planner of Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Michelle Hood, Deputy City Clerk; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development; Chief Clemons, Fire Department; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; James Shelby, Project Manager; and Chief Criss of the Police Department.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**City Manager Clark-** introduced the new employees of the police department: Lakeisha Lucas, Bryan Williams, Khaniqua Parish, and Jamal Hunter.

**Chief Clemons-** introduced the employees who have been promoted within the Fire Department, Captain Brett Boyle and Captain John Gaskin.

**City Manager Clark-** introduced the new hires in the Public Works Department: Mike Cotton, Janie Walker, and Ronald Jessie. He noted there is a lot of diversity in the Public Works Department. He also introduced Rochelle Dennis as a new hire in the Economic Development Department. He stated they would confirm the appointment of the new hire, Mr. John Wiggins, in the Finance Department. He noted that tonight they would like input on the Starr Park renovations, the Incubator renovations, and other capital improvement projects.

Mr. Clark noted the finance department brought in over \$450,000.00, relative to delinquent property taxes. He noted the final tax sale would be held the following day. He introduced Pauline Warrior as the new hire in the Executive Office. He noted she will lead the organization as it relates to programming, operationalizing operations, optimizing the City, and focusing on grants. He noted that the final candidates for the Council Aide position will be presented at the next meeting. Finally, he congratulated employees on their work anniversaries.

**Councilmember James-** noted that Councilmember Mears was celebrating 57 years of marriage.

**PRESENTATIONS:****1. DEI Presentation: Creation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program****Background/History:**

The *Municipal Leader Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Certificate Program* is an EMBRACE program designed to equip municipal leaders with the knowledge, tools and resources to create a foundation for sustainable and equitable economic prosperity for their cities and residents by creating an environment that values differences, fosters relationships and seeks a spirit of belongingness. Each participant in the program had to present a Capstone Project that they would take back to their cities and work on implementing the project. Three presentations will be presented in the following order: Creation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program by Director Shalonda Brown; The Importance of Leading A culture of Inclusive Language, Effective Terminology and Gender Norms by Chief Latosha Clemons; and The LEAF (Leading an Essential, Able and Fulfilled Life) by Mayor Butler.

**Chief Clemons** - gave an overview of her presentation on Gender Norms. She noted the purpose of the presentation was to implement policies to enforce the importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. She noted everyone should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of race, gender, gender identity, and gender expression. She talked about using jargon and inclusive language that avoids bias and slang expressions. Chief Clemons expressed that it is important that all organizations draft a policy so that everybody feels inclusive.

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – thanked the chief, and stated these subjects start with leadership, and being able to acknowledge these things.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – told the chief she is simply amazing and that she appreciates her. She stated this is the type of stuff that the chief has in her and they are lucky to have her in the community.

**Chief Clemons-** noted these are conversations that must be had even though they are uncomfortable.

**Mayor Butler** – stated she would like to continue the conversation offline, so she can better educate herself.

**Councilmember James** – stated her daughter was having some issues at work, and she kept saying they. Mrs. James asked who they were, and it turned out to be one person. So, she understands the language used can be confusing.

**Mayor Butler-** gave an overview of her Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging presentation. She noted that there was a labor shortage and that they were looking for ways to attract and retain employees. She noted that using pay increases to mask deficiencies is not the answer and never to underestimate the enormity of treating people with dignity and respect. Mayor Butler stated she pondered what to do and noted that we have to graciously bow out of the “wage war” and, as a municipality, still attract and retain employees. She created the “Leaf Life” to Lead an Essential, Able, and Fulfilled life. Mayor Butler created her version of Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs for employees. This hierarchy includes basic needs, physiological needs, and self-fulfillment needs.

#### **Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – noted that he really liked the presentation, he liked that it was data-driven, and she asked the employees what they wanted. He looks forward to seeing this project move forward.

**Councilmember Antione** – thanked her and stated that he was looking forward to this.

**Councilmember James** – thanked the Mayor for a great job of putting it together. She thinks it is important that if the employees want to live in Forest Park, they have that option. She thinks the housing stock needs to improve and has some coming up. She noted they could talk to some of the developers who are doing renovations as an option for the employees to purchase. She stated she is wholeheartedly for this initiative and will see what they can do.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – noted the City has talented employees, and it would be great for everyone to pitch in and help build and buy into this initiative.

**City Manager Clark** – noted this is a directive from Mayor Butler to embed this into our operational practices. He noted the Executive Office believes this is amazing work and mirrors some of the requests that have been made since he has been here. Mr. Clark noted he would like to embed Chief Clemon's work into this as well. He thinks the suggestions received will help Forest Park stand out from other entities.

**City Attorney Williams Williams** – noted that based on what the City Manager said it may be the council's desire to amend the regular agenda and have the council adopt the directive for staff to pursue some of the recommendations in both presentations.

**Councilmember James** – wanted to know if the presentation from Ms. Brown will be heard at the next meeting.

**Mayor Butler** – stated yes.

## **2. Recognizing Mr. William Ross for 50+ Years of Service at the City of Forest Park**

This presentation is to officially recognize Mr. Williams Ross for 50+ years of service to the City of Forest Park as an employee in the Public Works Department.

**Mayor Butler**- recognized Mr. William Ross, who had been with the City for a total of 55 years. She presented him with the first-ever Key to the City, and she and the council took pictures.

**Mr. William Ross** -stated he has enjoyed working with the City of Forest Park and it could not have been a better place to work.

**Councilmember Gutierrez**- thanked Mr. Ross and stated that he appreciated his dedication.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – thanked him for being dedicated to his job and the City. She thanked Mr. Clark for his idea to give Mr. Ross the Key to the City.

**Mr. Clark**- noted that the criteria had been developed as they began to give out the keys to the City. He asked the governing body to review for adoption at the next council meeting, to help streamline the process. If they start, getting requests it should be kept ceremonial for major monumental events.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**3. Council Approval of the Recommended Proposed Millage Rate- Public Hearing #3-Finance Department**

It was moved to recess the Regular meeting and open the 3rd Public Hearing for the Proposed Millage Rate.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Point of Order by Councilmember James. She asked if they had just done that.

**Mayor Butler** - stated no, they had closed the regular meeting.

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

It was moved to open the 3rd Public Hearing for the Proposed Millage Rate.

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

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

There were no speakers for or against the proposed Millage Rate.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing.

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

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

**4. Council Approval on the Second Public Hearing by Mayor and Council on the 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update - Planning and Community Development Department**

It was moved to Open the 2nd Public Hearing Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan update.

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

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

Point of Order by Councilwoman James. She wanted to know if they could show the presentation and then have the votes.

**City Attorney Willams** -stated it was fine, and the information is on the website. He stated if she wanted a brief presentation so the public could know what they were speaking about would be appropriate.

**SaVaughn Irons** – noted Andrew Smith from the Atlanta Region Commission will do a presentation. They have been assisting the Planning and Community Development Department with the 2023 update to the Comprehensive Plan. It is updated every 5 years to keep the local government status. This is the second required hearing through the DCA.

**Andrew Smith, Atlanta Regional Commission** -explained the required Comprehensive Plan elements and state requirements, as far as the vision for the City and how it plans to move forward. He noted the elements required every five years and stated the Regional Commission is available to assist if needed for free. Mr. Smith presented the planning process and timeline to show where they are in the process and noted this is another element required by the state. He stated broadband is a required element that the state has elevated the importance of high-speed internet. He reviewed the needs, the opportunities, and the goals of the City. Mr. Smith gave an overview of the plans for housing, transportation, and work programs for the City.

**City Manager Clark**- stated there was a slide that stated it was only 400 or so individuals that live in Forest Park that occupy the jobs, and that is alarming. That is only 2 percent of our population. When we look at Gillem and the data, we can see that many of those jobs are not occupied by people who live here. He noted they are working with PB&Z, doing some DEI work to ensure residents have proper access to the available jobs and the workforce training aspect.

There were (3) three speakers in favor of this plan.

**Ann Keith** – grew up in the City and noted this is not her first time seeing a comprehensive plan. She is thankful and excited because they not only have a plan but there is going to be some action. She noted she is looking forward to what is coming to Forest Park.

**Walter Gooden** – is in favor of the comprehensive plan.

**Carl Evans** – noted he was at the event at the Senior Center and a great job was done answering everyone's questions. He noted it is good to some action finally taking place.

There was no one against the plan.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

It was moved to approve the Proposed Millage Rate.

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

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

**Councilmember James** - asked if they were going to have a discussion on the Comprehensive Plan

**Mayor Butler** - stated during the closing comments.

**City Manager Clark** - stated it is not the final plan, that will be brought back for voting in December.

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

There were (6) six Public Speakers:

**John Randle** -noted the stop sign on Burkes and Yancy, on school days people are running them. Noted there were drug activities going down about 1.5 weeks ago. He brought it to the chief's attention and emailed the tag number but does not know how it is being processed. He wants training done for Forest Park Employees on respecting the public and not telling them that they are on punishment. Mr. Randle does not appreciate being disrespected as a citizen of the City. He noted he has been thinking about gathering some people to do a cop watch to hold them accountable. He states he has filed several complaints but does not get a response. The handling of the complaint process needs to be looked at.

**Frank Holtzclaw** – noted he had problems with Planning and Zoning. On October 7<sup>th</sup> a sign was put out for 0 Scott Road, for a hearing on the 19<sup>th</sup>, but they did not receive anything in the mail. On October 17<sup>th</sup> he went to the Planning Department to get information and was told if there is a picture on your phone that is all the information you need. He noted on the 19 at the meeting he started asking questions because he did not understand, and he was finally given a packet of information. He stated to the members not to listen to any more of the false promises. Divine Homes was supposed to do the roads and the sidewalk, but this information was never presented at the council meeting. He stated he was threatened to be removed from the meeting because the person conducting the meeting got upset about his outburst.

**Walter Gooden** – noted his concern is speeding in the speed zone, by WF Elementary School. He stated he asked for speed bumps to slow the traffic down. He stated there was a speed monitor up for about 3 weeks and they were taken down. He noted the school zones here are not up to par like in other cities and counties. Other places have speed bumps and cameras in their school zones. He noted they would like to see the City police there in the morning when school starts and one in the afternoon when it lets out to assist the Resource officers.

**Zack Parker** – noted any matter that is not dealt with and explained illegally or not lawfully, maybe a matter that may be considered old by the council. He noted he has been lied to for months and still has not received the information that was requested. The same rat problem with Waste Management has been discussed for years, and when brought to your attention, do you just tell the residents it is old news? A disabled citizen had to go through the trouble of coming here to hold you accountable for receiving a call back that they were promised.

He stated he gets retorts from the council about what he says on occasions, but never answers. He feels the City needs leaders who work when it is not convenient, leaders who know the City do not stop running because of a holiday. He noted the governing body will have one more meeting to suffice the 55 days that are left within the year; to govern the City and be transparent to the citizens. He noted the chair continues to make up rules and enforce those rules and tries to kick him out over rules that have been made up, and not follow those rules. He stated they would be there until about 10 because things from the next 30 days will be crammed into a couple of hours. In the charter, it states 2 meetings are to be had and you should be docked 10 percent when you break rules or do not show up for a meeting.

**Maveto Hilton** – noted the last time she was there she was seeking zoning approval for the school which was granted. Since then, they have started a new initiative to offer free emergency childcare to unemployed and low-income families. They are asking for assistance or some type of support to continue to provide free services. 11 Alive News found out about this and featured them. Their desire is not to just be affordable, but to be free to the families. This will aid people to become contributing members of society.

**Lashawn Banks** – noted that speeding on Watts Road is terrible. She stated there is a 25mph sign, but they are not abiding by that. At the corner of Watson and Ridgewood, 2 people got hit in the last 2 years. She stated there were police officers on the road dealing with another issue and she was happy to see them, hoping they could catch the speeders. She stated there is also a bus stop at the end of the road and they have to hit the brakes hard if they come over the hill fast. Then at Forest Avenue and Watts Road, if there was a turning light it could help with the speeding because there have been a couple of crashes there.

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

It was moved to adopt the agenda with the following addition, which is a council directive to staff to explore the recommendations from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Presentation.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

It was moved to amend the agenda to add the council directive to staff to explore the recommendations from the presentation by Chief Clemons.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

It was moved to amend the agenda to add a directive to staff to explore the recommendations from the DEI Presentation on Leaf Life.

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

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

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

- 5. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2023, and October 30, 2023, Public Hearings #1 and #2 - City Clerk**

It was moved to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes from October 16, 2023, and from the October 30th Public Hearings.

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**6. Council Approval of a Resolution to Confirming the Nomination of the Finance Director –Executive Office**

It was moved to approve the Resolution to Confirm the Nomination of the Finance Director.

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

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**7. Council Approval of the Purchase of Extrication Tools for Quint-1 Fire Truck in the amount of \$38,000; RFB Not Required-Fire Department**

**REQUEST FOR BID NOT REQUIRED**

It was moved to approve the Purchase of extraction tools for Quint-1 Fire Truck in the amount of \$38,000.

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 Approval to Purchase 85 Rescue Jackets in the amount of \$20,072.23- Fire Department**

It was moved to approve to Purchase 85 Rescue Jackets in the amount of \$20,072.23.

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 an Ordinance to Establish Municipal Court as Department of the City – Executive Office**

It was moved to approve an Ordinance to Establish Municipal Court as Department of the City.

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

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

**10. Council Approval of an Ordinance to Update the City's Public Records Ordinance –Executive Office**

It was moved to approve the Ordinance to Update the City's Public Records Ordinance.



Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**11. Council Approval of the Operational & Performance Audit – Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve the Operational & Performance Audit.

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

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember James

**12. Council Approval of a Resolution to Name Members of Beautification Committee –Executive Office**

**Mayor Butler** asked if all names needed to be stated.

**City Attorney Williams Williams** stated yes, just for clarity.

**Mayor Butler** -Kwanernica Rhea, Sparkle Adams, Ann Keith, Lashawn Boykin, Lois Wright and Billy Louis.

It was moved to approve a Resolution to Name Members of the Beautification Committee.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

**13. Council Approval Requesting to dissolve the Management Analyst Position in the Police Department- Human Resources Department**

It was moved to approve the Request to dissolve the Management Analyst Position in the Police Department.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells

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

**14. Council Approval of a Resolution to Provide Leave Eligibility after (3) Three Months of Employment- Human Resources Department**

It was moved to approve a Resolution to Provide Leave Eligibility after (3) Three Months of Employment.

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

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

**15. Council Discussion and Approval for the Lighting Addition Agreement – Public Works Department**

It was moved to approve the Lighting Addition Agreement.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**16. Council Approval for Perkins Park Basketball Court Remodel – Public Works Department**

It was moved to approve the Perkins Park Basketball Court Remodel.

**City Attorney Williams** asked if they needed to clarify that the approval is for the not-to-exceed amount for the basketball court since they do not have a contract.

**City Manager Clark** stated it was 2 parts: the fence company and the second part to identify a company to come and do the work.

**Councilmember Antione** -withdrew his motion.

It was moved to approve the basketball court renovation not exceeding \$65,000.00.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez,

**Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:**

A point of order was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, who asked if it was for this park or all the parks.

**City Manager Clark** -stated all the parks.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** -recommends tabling it because the new bids may exceed this amount.

**City Attorney Williams** -states the City Manager can use his signing authority if it is within his \$10,000 discretion; also noting the City Manager can proceed under that, or it can be brought back to approve the additional amount. He noted if she wanted to bring it back that was fine.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** -stated that it is what she would like to do.

**Mayor Butler** -asked if it was for the basketball court of the fence. She asked Councilmember James if she was willing to withdraw the motion.

**Councilmember James** -stated she will keep it as it is and, they could bring it back if needed.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** asked if it would be like that for every park, not to exceed \$65,000.00.

**City Attorney Williams**- stated the only reason it is \$65,000.00 now is because that is what the original bid was for. This does not pertain to the other parks; they will be dealt with separately.

**Councilmember James**- stated the other parks are only \$50,000.00.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells**- stated that was not true; they have Capital Outlay Money that can also be used.

Voting Yes, Councilmember Mears

Voting Nay, Councilmember Akins-Wells

It was moved to approve the fencing for Perkins Park in the amount of \$10,188.00.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**17. Council Approval of a Secondary Internet Provider Agreement- IT Department**

It was moved to approve a Secondary Internet Provider Agreement.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**18. Council Approval of Budget Adjustment-Increased Revenue & Park Improvements- Finance Department**

It was moved to approve the Budget Adjustment-Increased Revenue & Park Improvements.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**19. Council Approval of The Police Department requesting a budget amendment to add (2) Police Officer positions and to delete (1) Police Analyst position - Police Department**

It was moved to approve the Police Department's request for a budget amendment to add (2) Police Officer positions and to delete (1) Police Analyst position.

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

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

**20. Council Approval of Directive to Staff to explore Recommendation from DEI Presentation.**

It was moved to approve the directive to staff to explore the recommendation from Chief Clemons's DEI presentation.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**21. Council Approval of Staff Directive to explore recommendations from the DEI from the Leaf Life.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – noted from the comprehensive plan report accomplishments, one thing canceled is the development of an underground parking deck. This is based on the 2021 LCI study update. We will explore it being a private partner-led mixed-use development.

**City Manager** – noted he would speak with her offline and get more history on that, and to ensure it aligns, get with the Community Development Department to see the standard.

**Councilmember James** – asked, since this will be canceled, does that mean it will not be a part of the 5-year process?

**City Manager Clark**- stated this has been in the City for some years, and the plan is not underway. He noted he had not heard anything about an underground parking lot.

**Councilmember James** – wanted to know if the Comprehensive Plan is just Main Street or Citywide.

**City Manager Clark**- noted it was Citywide.

**Councilmember James** noted that since it is City-wide, she thought he was proposing this.

**City Manager** – noted, based upon the typography, that even though it would be underground, the parking is not underground but at street level.

**Councilmember James** –noted for the broadband, the map says we are well served. Do we have any say on the airport airplanes and the interruptions we get? How can we handle this?

**City Manager Clark**- noted the metric that the Atlanta Regional Commission is presenting is the access to federal dollars, identified to improve broadband. The map in this packet illustrates some areas in Forest Park with no broadband. So, we must implement a strategy to ensure they have it.

**Councilmember James**- stated she brought a copy of the Starr Park Master Plan because Mr. Clark said he had never seen it.

**City Manager Clark** – in the presentation tonight, the architect will show you; I do know where some of the information came from. It was actually phased into Starr Park. However, they had only shown me the part around the park in their work with me.

**Councilmember James** – states as the comprehensive plan relates to Starr Park, is there anything in the presentation that was presented to us that we approved before?

**City Manager Clark** – noted the plan is in place to serve as a guide, not a direct document stating you have to do this.

**Point of order by Councilmember Akins-Wells.** She wanted to know if it was questions and answers or closing comments. She wanted to know if they could do that since they canceled the other meeting and are trying to cram it into one meeting.

**City Attorney Williams**- stated it is at the presiding officer's discretion.

**Mayor Butler-** stated she did say they could ask questions during the closing comments.

**Councilmember James-** stated she wants to ensure the items that the council approved for Starr Park are included in the plan. She thanked everyone for coming and reminded them her Ward meeting is every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 696 Main Street, starting at 5 pm, and dinner will be served.

**Councilmember Antione** – gave a shoutout to Director Walker and his staff for hosting a great block party. He gave a shout-out to the people who helped put the Sickle Cell Disease event together. He gave a shoutout to the Beautification Committee and welcomed the new staff to the All-Star Team.

**Councilmember Gutierrez-** noted they would be looking into the concerns from the public comments, like the speed monitors. Mr. Frank, I will be inquiring about how you were treated. He stated, they are big on customer service, and he always brags about how good they treat their people. He noted the Veterans Day event will be on Friday. He noted the Day of the Dead event is coming up, and they will watch a movie. He recognized the middle school Panthers that has never gone undefeated, and he is proud of them for being 6-6 this year. He noted that tomorrow is election day, and he still has his seat as he ran unopposed. He wants the people to reach out if they need anything.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that she agrees with many of the things Mr. Parker said, and things tend to get brushed under the rug, and people are treated a certain way because of how people feel about them, which is unfair.** Ms. Wells is frustrated about the park and thinks there is a pattern of not getting things done regarding the parks in Ward 4. She noted she was tired of talking about Waste Management and putting a band-aid on it. She feels they need to work on getting the dump out of the community. Speeding on West Street has been discussed for years, and something needs to be done about it. She thanked Chief Criss and stated she knows he will do what needs to be done at the schools for the kids. She thanked the City Manager for all he did and will do and for giving Mr. Ross the first key to the City. She noted that she did not vote for 1 meeting because they get paid to do 2 meetings a month.

**Councilmember Mears** – noted he likes how the City is coming together and welcomed the new employees. He thanked everyone for being there.

**Mayor Butler-** noted that they have two (2) work session meetings and two (2) regular monthly meetings, and the narrative of having just one meeting needs to stop. She noted the decision made by the council to cancel the upcoming meetings, and anytime there is a pressing issue, they will have a Special Called meeting. She noted the 10 percent dock is if you are consecutively missing a meeting without justification, which is not happening here. Mayor Butler noted that if that were the case, the City Attorney would let them know. She reminded everyone of the Veterans Day program coming up this Friday. November 16<sup>th</sup> is the turkey giveaway with Bulldog Insurance.

**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 9:16 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 moved to reconvene back into the Regular Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

It was moved to amend the agenda to include 3 presentations for the Rite Aid Building, the City Center, and Starr Park.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**City Manager Clark** noted that the Project Manager, Mr. Shelby, will go over the high-level and then introduce the Architects to go through the presentation.

**Project Manager, James Shelby-** noted three projects to be presented: the Rite Aid Building, the City Center, and Starr Park. There have been some changes made to the City Center and Starr Park. He introduced Oscar Herrera to talk about Starr Park.

**Oscar Herrera** -noted that in October, they had their initial meeting with the City Manager and Mr. James to discuss the current state of Starr Park as it relates to the single bid that was submitted. He noted that due to that bid, they decided to break out sections of the park, which was originally done under Phase 1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase is the sports phase, and now they are discussing having a 3<sup>rd</sup> phase or relocating the active portion of the park under Phase 1.

**Councilmember James-** if he could tell her the streets, and wanted to know if it is where the current park and soccer field is now.

**Oscar Herrera-** noted that was right.

**Project Manager, Mr. Shelby-** noted that this is not all of phase 1. It will also include 3 acres of the property they are discussing with Clayton County to acquire. He noted that all the activities Mr. Herrera discussed will be moved to that area. He noted with the Starr Park Master Plan that all the elements were incorporated into this plan. He stated they are moving the stadium because it will be an enterprise, it can be fenced in, and they can hold concerts more easily there.

**Councilmember James-** noted she was confused about where things fit on the street.

**Project Manager, Mr. Shelby –** explained to Councilmember James the layout of the plan.

**City Manager Clark** -noted the amphitheater is contingent upon this happening, and as stated on the call, the county should be looking to ratify this item in December.

**Councilmember James –** wanted to know if the multi-purpose field would be like they have it now, like having multiple games simultaneously.

**Mr. Herrera** -noted it is the same size as if it was in the other place.

**Councilmember James** -asked for a copy of the plan.

**Councilmember James –** asked if it still will have the splash pad.

**City Manager Clark-** stated they are recommending it be removed based on the recommendation from the architect and from reviewing experiences from other jurisdictions.

**Councilmember James** – stated that is a conversation they will have to have because it is something that the residents voted on.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** noted that since things have changed, she trusts Mr. Clark is making the right decisions if they plan to do away with the splash pad, and they do not have to have everything that was stated.

**Mayor Butler** – noted part of where they are now is because they came in grossly over budget. She noted they are scaling back to bring the park to fruition. She noted they can discuss so there is no confusion about what they originally said and what they are getting.

**City Manager Clark-** stated they could present it at the next meeting.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – asked about parking.

**City Manager Clark-** noted it would not be seen because of where the City center is located, but the parking will be improved, and there are 100 parking spaces on the ground floor.

**Councilmember James** – noted they discussed not having the park separate but together. She noted part of that was Hines Ward Pass. She stated there was greenery to mesh it together, and if you need to cut it off for an event, it worked and did not just look like the road.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – asked did they only had one bid for this park.

**City Manager Clark-** noted that 15 to 20 individuals attended the Prebid conference. He also noted when it came down to it only one company bid. He stated that the way the bid was issued was not clear, and what drove the cost was duplicate line items. He noted they are going through it to ensure they do not have those issues.

**Liz Hudson Architect Precision Planning** – introduced Kent Snyder, who is also an Architect with Precision Planning. She stated they would be able to integrate and share a space with the different divisions of the City. She noted the center will be on a site where it can overlook Starr Park. She reviewed the layout and positioning of each building and stated that it was very preliminary and needed their feedback to fine-tune it.

**City Manager Clark-** noted if they had an event at the amphitheater, they could dedicate the underground parking for said activity, since City staff would not be there.

**Councilmember Mears-** inquired about a kitchen for cooking.

**City Manager Clark-** noted they would institute a kitchen so that it never has to be shared in case the facility is being used for another event. He stated they needed to know if they were headed in the right direction and if the governing body was comfortable with the notion that they would be able to get all the offices on the block if they closed down that portion of Lake Drive.

**Councilmember James-** stated she thinks they should look at access to the park. She would have to drive out of the way to get there. She wanted to know if they could look at building an entry.

**City Manager Clark** – noted they are building a pedestrian bridge, and she could park across the street and walk over there; that way, she is not caught up in all the traffic.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells-** noted there are multiple ways to get around.

**Mayor Butler** – stated it is only a minor inconvenience, and she likes it the way it is.

**Leann Axum Precision Planning** – overviewed the Culinary Incubator and Food Court. She noted that City Manager Clark has some great ideas. She went over the plans for the building.

**City Manager Clark** – noted the Garden Bar is not where they will grow items from a bar. It is a full bar with a garden theme.

**Leann Axum** – noted they tried to keep the exterior the same and keep the investments on the interior. She noted they would recommend repairing certain areas on the existing finish.

**Councilmember James** – asked about the operating hours.

**City Manager Clark** – stated they have not gotten that far.

**Leann Axum** – stated there are a lot of opportunities if you want to have a nighttime place where your focus is entertainment, food, and community gathering.

**Councilmember Mears-** asked if the mechanical heating and cooling would be on the roof.

**Leann Axum** – stated yes.

**City Manager Clark** – noted that based on the feedback received from the Mayor and council, they would seek an alternative, so if the City wants to make a rooftop on top of this facility and look out over the Amphitheater. It would cost more because you would have to determine what to do with the mechanicals. He noted they are currently looking at a cost of about \$ 4,000,000.00.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Session at 10:30 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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 404-366-1555.