



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, December 04, 2023, 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
Mike Williams, City Attorney

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Butler.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Pastor Clinkscale.

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		✓

Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; John Wiggins, Finance Director, SaVaughn Irons, Planning & Community Development; Javon Llyod, PIO; Kwame Marshall; Media Specialist, Shalonda Brown; Director HR, Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley; Deputy Public Works Director, Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; and Pauline Warrior Senior Management Analyst.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the agenda with the addition of 3 items. Item 24 is the adoption of the 2024 Holiday Calendar, item 25 is the Meeting Calendar for 2024, and item 26 is the MOU between the City of Forest Park and Riverdale for EMT Services.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, 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 November 6, 2023 -**
City Clerk

There was no approval of the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were 5 (five) Public Comment Speakers:

Mr. Holtzclaw -noted that if the standards were changed and one owner had multiple properties, a builder would want to put twenty (20) homes on three (3) acres of land. He noted that he has been fighting this for about two (2) years, and it is to make a bigger profit. He asked if this was what Forest Park wanted, for things to become clustered so people could make a profit and leave. He asked them not to vote to change things to allow people to build a bunch of stuff in a small space.

Ms. Falomi- recognized the chief of Police and expressed how she feels he's doing an amazing job. She noted he was following the policy and procedures of having a warming station, and she provided several bags of things to assist with the project. She noted when looking at the comprehensive plan that maybe they can utilize the building on Main Street for a warming station. She gave kudos to Mattie Hartsfield and the City Manager for assisting the citizens when needed. She noted she is happy that the police department will be getting new fleet. She stated there was a reserve of \$250,000,000, which they have not heard anything about or what happened to it.

Ms. Falomi also noted the basketball season has started and wants everyone to come to Parks and Recreation to support the kids. She wants Ward 3 to be taken seriously. She stated the sidewalk on Rockcut Road needs to be reconsidered, and she wants a comprehensive study done with the citizens to see what is needed in Ward 3.

John Randle – noted he is concerned about the stop signs that people continue to run. He said he saw many cops out doing nothing and mentioned he had come across some nice cops this week and some who were rude to him. Mr. Randle also noted he appreciated the City fixing the sidewalk on New Burkes Road; however, there is another sidewalk issue on Ash Street, where the old Rite-Aid building used to be. He stated he was glad he did not break his neck one night, and the officer on call did a fantastic job. Mr. Randle hopes to hear back from someone at City Hall regarding some complaints he filed over four (4) weeks ago.

JoAnn Thomas – noted tractor-trailers being parked on Hwy 42 coming out of Holland Park Apartments, which citizens can't see when trying to make a right, and she was almost hit. Ms. Thomas noted that there have been many break-ins since they built the buildings on Fort Mack. She stated people walk onto the property, where there used to be fences.

Councilmember James called for a Point of Order and requested that Ms. Thomas be allowed to finish her public comments if she was not done.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- stated she is in favor of extending her time.

JoAnn Thomas – noted she cannot do anything if there is a break-in; she can't even yell for help. She asks that the Councilmembers treat Ward 3 better because they do matter.

Zack Parker – noted at the last meeting the Mayor did a presentation on respect, then disrespected him within minutes during his public comment. He stated he is continuously being disrespected and retaliated against for trying to hold the Council accountable. He noted there was a presentation on inclusion and the words used to describe others, and before the meeting was over, he was referred to as the camo guy, by a council member. He noted if you can see what is being done to him in this room, imagine what happens when no one is watching.

Mr. Parker stated he has been complaining about retaliation for years, with police sitting outside of his home, watching him, following him on his bike rides, and pulling him over for simply jogging. He noted that if you would not want these things to happen to your family members, you should not be okay with it happening to your citizens. He noted there were countless items on the agenda, and the last meeting ended at about 10:30 pm. He noted people want to be informed but do not have to be out until 11 pm to have to do so.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager, Mr. Clark- noted the Police and Fire Departments are among the most responsive entities that he has ever seen in his many years of government. Mr. Clark wanted to clarify that, because there have been times at events when the council wanted direct contact from the chief, and they went themselves. Mr. Clark noted to be thankful for what you have, and you will end up with more; If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never have enough, Oprah Winfrey. Mr. Clark noted going into November he wanted to know how to take the operational audit captured two (2) to three (3) years ago and make it into an actionable document. He noted that he wants to take the city to a data-driven government. He noted they would publish for everyone to see where they are on projects in real time.

Mr. Clark noted they went over most of the property held by the Landbank Authority to see what opportunities there are and will discuss it with the Mayor and Council. He noted in November that Chief Clemons did an amazing job of presenting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and they are taking it a step further to ensure all employees go through the course offered by GMA. He thanked Ms. Wanda Dutton, who had retired after 21 years with the City of Forest Park. He noted that Mr. Ian Hogan is celebrating 25 years with the Fire Department. Mr. Clark gave an overview of the progress of each department and the different projects that are underway and noted they are happy to answer any questions that anyone may have.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez – wanted to know if they could add a section to the report for the council to address the public comments.

City Manager, Mr. Clark- noted he will try to follow up after the meeting but can add the section or send it out in an email so that council members know the follow-up on each item.

Councilmember Gutierrez -noted he would like to hear that because, for the record, there are already 2 public comments stating the police chief is not answering complaints and that you are not answering complaints. He noted he wants to make sure it is public that we are addressing these things.

City Manager, Mr. Clark- noted that while they try and do their best job, sometimes they do not meet everyone's expectations. He noted they do not know their expectations, and when people do not get the answer they want, they will say they did not respond when they did.

Councilmember Antione – noted the welcome signs are beautiful and wanted to know where else they will be noted.

City Manager, Mr. Clark- noted they are working to ensure that in the various parks and the various Wards, any signage you see is consistent, and the look is the same. He noted he would get with Mr. Shelby, about lighting for the signs.

Mayor Butler- noted they spoke about landscaping around them.

City Manager, Mr. Clark- noted that some of them have been landscaped.

James Shelby, Project Manager -noted the only landscaping is the sign that is located near the Farmers Market, and the other signs will not be landscaped because they were not in the bid packet. He noted they could get some bids for the signs.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted they have the signs everywhere except Olde Dixie, which is a major highway in Forest Park, and she would like to know if they could change that. She noted it could be just a welcome sign on Tara Blvd.

Mr. Shelby- noted a post sign out there already, and one by the McDonald's is coming in on Jonesboro Road. He noted the road was so narrow that they could not put up a big sign.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Urban Redevelopment Authority Update- Economic Development

Background/History:

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) recently hit some major milestones in developing Gillem Logistics Center. The Economic Development Department provides personnel support for the URA and provides an updated report to the Council. Councilmember James chairs the URA. For information only, no action is required.

Bruce Abraham – gave some background history on Fort Gillem. He explained that economic development is about tax base and jobs and spoke on some of the positive projects that have happened on the site. He noted Kroger opened a distribution center, and the URA partnered with Robinson Weeks to build buildings there. Mr. Abraham noted that HD Supply is adding about 440,000 square feet of space, and Blue Starr Studio has opened 40,000 square feet. Mr. Abraham noted that the Army requires a certain Historic Preservation, and there is a lot of renovation to be done to the old buildings out there. He also noted that there have been 3,942 jobs that have been created since renovation, which surpasses the commitment to the US Army to create 2500 jobs.

Mr. Abraham noted that the value created at Gillum in the past 10 years is \$817,205,732, the market value of real and personal property combined. He noted there is a total of 185 acres left that are uncommitted in the project. He thanked the City Attorney Mike Williams, who for 10 years has helped with the contracts and the negotiations and stated that Mr. Williams knows the background of the property. Mr. Abraham

thanked Mrs. James, the current chair of the URA, who acts with wisdom and prudence, and the former chair, Mayor Butler, who put them on this track toward success.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – noted that part of her URA commitment to the intergovernmental agreement with the council is to ensure they receive updates on the URA Board. She thanked Mr. Abraham for pulling it all together. She noted one thing she would like to know is the final letter that Mr. Williams is working on for the army and what it entails.

Mike Williams, City Attorney – noted the agreement with the Army is not structured as an actual mortgage, note, or loan. They paid the Army but did not have any evidence, so they advised the Army of the document he prepared for them to certify and show they had been paid in full and that there were no further obligations.

Councilmember James – noted the other part is that the UR has contributed as part of the initial agreement to invest back.

City Attorney – noted this is a preliminary number of over \$24,000,000.00 that has been reinvested back into Gillum by the URA and proceeds from the sale of properties in Gillum.

Councilmember Antione – noted it is amazing how Gillum came from nothing to something and how proud he is of Mr. Abraham and the council members. He noted there are two council members still there who voted for that project in 2014.

Councilmember Gutierrez – noted that there were people before them who saw the plan and made it happen. He thanked Mr. Abraham.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted they were on the council when this originated. She gave kudos to those who were there before them. She noted even though they voted on it, things were taking place before they were ever on the board. Mrs. Wells gave a huge shoutout to the ones who started the conversation and the ones who are continuing to help it be a success. She thanked Councilmember James for keeping them in the know of what was going on.

Councilmember Mears – noted he was around when it first started and had many sleepless nights from obligating the city to a note of that size. He noted the people who were around when it started and is glad, they finally got it paid off.

Mayor Butler- noted she thinks the word evolution sums it up. She said not only Fort Gillum has evolved, but so has Forest Park, as a municipality. Mayor Butler noted that they missed something previously.

City Manager, Mr. Clark- introduced the new hires in the Police Department: Major Smith, Officer Mufasa, Officer Swain, Officer Knox, Officer Brown, Communication Manager Jennifer Johnson, and lastly, Office Assistant Latrese Miller.

3. Recognition of the retirement of City Attorney Michael Williams- Executive Offices

Mayor Butler- congratulated Mr. Williams on his retirement and years with the city. Mayor Butler presented Mr. Williams with a statue and took pictures with Mr. Williams and the governing body.

Mike Williams- noted that he has been practicing law altogether for about thirty (30) years and expressed wanting to do something different while having the energy to do it, such as being in the Ice Cream Truck

Business. He noted a lot has been done in Forest Park over the last year or so and that it's a wonderful city. Mr. Williams said he is happy to go to a new phase in his life but will miss what they have done, and the friendships created. He stated he is also going to miss being a part of the wonderful opportunities that are ahead. Mr. Williams noted he would follow the City of Forest Park and thanked them for allowing him to serve.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted she wanted to thank Mr. Williams on the city's behalf for everything he has done. She noted she knows that they have not always been easy to deal with, but he has always done his work with dignity and grace.

Councilmember Gutierrez- noted Mr. Williams has always talked him through everything, and he is grateful for all the life lessons on top of the legal guidance that he always gave.

Mayor Butler -Presented Mrs. Hartfield with a gift as a token of their appreciation. Mrs. Hartfield is the senior resident who appeared in the Home Improvement video. Mayor Butler noted that Mrs. Hartfield and her family have been in the Forest Park community for over 50 years and noted that the community center is named after her husband.

Mrs. Hartsfield – noted she loves Forest Park, and it is where she was born and raised. She noted she will be 87 years old on Thursday and asked the people to please keep the community going. She noted that Forest Park is one of the oldest cities in Clayton County.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted that she has known Mrs. Hartsfield for a long time. She noted Mrs. Hartfield had always been involved in the community until her health started to decline but would still make calls to try and get things done. She noted that she stopped by Mrs. Hartsfield's home, which was welcoming, and when she asked Mr. Clark to stop by, he did so with no hesitation. She noted it is time to take care of the seniors who have taken care of them and provided them with the history of the community.

4. Presentation on the City of Forest Park Fire Dept. & EMS Public Safety Educator Upcoming Events/Projects, Which Includes the purchase of a Fire Prevention Trailer- Fire Department

The Forest Park Fire & EMS Public Safety Educator will present upcoming events & projects. One of the projects is to purchase a Fire Prevention Trailer. The trailer would be purchased utilizing the fees & revenues collected from plan reviews and construction project fees. Our chosen trailer is manufactured by LION – NAFECO and costs \$287,364.76. Further description of the trailer will be in the Public Safety Educator's presentation of upcoming events and projects.

A PowerPoint presentation will be shown while Mr. Anthony Gallman gives the presentation.

Deputy Chief Halcomb- asked permission for the Fire Marshal's Office to be able to accept fees for construction documents and noted the money would be set aside for Public Safety education. Deputy Chief Halcomb stated one of the main goals is to replace the old fire safety trailer, which is outdated and unsafe. He noted they have reached that goal.

Anthony Gallman, Public Safety Educator –noted that he has been with the City for one (1) year and realized there is a need for the fire safety trailer that we are looking at. He noted they have been to schools and businesses teaching CPR, and how to use fire extinguishers. He noted they are doing a toy drive to be distributed to children and families in need. Mr. Gallman noted he has some people who would like to lend or give to the project. He noted they would put money on gift cards that have been collected from the different entities. The families identified can go out with the firefighters and purchase a limited amount.

Mr. Gallman- stated the trailer is enclosed, thirty-four (34) feet long, and would elevate the ability to get out to the community. He noted the trailer would offer realistic threat scenarios and allow them to do simulations for the home and workplaces. Mr. Gallman said people don't think of severe weather, and he wants to ensure that people can recognize, react to, and survive in any emergency. He noted they could curtail the training toward the different industries.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James thanked him for the information.

Councilmember Antione- asked what the lion stood for, and who thought of that.

Mr. Gallman –noted that Lion is the manufacturer of the trailer. He noted he has been looking at trailers for a year and this is the only company that offers those components needed. He noted if they are going to do it, he would like to get what fits the community the best.

Councilmember Gutierrez – noted he has seen him at the schools and appreciates his hard work.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- thanked Mr. Gallman and noted she thinks the Fire and Police Chiefs are some great leaders and that great leaders create other great leaders.

Councilmember Mears – thanked Mr. Gallman and thinks they need to post where people can make the donations, and whom to make the checks out to. He noted that it needs to get out to the public.

Mr. Gallman- agreed and noted that if approved, they will ensure everything is accounted for properly.

City Manager, Mr. Clark- noted that they will do an advisory through the PIO office tomorrow. He noted that Mrs. Wells recommended placing it on the Marquee Board and giving council members rack cards to pass out. Mr. Clark also noted there are boxes in various departments and to get with finance to see where the checks will go.

5. Forest Park Fire & EMS – Lieutenant Promotions (Introduction of newly promoted Lieutenants and presentation of badges & helmets)- Fire Department

The Forest Park Fire & EMS has three (3) newly promoted lieutenants. A small ceremony/introduction will be given by presenting them with badges & helmets.

Chief Clemons – noted having three (3) new promotions to the rank of Lieutenant in the Fire Department. Chief Clemmons explained Ten (10) people underwent a rigorous promotional process, including a 150-question written test. Out of the ten (10), there are a top four (4), with one (1) being appointed at the January 2, 2024, Council meeting. Chief Clemmons recognized Lt. Chris Harris, Lt. Tad Busby, and Lt. Jesse Cook on their appointments. She also recognized the EMS Coordinator, whom she has challenged and has always come out in the top three (3), Andrew Gelmini. Chief Clemmons expressed that Mr. Gelmini is working hard on some executive-level things, and she is very proud of him.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember James – noted she was excited and thanked them for serving the City of Forest Park.

Councilmember Antione- noted he echoed his colleagues, was proud of them, and thanked them for doing what they do for the city.

Councilmember Gutierrez – thanked them for what they did and noted he had to call EMTs for his father, and the way they responded, he is eternally grateful. He noted he was proud of them and hoped they would stay for the long run.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – thanked them and noted that she appreciated all that they brought to the city. She noted they go out to learn to take care of their families and the other families and residents of Forest Park.

Councilmember Mears – noted he wanted to thank them for their dedication and for putting themselves in harm's way. He noted he appreciated their hard work, and that the city was proud to have them.

Mayor Butler – noted it was not until the September 11th Memorial Service that she read the background of Battalion Chief Baker and what he went through. She noted it never crossed her mind the split-second decisions made continuously, and how it impacts the lives that they encounter. Mayor Butler noted she has a newfound respect for all that they do. She thanked them for pouring their time, hearts, and soul into the City of Forest Park.

Chief Clemons- noted they had served the City of Forest Park for over ten (10) years.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

6. Council Approval of the Transportation Service Businesses Text Amendment – Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to close the Regular Meeting for the first Public Hearing on the Transportation Service Business Text Amendment.

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 open the Public Hearing on the Transportation Service Business Text Amendment.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

There were no speakers for or against the Business Transportation Text Amendment.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing on the Business Transportation Text Amendment

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

7. Council Approval of Lot/Yard Standards amendment to Section 8-8-73 of the Code of Ordinances- Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to open the 2nd Public Hearing on the Lot/Yard Standards amendment to Section 8-8-73 of the Code of Ordinances.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

No speakers were for or against the Lot/Yard Standards amendment to Section 8-8-73 of the Code of Ordinances.

It was moved to close the 2nd Public Hearing for the Lot/Yard Standards amendment to Section 8-8-73 of the Code of Ordinances.

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 close the Public Hearing and 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 motioned to approve the Transportation Service Business Text Amendment.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

Point of order by Councilmember James. She wanted to know if Mears was going to vote.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to approve the Lot/Yard Standards Amendment to Section 8-8-73 of the Code of Ordinances.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

OLD BUSINESS:

8. Council Approval of Changes to IGA between City and URA-Legal

It was moved to approve the Changes to IGA between the City and URA.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

9. **Council Approval of a Resolution to Apply for HUD Funding through the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Program (CBDG)- Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve the Resolution to Apply for HUD Funding through the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Program (CBDG).

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

10. **Council Approval of the Rollout of the City of Forest Park's Housing Rehabilitation Program (HOME) for Senior Residents (aka, "Legacy Residents") of Owner-Occupied Housing in the City- Executive Offices**

City Manager, Mr. Clark- stated there is nothing to approve of because the governing body has already approved the policy.

11. **Council Approval of an Agreement for three (3) additional Card Reader Purchases with Tyler Software-** Finance Department

It was moved to approve the Agreement for three (3) additional Card Reader Purchases with Tyler Software.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

12. **Council Approval of a contract for Accounts Payable Automation with Tyler Software-** Finance Department

It was moved to approve the contract for Accounts Payable Automation with Tyler Software.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

13. **Council Approval of a request to Change the Job Title of Administrative Supervisor to Office Coordinator in the Planning & Community Development Department-** Human Resources Department

It was moved to approve the request to Change the Job Title of Administrative Supervisor to Office Coordinator in the Planning & Community Development Department.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

Councilmember Akins-Wells -asked them to clarify things because she was a bit confused.

City Manager, Mr. Clark – noted that he spoke with the Human Resources Director but did not know if it was correctly stated on the record what they were doing. They are changing the job title of the Administrative Supervisor to become the Office Coordinator. The Staff Assistant that was mentioned position is being removed from this department. The Office Coordinator will assume both positions. He also noted the position would save money because the Office Coordinator would do both jobs.

14. Council Approval of GIS and Mapping Services with Clayton County-Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve the GIS and Mapping Services with Clayton County.

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 Approval on the review and approval of the updated 2023 City of Forest Park Comprehensive Plan- Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve the updated 2023 City of Forest Park Comprehensive Plan review and approval.

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

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

16. Council Approval of the Digitization Agreement for Planning and Community Development Processes- Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve the Digitization Agreement for Planning and Community Development Processes.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione.

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

17. Council Approval of a Resolution to Authorize the Extension of Service Agreement with Croft & Associates-Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve a Resolution to Authorize the Extension of Service Agreement with Croft & Associates.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

18. Council Approval of a Resolution to Authorize the Extension of a Service Agreement with Falcon Design – Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve a Resolution to Authorize the Extension of a Service Agreement with Falcon Design.

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 a Resolution to Authorize the Extension of a Service Agreement with Precision Planning – Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve a Resolution to Authorize the Extension of a Service Agreement with Precision Planning.

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

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

20. Council Approval to Purchase Five (5) Police Cars for the Police Department- Police Department

It was moved to approve the purchase of Five (5) Police Cars for the Police Department- Police Department, utilizing the forfeited funds in addition to \$150,000 from the Contingency Fund.

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

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

Councilmember Gutierrez – wanted to clarify that he is not encouraging the police to go ticket the community to gain assets. He noted he wants to make sure everyone understands that.

21. Council Approval to purchase Fifteen (15) Dell Laptop in the amount of \$25,396.50-Police Department

It was moved to approve the purchase of Fifteen (15) Dell laptops in the amount of \$25,396.50.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

22. Council Approval to Transfer a Service Weapon- Police Department

It was moved to approve the Transfer of a Service Weapon.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

23. Council Approval to enter a contract for Task Order No. 2023.02 with Falcon Design for the Construction Drawings for Waldrop Dr. Curbs and Sidewalks in the amount of \$40,000- Public Works Department

It was moved to approve the entry of a contract for Task Order No. 2023.02 with Falcon Design for the Construction Drawings for Waldrop Dr. Curbs and Sidewalks in the amount of \$40,000.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

24. Council Approval of the Observed 2024 Holiday Calendar.

It was moved to approve the Observed 2024 Holiday Calendar.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

25. Council Approval of the 2024 Work Session and Regular Session Meetings Calendar.

It was moved to approve the 2024 Work Session and Regular Session Calendar.

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

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

26. Council Approval of the MOU Between the City of Forest Park and Riverdale for EMS Services.

It was moved to approve the MOU Between the City of Forest Park and Riverdale for EMS Services.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James- thanked everyone for coming out. She noted the November Ward Meeting is on the website. She thanked Jonathan Rasmir for supplying twenty (20) turkeys to Ward 1 and the Mayor. She noted they did a food giveaway at Forest Park High School and supplied over one hundred twenty-six (126) families. She noted that everyone should mark their calendar for March 10, 2024. There will be a Hunger Walk with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. This is to raise funds to purchase the food we could give away. She noted tonight the Clayton County Commissioners are holding a Public Hearing. She expressed to Ward 1 on Conley Road that they are proposing rezoning to put a convenience store with fuel and commercial parking. She noted she has gotten plenty of complaints about speeding, and she has put in a letter of opposition, which they will be reading at the meeting. She noted they can go to the Clayton County Commissioner's website to find out more, and there will be one (1) more hearing. Mrs. James noted there will be a Ward meeting on December 21st at 696 Main Street, and they will serve dinner. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Antione – congratulated the Fire Department employees on their accomplishments, and the police department on their new hires. He wished them all a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Gutierrez – welcomed the new employees and congratulated the new lieutenants. He noted Saturday was the senior ball, so get dressed up and come out. He thanked Attorney Mike for his dedication and the positive groundwork he laid for the city and wished him the best in his endeavor. He noted he is excited about the home program because the seniors deserve this. He thanked the Mayor, the Council, and employees for

putting it together. He noted when talking to the seniors, there were different things they could not afford, but now they can address them.

Mr. Gutierrez noted they had a food drive and partnered up with the Little One Learning Center, and their Hand, Heart, and Soul nonprofit project. He thanked Councilmember Akins-Wells and Jonathan Rashmir for providing turkeys to give to the community. He noted Mr. Rashmir also funded a trip for the Middle School students. He gave a shout-out to Elder Cook and Pastor Clinkscale at Rockdale Church and thanked them for everything they do for the community. He congratulated the Forest Park student Justin for winning the SEC Championship here in Georgia. He stated he would reach out to his constituents who are unhappy with what is happening in Ward 3, and he told them to reach out if needed because he is always transparent. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted that she believes in respect and acknowledges those who were previously in office and are in office now. She noted that Representative Stoval may not be a representative now, but she wanted to thank and acknowledge her. She acknowledged Jonathan Rashmir and Rumors and thanked them. She noted this is her eleventh (11th) year giving back to her community and could not do it alone. She noted Mr. Clark received two hundred and forty (240) turkeys for the turkey drive and thanked him. She thanked Mr. Collins for donating turkeys and ham and noted she is all about speaking up for the community and giving back to the community.

She acknowledged Ms. Kieth, CJ Horne, and the gentleman from the Fire Department for coming out in the rain to give out turkeys to the community. She noted Wellness with Wells is going well and that Mr. Malone is a great instructor. She thanked Councilmember Gutierrez for coming out for the first time. Mrs. Akins Wells thanked the employees for all they did for the city. She thanked Mike for having integrity, dedication, and all that he has done for the City of Forest Park.

Councilmember Mears – thanked Mike for all that he has done for the city. He thanked the big businesses in Forest Park for their donations. He thanked the new Lieutenants from the Fire Department for all they do and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Gutierrez – noted that besides the Fire Department, they are collecting toys for the CLE Sickle Cell Foundation. He noted that they could contact Ms. Folami and that they could donate until December 22nd.

Mayor Butler – thanked everyone for attending. She noted after attending a funeral she noticed how someone else's grief could help others put life into perspective. She noted she was thankful for everything she has in her life and her city and that it is not done without the city employees. She wanted the employees to know that she sincerely thanked them for their efforts and progress for the City of Forest Park. She also wants the residents to know how tirelessly they truly work on their behalf.

Mayor Butler noted that many of the requests that the Mayor and Council have been pushing over the years are finally coming to fruition. She noted she cannot think of a better year with the evolution of Forest Park in progress. She thanked Mr. Clark for all he brought to the city and noted she is honored to work next to him. She thanked Director Maxwell and Ms. Green for sponsoring the community Thanksgiving Dinner. She noted on December 16th, she will partner with three (3) Nonprofits to have their biggest toy giveaway and that they need a lot of volunteers. She congratulated Mike on the next chapter in his life.

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 8:48 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

It was moved to reconvene back into the Regular Session at 10:27 p.m.

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 confirm the appointment of Roper Jackson as the new Court Administrator.

City Manager, Mr. Clark– noted it included authorizing a temporary contract with Roper Jackson.

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 approve Denmark & Asby as the City Attorney, with the City Manager Finalizing the contract.

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 approve a three (3)-month contract with Mr. Williams to serve in a transitional period.

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 approve the purchase of 696 Main Street repairs not to exceed \$200,000.00.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 10:30 pm.

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

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.