



**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL**

**City Council Regular Session**

Monday, April 05, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Council Chambers, Virtual Via Zoom and YouTube Livestream

**Website:** [www.forestparkga.gov](http://www.forestparkga.gov)  
**YouTube:** <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>  
**Phone Number:** (404) 366.1555

**FOREST PARK CITY HALL**  
745 Forest Parkway  
Forest Park, GA 30297

**DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James                      The Honorable Dabouze Antoine  
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez                      The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells  
The Honorable Allan Mears

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager  
Sharee Steed, City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:08pm.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was done by Bishop Paul Fortson of Paradise Church in Christ

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** All were present, and a quorum was established.

<b>Attendee's Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Present</b>
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		✓
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		✓
Dabouze Antoine	Council Member, Ward 2, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3 <i>(via zoom)</i>		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

**PRESENTATION(S):**

1. Ward 4 Yard of the Quarter - Councilwoman, Latresa Akins-Wells

**This item was tabled.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** (Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit) – There were three (3) Speakers:

- JoAnn Thomas – Asked where are we now or what was done about the cleanup at Ft. Gillem? I am asking because there is no insulation in our apartment and the air, dust, and everything else comes in on us. Around my window seals are black and I have a breathing problem. Did they extend the date from March 26<sup>th</sup> for us to respond, because we have not heard anything as of yet.
- Lawanda Folami – I am representing the concern citizens of Forest Park. I would like to recognize our new City Manager; we do know that you have a task and a job, and we want you to know if we can be of any assistance to you to just call us. Would also like to thank Ms. Shalonda Brown, there has been a lot of great comments coming out of the community on how she held the city together, by upgrading human resources and making the staff feel comfortable and they see the change. I get a lot of calls about a lot of things and would just like to say the community is talking about Ms. Brown and kudos to you. I also would like to speak about Park Holland, residents gathered to talk about the toxin and the hazards out there. I have with me tonight Senate Rep. Scott, and we would like to know what the solution is going to look like.
- Dianne Lunsford – Did you know, I saw on TV the 10 Worst Cities in GA, that Forest Park was number 10. Our neighbors Hapeville and College Park are ranked the same. This is embarrassing, I was floored when I saw this information, it references that we are mostly *(inaudible)* and renters, which I am not, have been a homeowner for 42 years. Secondly, the Forest Park Police Department has been a big concern of mines, we had mass exodus Mr. Dabouze *(inaudible)* we have had over 120 murders, *(inaudible)* we had old officers who knew the city and most of the folks in the city, but now we new recruits that do not know the city and you do not see them or interact with any of them. I am also against the public safety building being built and have the public safety director of all things, I believe our city is not big enough for something like that and we are just getting top heavy. I would like the area to go to, that is on the parkway, to be for the fire department only. Station No. 2 is on a dire need of being demoed and fix up the police department's headquarters, if that is what needed, they have been taken care before. Also, Mr. Gutierrez, your adopt a street would be a wonderful idea, however, I only know of two residents who pick up trash that is not just on their street, I wish you luck with that.

Mayor Butler thanked Rep. Scott for being in attendance and ask him if there was anything he would like to say.

- Rep. Scott, I am just here in reference to the concerns of Ft. Gillem, just trying to find what the next steps, because is it in my District, so I want to be involved and know the next step and how we are going and how we are going to help the citizens that live in that area?

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

**It was motioned to Adopt the April 5th Regular Agenda with adding Item #7 - Approval of Reclassification of the Economic Development Staff Assistant position to Project Manager, along with related job description.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

Wells, Councilmember Mears

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

2. Council Adopting the March 15, 2021 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

**It was motioned to adopt the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2021.**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

3. Approval for the Fire Department Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds – Director of Fire, Chief Don Horton & Interim Director of Finance, Darquita Williams

**It was motioned to approve the Fire Department's Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds.**

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James

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

4. Approval for the Parks and Recreation Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds- Director of Parks and Recreation, Tarik Maxwell & Interim Director of Finance, Darquita Williams

**It was motioned to approve the Parks & Recreation Department's Budget Amendment/Transfer of Funds.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

5. Approval of RESOLUTION 2021-16 the Adopt-A-Road Initiative - Councilman Hector Gutierrez

**It was motioned to Approve Resolution 2021-16 Adopt-A-Road Initiative.**

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

6. Approval for the Finance Department's Budget Amendment- City Manager, Dr. Cooper & Interim Finance Director, Darquita Williams

**It was motioned to adopt the Finance Department's Budget Amendment.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

**ADDENDUM:**

7. Approval of Reclassification of the Economic Development Staff Assistant position to Project Manager, along with related job description – City Attorney and Bruce Abrahams, Economic Development

**It was motioned to Approve Reclassification of the Economic Development Staff Assistant position to Project Manager**

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, this is a first being open to the public since COVID, and we are social distancing, wearing our masks, we appreciate you being out tonight. I would like to inform the public that Trustees Drugs, located at 385 Forest Parkway, they are administering the Moderna two-shot vaccine, please call them at 404-366-9088 to set up an appointment. Neighborhood meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have some great information to share with the public.

**Councilmember Antoine** – Thanked everyone, we see new faces, because the city is reopen and we invite you back. Thank you to all the departments we could not do this without each of you and continue to know that we have great things going on with this city.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** – Welcome everyone back and my apologies for not being there physically, but thanks to everyone that attended the meeting. We had a busy weekend, we reopened everything back up; we started off with a bang with a food partnership, and hopefully this partnership is a long lasting one. I spoke with the representative with Muslims for Humanity, and he stated that we potentially could have a food giveaway monthly here in the city, at no cost to us. So, I am excited to give out food boxes to the community. Had my first Ward 3 cleanup, few in numbers, but that is okay, going to meet with some business owners in the area, because I saw a lot of trash from certain businesses, so maybe we can hold them a little more accountable for keeping the city clear of trash and not just making money off the communities. Thank you, Ms. Lunsford, for your kind words about the Adopt-A-Road initiative, I am really excited about this project. Be on the lookout the next few weeks, we are going to be putting out around the City the two (2) little libraries, that the students painted, as a teacher, I am always promoting literacy. So, if you have any books have or would like to see in the libraries, please contact me. Ms. Thomas we are working on the problem in Holland Park, we are working on this problem and I will give you and others an update soon. I have an event for teenagers called Snack and Paint, co-hosted with our Teen Council, more information will be posted to our social medias.

**Councilmember Wells** – Welcome Mr. Cooper, I support you and hope you come in and do what needs to be done in the City of Forest Park. You have walked into a whole lot of stuff, but good luck and do not give up on us, we are a great city, regardless of what the news says or what disagreement we are having, Forest Park is a great city. Wellness for Wells every Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm at the gym. We been doing this for two (2) months now, the community loves it, and it is free. The Easter Basket give-away, I teamed up with the Pastor of my church, Living Faith International Church on Old Dixie Hwy, to give Easter Baskets to all the kids that attended, thank you Pastor Tucker and Living Faith for continuing to be a vessel in our community. There will be a documentary filmed on the “Choices You Make”, it is about a young male athlete who attended Eagles Landing Christian Academy and went to Tallahassee to attend college and was murdered. I am assisting the mother with recruiting young adults between the ages of 15 to 25, and have been affected by gun violence, whether a family member or they were a victim, to be in

the documentary that will be filmed on April 17<sup>th</sup>, here in Forest Park. Thank you, Tariq Maxwell for the Easter Egg event and all the other events, that you have brought to the City.

**Councilmember Mears** – Warm welcome to the new City Manager, I am glad to have him here and know he will do a real good job, congratulations. Thanks, and congratulations for a great job to Mr. Maxwell on his work with the Egg Hunt on Saturday, he organized a lot of activities for the kids to enjoy. Thanks to everyone that came out to attend the meeting as well as those on zoom.

**Mayor Butler** – The Easter Egg event was amazing, and I would like to thank everyone for attending. Thank you, Representative Schofield for being with us today and would like to make remarks? Rep. Schofield, do you think you could come back and do a full presentation a post legislative update?

**Representative Kim Schofield** – As you know this session, I will be putting out my newsletter and the wrap-up session, but we know we are in a battle right now for bill SB202, the voting rights bill, that was signed into law by the governor. This bill has some grave consequences when it comes to our voting rights and privileges. One of the things it does is takes away local control and gives power to Secretary of State to control all the election boards. And we know that is problematic in a lot of ways; it also prohibits anyone that is in line to vote to receive water or snacks and again that is important, because when we are voting during this season, you cannot withhold just basic needs of water and food, it just does not sense, there are a lot of things and provisions in this bill that are definitely going to hurt us and so what we are continuing to do is to move forward; as you see on the news we have been holding the corporations accountable for supporting the bill and your State Legislators, Senate and House, are still going to fight to the bitter end even though it is into law, we know that the next step is going to be in the courts, but even with it being in the court, there are still some actions that we can take and we know we are going to vote, we have to vote. It is not an option of how we will vote it is where and it is a must for us. I will continue to bring you updates, but this was a bad bill, all the way around, and this session was again a contentious session. We had probably over a thousand bills on the table and the bills are not equitable. Reach out to me at [kim.house.ga.gov](mailto:kim.house.ga.gov) or 404-656-0220, I am always here to answer any questions. Will continue to update and keep you in the know, but we have work to do. Yes, I can come back and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

**Mayor Butler** – Ms. Thomas, as Councilmember Gutierrez stated, we have not forgotten about the meeting that we had a week or so ago, in fact, staff will be meeting tomorrow, I believe we are in the process of evaluating a proposal to have an additional environmental assessment done, we have made contact with the property management company and we are going to look at all options available and then we will report back to the community shortly thereafter. We have everything even close to finalized just to present all options.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *(When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate)*

**It was motioned to recess into Executive Session at 7:37pm.**

*NOTE: Councilmember Antoine and Adkins-Wells left the Council Meeting at 7:38pm.*

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**It was motioned to reconvene back into the Regular Meeting at 8:25pm.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**It was motioned to adjourn the April 5, 2021 Regular Meeting at 8:26pm.**

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

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