



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of Forest Park to enhance, strengthen, and grow our city by collaborating with our community to provide the highest level of service. Striving to be recognized as a diverse community that values and respects all members. We will strive to provide fair, professional, and courteous service through transparency and open communication. As we work to achieve this mission, we will have integrity beyond reproach while employing fiscal discipline and innovation. In this work there are no praises and raises for mediocrity.

Website: www.forestparkga.gov
YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>
Phone Number: (404) 366.4720

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

The Honorable Mayor Angelyne Butler, MPA

The Honorable Kimberly James
The Honorable Hector Gutierrez
The Honorable Allan Mears

The Honorable Dabouze Antoine
The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, City Manager
S. Diane White, City Clerk
Mike Williams, City Attorney

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: The Council Work Session was called to order by Mayor Butler at 6:00pm and she read the Mission Statement.

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was established.

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

Joshua Cox, IT Director; Pam Stevenson, Management Analyst; Chiquita Barkley, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; Arthur Geeter, Purchasing Manager; LaShawn Gardiner, Director Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, Director of Human Resources; Diane Lewis, Deputy Director of Human

Resources; Bobby Jinks, Director of Public Works; Bruce Abrahams, Director Economic Development; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; and Captain Kayla Ghant, Police Department

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION/REMINDERS:

- The State of the City Address will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Worship Center of Atlanta located at 1106 Main St, Forest Park, GA.
- The City of Forest Park will hold a clean sweep on Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Recycling Center located at 327 Lamar Drive. This is for City of Forest Park residents only and you will be required to show proof of residency. Car Tires are welcome and limited to (4) per resident. Paint that has been dried with kitty litter will be accepted. However, building materials such as dirt, brick, acid, unknown chemicals, flammable liquids, or cement are not allowed. For questions, please reach out to our Public Works Department Monday – Friday, from 8-5pm at 404-366-4720, option 3.
- Forest Park High School's Class of 2023 Caravan will be held on May 20, 2023 @ 11:00am – Please make your posters, banners, and yard signs to help celebrate along the caravan route.

CITY OPERATIONS:

- At the March 3rd Council Meeting, a gentleman spoke about the Red Speed Camera locations within school zones, and concerns about the choice of locations. On August 20, 2021, this question was raised and in researching an answer it was stated that the city had no say in the camera locations. We submitted applications through the school board for all 8 schools in the City Forest Park which then went to the state. The location decisions were based on information received from the school board and the company to the State of Georgia. The City of Forest Park had five (5) applications approved, 1 was pending, but I believe was ultimately denied and two (2) were denied by the state at that time.
- In December 2021, the City Council approved the HVAC equipment replacement at a budgeted cost of \$500,000. Our carrier, due to supply shortages and staffing issues, did not receive or start installation of these units until October 2022. We installed new HVAC units in the HR/Planning and Community Development, Recreation and Leisure and the Senior Center buildings. I am pleased to report that this project has been completed and has come in approximately \$178,000 under budget.
- Mayor Butler, several department representatives, and I attended Clayton County's State of the County Address by Chairman Jeffrey Turner on Wednesday, March 15th. I am pleased to state that the Chairman's message was highlighted by a lot of the great things going on in our city. The chairman's message addressed Blue Star Studio to Bus Rapid Transit to the much-anticipated MARTA Facility opening in Forest Park bringing over 400 permanent jobs. Forest Park was at the forefront of all thing's Positive in Clayton County in this year's message.
- Our procurement team will be reviewing all current contracts that are approaching expiration. As we are in the development of FY 23/24 this is the time that we must bring to council recommendations for renewals or re-bids. These contracts will be coming forward within the next couple of months for City Councils' consideration and approvals.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Thank you to Procurement Manager Arthur Geeter and Deputy Public Works Director Nigel Wattlely for their superior handling of the HVAC project and their fiscal watch to bring it in under budget.

Thank you to Ms. Fatima Fernandez and Ms. Deidra Willingham within our Finance Department for getting the business licenses caught up for the year. We had several computer and technology issues, but they worked diligently to get them issued.

Thank you to IT Director Josh Cox, Mr. David Hickson and Mr. Jimmy Rodriguez for their diligence in addressing several technology issues caused by the recent storms, power surges and lighting strikes. We had our challenges, but these gentlemen along with a million other things they had to do, kept the city connected and moving forward.

CONGRATULATIONS/SHOUT OUT – Fire Department:

Chief Clemmons introduced the new “Sparky the Fire Dog”, who was created for the NFA in 1951 and has remained the mascot and official spokesperson since created. He is a beloved icon that is beloved by children and adults, with an official website full of information.

Chief King introduced six new fire trainees: Cassius Jones, Ashley Foreman, Travis Taylor, Kameron Barlow, Wesley Cedar and Vladimir Benoit. In about six months they will be fully trained and serving the citizens of Forest Park. They cited the Fire Department’s Mission Statement and Core Values.

PRESENTATION(S):**1. Clayton County Public Schools Projects Update – Executive Office****Background/History:**

Dr. Anthony W. Smith was appointed by the Clayton County Board of Education on December 5, 2022, to serve as the Interim Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools. In addition to sharing his platform for priorities, Dr. Smith also established the school district’s theme: “Building A Better Tomorrow, Today”.

Dr. Smith is here to share project updates related to the Clayton County Public Schools and the City of Forest Park.

This item was presented to Council during the Regular Meeting.

2. Update to Council on Gillem Logistics Center from URA – Economic Development Department**Background/History:**

The Economic Development Department is providing an update to Council on behalf of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) regarding recent activities at Gillem Logistics. For information only.

Bruce Abrahams, Director of Economic Development - gave an update on the Gillem Logistics Center from the Urban Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Abrahams introduced Howard C Butler, Enclave Manager, Installation Management & Command at Gillem.

Howard C. Butler, Gillen Enclave - Gave a description on the various Commands stationed at Gillem.

Comments & Discussions from Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine – Thank you for your service and the information that I did not know.

Mayor Butler – Thank you so much. I have had the opportunity to sit with Mr. Butler over my six years as mayor and he is full of history. If you ever have any historical questions or anything military related, he is the go-to person. He had an opportunity to meet my father, since everyone thought we were naturally related by name. It was amazing to speak with the medical command, for them and to them a couple weeks ago, they were hospitable. You have an amazing team there.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 3. Council Discussion on Amending the Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance** – Planning & Community Development

Background/History:

Add New Chapter 5 to Title 5, Public Works of the City Code.

The City of Forest Park is a part of the Metro Water District. Local jurisdictions are required to adopt stormwater management ordinances to maintain healthy watersheds and stormwater management systems. This ordinance is needed to maintain compliance with local, regional, and national environmental requirements and to maintain eligibility for potential state, regional and federal programs.

LaShawn Gardiner, Planning & Community Development – This ordinance was found not to be in our code. This is to place it in our code, so that we are in compliance when we are audited by the EPD at the end of this month.

Comments and Discussions from the Governing Body:

Councilmember Antoine – How did you find this?

LaShawn Gardiner – The state has five model ordinances, so all counties and jurisdictions should have these adopted in their Code of Ordinances.

Councilmember Gutierrez – Do this have any relations with the incident that we had with Zaxby's?

LaShawn Gardiner – No, this is just compliance from a state and federal level, being we are members of the North Georgia Water District.

- 4. Council Discussion on Moratorium Extension** – Planning & Community Development

Background/History:

The Mayor and City Council approved Resolution 22-23 on October 3, 2022, to establish a moratorium on the acceptance of applications for certain uses in the city. This is a request to extend the moratorium for an additional 60 days to allow staff time to fully examine and provide an appropriate recommendation.

There was no comments or discussion from the Governing Body

- 5. Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program** – Executive Office

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park is looking to establish a Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program for the fiscal budget year 2022-2023. The program design has been developed under the guidance provided via Youth.gov, which is the United States government website that helps create, maintain, and strengthen effective youth programs throughout the nation.

This pilot program would employ nine (9) students between the ages of 16 and 20 years old, with a pay of \$17.00 per hour/part-time. Students would work up to 20 hours per week for a total of approximately 140 hours over the summer. The total cost to the city would be approximately \$35,000. Due to this not being a budgeted item for FY 22-23 money must be reallocated to this program within the general fund budget. However, in the future the city has already begun to seek out both state and federal funding grants for this program.

Staff is seeking City Council's approval and/or additional direction for the Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program

There was no comments or discussion from Governing Body

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

It was moved to recess into Executive Session at 6:31pm for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate

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 reconvene back into the Council Work Session at 7:17pm

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the Council Work Session at 7:17pm

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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