



**CITY OF FOREST PARK MAYOR & COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Tuesday, September 07, 2021, at 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers 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  
S. Diane White, City Clerk  
Mike Williams, City Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Butler at 7:03pm

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Invocation and pledge was given by Pastor Fortson.

**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, Mayor Pro-Tem		✓
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		✓
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		✓
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		✓

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Darquita Williams, Interim Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director, Bobby Jinks, Director Public Works, James Shelby, PB&Z Director, Nathaniel Clark, Police Chief, Major Sandra Johnson, Police Department and Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief

**PRESENTATIONS:****1. Proclamation presented to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority – Clerk's Office****Background/History:**

Thank you very much for agreeing to support the efforts of the East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as we celebrate Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2021.

On August 26, 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution was certified and the right for women to vote was secured. In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26<sup>th</sup> as Women's Equality Day. Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

In the decades since that passage, the precious right to vote has bolstered generations of women and empowered them to stand up, speak out and steer the country they love in a more equal direction. This year of 2021 marks the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the women's suffrage and the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will be honoring this event.

**Mayor Butler** presented the proclamation to the East Point/College Park Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**2. Ward 4 – Yard of the Quarter – Legislative, Councilmember Akins-Wells****Background/History:**

Councilmember Akins-Wells would like to present the residence of Ms. Tina Thomas as the Yard of the Quarter for Ward 4.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** - I initiated the *Keep Ward 4 Beautiful* program in 2016 in hopes to neighbors would convince other neighbors to keep their yards clean and pretty and they would be rewarded. Ms. Tina Thomas keeps her home nice and beautifully landscape. There are a lot of people that likes to drive by including myself because we know Ms. Tina will be outside working in the yard. I would like to say thank you so much Ms. Tina for doing your part to keep Ward 4 beautiful. We will be doing something different; you will get a sign to place in your yard for 60 days and when the next yard is selected you will come to the city council meeting and present the sign to the next person.

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

There were two (2) speakers:

**Dianne Lunsford** – there are some things that I am concerned about, Haiti. My son has been to Haiti to help with recovery and stuff like that when they have natural disasters. There has been a lot of money sent to Haiti, but it does not get passed the government. I do not know how in the world they can get computers and iPhone (s) stuff like that when you have such a crooked government. I want us to spend our money wisely. The second is regarding a mission, vision, and value statement that was introduced. We have ethics from our city council that they do not listen to. There are rules and we have an ethics meeting that we can voice our opinions and concerns to, and they are no shows. So, what do we do in a case like that? Do we just throw out the complaint regarding the ethics? The third one, is the murals. I think murals are great. I wonder if you all will approve the murals or allow the public to have input before they are put up. I pray they will be in good taste. Diversity is fine, but I want it to be inclusive. It is not just one ethnic group lets have it all this is Forest Park; that is who we are. The last one, I am with *C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency*

*Response Team*). We work with the Fire and Police Departments. The *C.E.R.T.* team is in dire need of new transportation. We have a bus and Ford Explorer, and they are of no use anymore they are dilapidated. Pretty on the outside but they are no functional. Would you consider allowing us to have one of the Tahoe's; it would not cost anything, and it would look professional again.

**Justin Cook and Bishop Fortson Forest Park Ministers Association** – I am here to share a little about our organization. We have been servicing the community for 10 years under the leadership of Dr. Beeler and Pastor Paden. We are composed of churches, city governments/officials, residents, and business owners with the goal to unify and enhance the quality of life for residents in the city. On Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Starr Park located at 5031 Park Avenue Forest Park, GA. 30297 you are invited to join us for a “Day of Prayer” beginning at 12:00 noon. We will come together to pray for the city, government and the things going on around the world with the pandemic affecting different countries. We will be partnering with the fire department and emergency services to honor and remember the lives lost 20 years ago on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Some other upcoming events we have is the School Lunch Project we partner with the schools in the City of Forest Park weekly lunch bags giveaway to combat hunger. If you all are not aware there is a huge population of homeless kids that attend these schools. We also have an annual holiday gift baskets for the police/fire and first responders. We can always use volunteers and supplies to help us. We are still trying to lock down a date for our Annual Political Forum. Will give the residents an opportunity to send in questions for the candidates who are running and to allow the candidates to share their views and goals for the city. We host our meetings monthly every Wednesday. For more information, please email us at [forestparkministersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:forestparkministersassociation@gmail.com).

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

It was motioned to approve the Regular Agenda of Sept. 7, 2021, as printed.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

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

- 3. Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 16, 2021 - S. Diane White, City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of Aug. 16, 2021.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 4. Approval of Sister Cities International - Itemized Request of Purchase - Legislative Department**

It was motioned to approve Option 3 of the Sister Cities requested purchases.

**Councilmember James** - I would like to get clarity on the specific countries that the items are actually going to.

**Mayor Angelyne Butler** - all of the items listed in option 3 are going to Haiti.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** - honestly at this point, that is the one that I would feel most comfortable with because we do not know anyone in the other countries. Are these paper letters or emails?

**City Manager** - if I am not mistaken, they are paper letters. I am not sure if we had an email contact for Donna, but I know we had an email address and basically there is no specific country, it's just where council directs me to do.

**Councilmember Mears** - I'm all for it, but I think we need some more study. We don't need to get

**Councilmember Gutierrez**- everyone here agrees that we want things here in the City of Forest Park but how would we be able to assist and support the meal program or some of the other things with the Ministers Association?

**City Attorney** - the Sister Cities was done as part of an initiative for the council joined. It is an international exchange program. The funds are authorized because we are doing things that the city has authority to do. As it relates to the Ministers Association or any other groups, we can partner with certain organization to support programs under our Charter, case by case. We cannot donate food, but we can support other types of programs.

**Councilmember Mears** - I just want to make sure. We have used equipment that we donated. We need to help someone to help deliver it. We need more people in the fight besides us.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez  
Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 5. **Approval of IT Director** - Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the confirmation of Josh Cox as the IT Director.

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

The mayor administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Cox.

### 6. **Approval of Mission, Vision and Values of Statement** - Executive Offices

It was motioned to approve the Mission, Vision and Values of Statement for the City of Forest Park.

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

### 7. **Approval of Title Change from Training Captain to Division Chief (Training)** - Fire Department

It was motioned to approve the Fire Department's title change from Training Captain to Division Chief.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**8. Approval of Public Art (Murals) - Executive Offices**

It was approved to move forward with the Public Arts (Murals) for the city.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**9. Approval of American Rescue Funds Allocation Recommendations and Survey Results - Executive Offices**

It was motioned by Councilmember Wells and seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez to approve the American Rescue Fund Allocations recommendations. Councilmember Wells withdrew her motion.

**Councilwoman James** - I want to implement some of the suggestions that Madame Mayor made and have those items included.

It was motioned to amend the recommended allocation of the American Rescue Funds to include an additional \$400k for rental assistance for Forest Park residents facing eviction, and an additional \$200k for tree removal and home improvements program to bring back for further research.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears. The motion carried.

**10. Approval of Resolution 2021-30 to Accept the City of Forest LCI Main Street Project - Planning, Building and Zoning**

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-30 to accept the City of Forest Park LCI Main Street Project  
Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

**11. Approval of Resolution 2021-31 to Authorize Sale of Abandoned portion of JG Glover Court – Legislative**

It was motioned to approve Resolution 2021-31 authorizing the sale of abandoned portion of JG Glover Court.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

**12. Ordinance to Repeal and Replace the City of Forest Park Chapter 8 Zoning and Chapter 3 Sign Ordinances – Planning, Building, and Zoning**

It was motioned to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance to Repeal and Replace the City of Forest Park Chapter 8 Zoning and Chapter 3 Sign Ordinances.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**Speakers in favor: *there were no speakers***

**Speakers in opposition: *there were no speakers***

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance to Repeal and Replace the City of Forest Park Chapter 8 Zoning and Chapter 3 Sign Ordinances.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

It was motioned to approve the Ordinance to Repeal and Replace the City of Forest Park Chapter 8 Zoning and Chapter 3 Sign Ordinances

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:**

**Councilmember James** – thank you so much for coming out. Welcome aboard to our new I.T. Director. I want to say welcome to all of our new police officers. Thank you so much. I just want you all to take this Coronavirus really serious. We have some issues in the high school with some of our staff. Thank you all for coming out and we appreciate you. Reminded everyone that on Saturday, September 25, 2021, the City of Forest Park will be hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autumn Fun Run/Walk 5K event. If you would like to be on my team, please contact City of Forest Park Panther Strong to connect with me. We really want to come out and show up for the City of Forest Park 5K Autumn Fun/Run Walk 2021 event. There are flyers circulating about the Forest Park High School homecoming we want the City of Forest Park businesses and alumni to participate. We would like to make it a festive event. Thank you.

**Councilmember Antoine** – good evening to everyone. I see some new faces around, I want to welcome the new I.T. Director, thank you Chief for all of the new recruits. I also want to give a big shout out to mayor and Council for passing the ordinance; thank you for doing the right thing. I appreciate all the people that send me emails and text messages about what is going on in Haiti. It shows that you have a passion not just about you and know there are other people God has created. Thank you for that because you go unnoticed. Mayor you did a great job with the tree removal initiative. For those that do not know we have a bad problem with trees here. The rental assistance I hope that is something made easy for people to apply. Now, I have a place to send people when the call. Thank you to the City Manager, Dr. Marc-Antonie Cooper, and City Attorney, Mike Williams.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** -my condolences to the family of Firefighter/Paramedic John Clay Gaddy. This is a devastating blow to our family; if there is anything that we can do, please let us know. I had a clean-up this past Saturday, but no one showed up, I was by myself. This is a call to action to our people, it starts with us. At our social

events we have a lot of people there, I know that is more fun. but more people can cover more ground and pick up a lot of trash. The first Saturday of every month if you can make it out there it would be nice. Welcome to the new employees, welcome to our family. It is not perfect, but no family is perfect. Let us know how we can improve our city. If you have any ideas or incentives that you bring from other cities, we've been pooching everyone starting with IT and the new police officers. The Haiti initiative that Councilmember Mears asked about what we are doing with those vehicles-well we met with nonprofits Atlanta for Haiti and Voices United they will help us to raise money to get the vehicles over there. I spoke with the contact person in Haiti they are very excited. They are going through a lot dealing with the earthquake. Last Wednesday, I was recognized as one of the "50 Most Influential Latinos" in the state. I could not have done it without you. Most of my work was validated from my work here. It was humbling being around all of those people. It is nice to get a "good job". The city funded (2) initiatives Panthers in Action (*last year*) and our Senior Committee, but on September 24, 2021, we will kick off bingo night. We will bridge the gap between the people and elected officials where you can gather in a place and come up with ideas that will be impactful and positive. On September 10, 2021, a motivational speaker will come out to speak to our Panthers in Action. September 19<sup>th</sup> we will have our Falcons and Bucks tailgate. Come out and support the Falcons! This might be the year. Come out and have fun in the community. Councilmember Akins-Wells is out there feeding the crowds in the masses. It was nice food and building community with everyone. We are in the planning stage for a big city event for Hispanic Heritage Month that will be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. So please plan come out to get some good food and get your dance on. I really like the idea made by Ms. Langford about the art. I think we started an art committee. The more that people are involved the better it will be better it will be for everyone. Thank everyone for listening. If you need anything, let me know. Shot out to Chief Clark for helping host the event with the County Police Chief it was a great success. I saw some of the people at your event Coffee with the Chief; thank you for those initiatives. There was a time where my dog ran away, the police responded so fast, so thank you.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** – thanked everyone for coming out. I wanted to remind you all to come out to the tailgate. I also wanted to remind everyone of Fun Fridays! Fun Friday will be held on September 17, 2021. I want to give Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Tarik Maxwell a huge thank you! He has come in and done an amazing job with opening up our parks and making the community feel welcomed in their city. Thanks to the Public Works department for all that you do. Fire Chief Clemmons I have never seen the Fire Department show up like they have been showing up for these last events. I have been distributing cereal, so I decided to go to the Fire Department to give them cereal however no one came to the door. My husband told me that the Fire Department was at Food Truck Friday. So, thank you, Chief Clemmons, for having the fire department visual in the community. I hope everyone had a great holiday. No, I was not feeding everyone I had my grill out there and Councilmember Gutierrez made a comment "to go get some food from Councilmember Wells". Have a good night.

**Councilmember Mears** - I want to thank the police department they take a lot of heat; Mr. Clark takes a lot too. I have been in my home for 60 years and never had any problems. I had a situation a couple of weeks ago where there was an attempted break-in. I was in the kitchen looking out into the back and there was a gentleman standing in the backyard. I did not know whether to offer him in or get my gun. I called the police; I call Chief Clark and in (4) minutes there were (2) police officers at my house. Now, I can respond to that kind of service. The new programs that they are orchestrating with the green cards I got up the other night and the officers on midnight shift came by to place a card on my truck. The officer was stopping by to let him know that he was in the neighborhood. My wife said, "get up someone is getting your truck". The police officer was not getting in the truck, he was just leaving the card. You have to be careful. We have transit people coming in. Never let your guard down and lock your doors. I want to give Police Chief Clark and his group of "merry men" and thank you.

**Mayor Butler** – I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. On Wednesday, October 13, 2021, will be the city's second "State of the City Address". The event will be held at Living Faith Tabernacle located at 5880 Old Dixie Hwy, Forest Park, GA 30297 beginning at 7:00 pm. I would love to see all of those that are here and all those under the sound of my voice present.

**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 7:53pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

**For the Record: Councilmember Akins-Wells left the meeting at 8:50pm.**

It was motioned to reconvene back into Regular Meeting at 9:12pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears  
Absent: Councilmember Akins-Wells. The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2021, at 9:12pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears.  
The motion carried.