



# CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, August 19, 2024, 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) 366.4720

**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  
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

## DRAFT MINUTES

### VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

To watch the meeting via YouTube - <https://bit.ly/3c28p0A>

The Council Meetings will be livestreamed and available on the City's.

YouTube page - "*City of Forest Park GA*"

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE:** Elder Cook led the invocation and pledge.

**ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:** A quorum was established.

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

John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; Nicole Dozier, Community Development

Director Tarik Maxwell; Rec/Leisure Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley, Deputy Public Works Director; Major Geoff Mays, Deputy Fire Chief David Halcomb; Geoff May; Fire Department, Josh Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director Marselles Williams, Economic Director; Brandon Criss, Police Dept., Major Jones, Police Department, Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Director, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

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

It was moved to adopt the consent agenda with the removal of #5, the Condemnation of 765 Forest Parkway, and move it under New Business.

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

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

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

It was moved to adopt the agenda, with the addition of item #5, the Condemnation of 765 Forest Parkway, with the addition of 9A & 9b as 2 items.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

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

- 1. Council Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from July 31, 2024, Leadership Retreat and the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2024 - City Clerk**

It was moved to approve the minutes from July 31, 2024, Leadership Retreat and the Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2024.

Councilmember James made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections she recommended.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

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

There were four (4) Public Speakers:

**Jay Evans** noted she is a member of the Home Program and wanted to thank everyone. She noted they started on her projects and will be done tomorrow. She noted that she had a blast on Saturday, and that is what Forest Park is about.

**Laverne Mitchell** would like to thank Mr. Walker for picking up her lawn debris. She suggested that the children learn cursive writing, which she thinks would be a great idea. She noted she used to teach it four years ago, and the children loved it.

**Donna Barkley** noted that if you ask for help in Forest Park, people will help you. She noted Councilmember Wells is doing her thing. Ms. Barkley noted she noticed there are 2 street cleaning vehicles but would like to know when

the mosquito truck will be back on the streets. She noted there is one because it used to be on the street about 2 years ago, and she wanted to know if it was just sitting there.

**Elder Justin Cook** noted he is with the Minister Association and would like to invite the city and others to their Revival, which will be held Thursday and Friday at the Rock Church of Atlanta.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**City Manager Ricky L Clark, Jr-** noted to Ms. Barkley that the mosquito truck is currently in the shop, and they are awaiting the pumps to come in so the crews can go out and spray the community. He noted she can refer to public works for additional details. He noted that the recent leadership was a huge success and was an opportunity to plan to hear the happenings strategically within the individual departments. He thanked Mayor Butler and the Leaf Initiative and the affirmative vote by the Governing Body as it relates to teleworking. He noted the employees have shared it is helping their mental compacity. He thanked Mr. Shelby for the tireless work he has done for the capital projects. He thanked Chief of Staff Pauline Warrior for all the positive feedback on the Home Program and the Governing body for approving 1.4 million dollars so the constituents can get the necessary repairs done. Mr. Clark noted they were able to bring on 5 additional contractors as an inquiry of Councilmember Gutierrez to speed up the progress.

He gave an overview of the events that have happened with the Mayor and Council. Several new businesses have opened throughout the city. He noted that the park monument signs are up for approval, and the City Center building is moving forward and being finalized to be shown at the next meeting. He noted the Business Incubator project is underway, and they have been awarded \$500,000.00 for the renovation. He noted Starr Park will have some renovations on the way and hope to complete both the City Center and Star Park which has been split into 3 phases all at one time. He noted the pedestrian bridge is underway and there will be a public information open house tomorrow in the council chambers at 5:30 pm. Mr. Clark gave updates on all departments.

**Mr. Clark** noted he is working to bring the comprehensive study led by HR to the first meeting in September. He noted the first meeting is on a holiday and asked direction from the council on that.

**Councilmember James** noted the meeting should be held on the following day.

**City Manager Clark** noted they will put out notices on this. He noted the information department is working on some issues within the network that was a concern and will give them an update as it moves forward. He noted that the Planning Department is only days away from launching the one stop shop and noted people should be able to take care of their business without having to come into the office. He encouraged people to download One Click Forest Park to report any issues or concerns within the city.

## **CEREMONIAL:**

**Proclamation in recognition of Hannah Willis presented by Councilmember James-** Executive Offices

### **Background/History:**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Cup, established in 1927, has a rich and storied history of recognizing academic excellence, community service, and leadership among high school students in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The City of Forest Park would like to recognize Hannah Willis, a 2024 graduate who was in the top 5% of her class at Forest Park High School and showcased her dedication to academic excellence and intellectual growth.

The Mayor and the Council took pictures and noted that Hannah would be participating via zoom.

**Hannah Willis** noted that she would never change her decision to go to Forest Park. She noted although she wanted to go to Love Joy, Forest Park was the best decision she could have ever made. She noted that it is one of the best schools, with the best staff and teachers, along with Councilmember James, the City Manager, and Councilmember Gutierrez. She noted that she would give back when she makes it.

**Councilmember James** noted Hannah was in Ohio, on a full tuition scholarship.

## PRESENTATIONS:

### 2. Financial Reporting of the FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial Report-Finance Department

#### Background/History:

The Finance Department is presenting FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial review of the City's financials. The purpose of the monthly financial review is to help us know how healthy the City's cash flow is and help evaluate department performance to see if the executive office needs to reallocate resources to achieve the financial goals for the City.

**Director John Wiggins** gave an overview of the FY 2024-2025 new budget year. He noted that the general funds for July started off with 41.9 million for revenue, and the expenditures were also 41.9 million, which gives a balanced budget. He noted they brought in 649,709 dollars and expended 517, 869 dollars with a difference of 131,840 dollars. He gave a summary by all departments showing the budget at 41.9 million and a balance of 40.6 million. The department's general fund is at 1.3 million, and if you look at the previous slide, it shows a negative 1 million was taken out for some loan expenditures. He noted it is not on the spreadsheet because it is not associated with any departments.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

It was moved to approve item 3 & 4 on the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Antoine, Seconded by Councilmember James.

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

### 3. Council Approval of Economic Development Surplused Office Furniture-Economic Development Department

### 4. Council Approval to Install Dash Cameras-Police Department

**Council Approval to Condemn Real Property Located at 765 Forest Pkwy- Executive Offices- This item was moved under New Business**

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 5. Council Approval to Condemn Real Property Located at 765 Forest Pkwy- Executive Offices

She noted that this is not a Public Hearing, but if anyone representing ownership of the property is present, please line up at the podium to speak.

There were no speakers on this item.

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

**6. Council Approval on the Rollover of 457(b) Plan Funds – Executive Offices**

**Mr. Clark** noted that he would like to clarify what this is so that the record is clean.

He noted he would like to allow fully vested employees to roll over their 401a Plan Funds and all employees to roll over their 457b Plan Funds.

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

**7. Council Approval on Rental Assistance for Forest Station–Executive Offices**

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

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Akins-Wells

**8. Council Approval to enter into a contract with A Better Sign to construct and install five (5) monument signs in City Parks- Executive Offices**

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

**9. Council Approval of a Budget Amendment and Policy for Donations and Contributions-Finance Department**

**a. Council Approval of the budget amendment presented by staff.**

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

**b. Council Approval of Policy and Procedures for soliciting, accepting, and amending the budget for monetary donations and in-kind donations for City-wide events and activities.**

Motion made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Antione.  
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Antoine, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears

**10. Council Approval on the Municipal Court Solicitor's Contract (Rene Marierose)-Municipal Court Department**

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

- 11. Council Approval for renovation/expansion of the "old" jail area within the Police Department. Two quotes were received. Recommend award to lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder: Accurate Property Services for an amount not to exceed \$15,800.70-Police Department**

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

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** asked once the City Center is built, and the police department moves, what plans do they have for that building?

**Mr. Clark** noted there have been ongoing conversations about renting the building or selling it to Clayton County for a satellite location. He noted that if they are not interested, he will give the same opportunity to another entity since it is so close to Fulton County.

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

- 12. Council Approval on a Partnership with Change Center Mentoring Group – Recreation and Leisure Services Department**

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

Councilmember James asked, from looking at the MOU, if they would be responsible for providing transportation to the program.

**Director Maxwell** noted it was for when they begin to take the kids on college tours.

**Councilmember James** asked if the city was providing that cost.

**Director Maxwell** noted they have city vans.

**Mayor Butler** – asked who the Change Center Mentoring Group is.

**Director Maxwell** noted Mr. Thomas, the director of the program, is here now to answer any questions.

**Mr. Thomas** thanked them for allowing him to partner with the city and noted that he is looking to better the lives of the youth in the community. He noted that he would work hard with them to make sure this happened.

**Councilmember Antione** asked him if he was one of the great officers of the Forest Park Police Department.

**Mr. Thomas** noted he was.

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 Ward meeting from Thursday would be posted to the website. She noted in the past the City Manager responded to Public Comments, she knows there were questions about the blue light, and she wanted to bring that back. She noted at they will start addressing them at the meeting for record purposes.

**Mr. Clark** apologized and stated he would address the one tonight about mosquitos and the blue lights mentioned at the last meeting. The blue lights are flock cameras that capture tags and send hits.

**Councilmember James** noted that on September 28th, there will be a Homecoming Parade. She is asking all alumni to participate. The parade is at 3, and they will line up at 2. Councilmember James noted that they are partnering with the Recreation and Leisure Department for a tailgate. There will be a game between Georgia and Alabama at 7 p.m. There will be bouncy houses and a BBQ cookout. She noted they are trying to get other schools to participate, and she would like it to be a community event. Again, the parade will start at 3 from 1000 Main Street and go to the Amphitheater, where the festivities will occur.

**Councilmember Antione** thanked everyone for coming out.

**Councilmember Gutierrez** thanked everyone for coming out. He noted that Councilwoman James shared a picture of the student who passed away, and it made him realize just how precious life is. He noted he did not make it to Fun Friday but had a blast at Forest Park Day. He noted he loves it when the community is happy and gets to enjoy the events. He thanked the employees and noted they are the backbone that holds things together.

**Councilmember Akins-Wells** noted Forest Park Day was a blast, which is why she does what she does. She noted that people come from different communities and Forest Park, which is like a big reunion. She thanked the sponsors, the city attorney, KOD, and everyone who participated in this success. She noted there was one incident, and the police department was very responsive. She thanked Councilmember James, the Chairperson of the URA, for sharing information about her board with them so they would be in the know. She asked Director Maxwell if they could get some art down there for the Legacy Residence to live it up. Lastly, she noted Larry Malone with L Malone Fitness started her with her doing Wellness with Wells. She noted that, at one time, he was troubled but got himself on track. He has a business in Forest Park at 546 Main Street and gives back to the community.

**Councilmember Mears** noted that Mr. Finch, the oldest Sexy Senior, was in attendance as always. He noted that he will be having his Ward Party in Alder Park on Wednesday. He gave a shoutout to the police, public works, and fire departments. He noted that the city would not be what it is without them.

**Mayor Butler** thanked everyone for coming out. She noted that the Annual State of the City Address will be delivered in October at the Living Faith Tabernacle at 7 p.m. She noted that it will be a bit different this time, and you will have to RSVP, and that the link will go up on September 1st.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by Mayor Butler.

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 404-366-4720.