



CITY OF
FORESTPARK

**CITY OF FOREST PARK
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING**

Monday, October 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM
Forest Park City Hall | Council Chambers
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 Delores A. Gunn The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells
Latosha Clemons, Interim City Manager
Randi Rainey, City Clerk
Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE:

Dr. Beeler led the invocation.

III. ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:

Present

Councilmember Kimberly James
Councilmember Delores Gunn
Councilmember Hector Gutierrez
Councilmember Latresa Akins-Wells
Councilmember Allan Mears

Absent

Others in attendance: Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Josh Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Javon Lloyd, PIO; John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance Director; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, HR Deputy Director; Nicole Dozier, PCD Director; Rochelle Dennis, Economic Development Director; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Municipal Court Director; Tarik Maxwell, Director of Rec and Leisure; Alton Matthews, Public Works Director; Nigel Whatley, Deputy Public Works Director; David Halcome, Deputy Fire Chief; Derry Walker, Code Compliance Director; Brandon Criss, Police Chief, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to amend the agenda to table Item #4-Proclamation in Recognition of Dr. Garcia with Injury 2 Wellness.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember James.

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

V. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as printed.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

It was moved to adopt the minutes of October 6, 2025, as printed.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

1. **Council Approval of Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2025** – Executive Office

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were Three (3) Public Comment Speakers.

Christine Ellington thanked the Council and the City for hosting the Blues on Main event, noting that it was well-organized, safe, and enjoyable. She stated it was uplifting to see the community, visitors, police, and city officials come together in a positive atmosphere. Ms. Ellington expressed pride in Forest Park and encouraged the continuation of similar events to promote community spirit and attract future investment.

Dr. Lawanda Folami gave honor to Reverend Dr. Bailey for the opening prayer and thanked him for his encouragement. She highlighted several positive developments in Forest Park, including the opening of the STEM school, activities for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Senior Center Awareness Month. She announced that she had been recently nominated Vice Chair of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Aging and Independence Board, which she said would bring great benefits to Clayton County and Forest Park.

Laverene Mitchell expressed concern about the potential impacts of the upcoming development, specifically citing possible increases in water costs, noise, electricity, and other utilities. She asked how such projects would directly benefit the residents of Forest Park. Ms. Mitchell also inquired about the millage rate, noting that Forest Park's rate has historically been one of the highest in the county, and questioned how much further it might increase.

She added that the Forest Park Library is currently hosting a cursive writing program for children on Thursdays, with two or three more sessions scheduled. She noted the program has been successful, with parents and children participating, and encouraged the community to attend.

Ms. Mitchell stated this was her way of giving back to the community and closed by thanking the Council and wishing everyone a good evening.

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

2. **City Manager's Report** – Executive Office

Chief Clemons presented the monthly report, noting Councilmember community engagement activities, including ward meetings, Forest Park Day, and the final Code Compliance Block Party. Departmental highlights included the processing of over 200 open records requests, resolution of 368 code compliance cases, recognition of new fire/EMS certifications, launch of the IT server refresh project, renewal of the municipal court probation contract, ongoing economic development initiatives, and police activity reports totaling more than 1,400 traffic stops and 1,600 E911 calls.

IX. **CEREMONIAL:**

3. **Proclamation in recognition of the East Georgia Cancer Coalition-** Legislative Office

Mayor Butler presented the proclamation, followed by a group photo.

4. **Proclamation in recognition of Dr. Garcia with Injury 2 Wellness-** Legislative Office

This item was tabled.

X. **PRESENTATIONS:**

5. **Financial Reporting of FY2025-2026 Monthly Financial Report-** Finance Department

Director Wiggins presented the financial report, noting that general fund revenues were budgeted at \$43,034,008, with \$1,729,009 collected in September and year-to-date actuals of \$3,094,003. General fund expenses were also budgeted at \$43,034,008, with September expenditures of \$3,360,602 and year-to-date actuals of \$11,011,226, representing 26% of the total budget utilized across all departments. He further reported on other managed funds, including Confiscated Funds, Capital Funds, Hotel/Motel Tax, SPLOST Funds, Sanitation, and City Authority funds, with revenues and expenditures compared against budgeted amounts.

XI. **CONSENT AGENDA:** **Approved**

6. **Council Approval on a Hardware Refresh Purchase-** Information Technology Department

XII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

7. **Council Approval of a Budget Amendment for FY24/25 Year-End Final Amendment, Budget Amendment/Transfer CMO, and Budget Revenue Adjustment for Courts-** Finance Department

It was moved to approve a Budget Amendment for FY24/25 Year-End Final Amendment, Budget Amendment/Transfer CMO, and Budget Revenue Adjustment for Courts.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember James.

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

8. **Council Approval on the Information Technology (IT) Hardware Surplus-**
Information Technology Department

It was moved to approve the Information Technology (IT) Hardware Surplus.
The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Gunn.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez,
Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

9. **Council Approval to review the number of permitted alcohol licenses allowed per Title 9 – Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 2. – Alcoholic Beverages, Article C. Distilled Spirits – Retail Package Sales, Sec. 9-2-52. Maximum number of licenses permitted-** Planning and Community Development Department

This item was not subject to a vote; it was discussed and resolved outside of formal action.

10. **Council Approval to enter into a contract with B&W Mechanical Contractor's Inc. and J2 Connect Inc. for On-call Plumbing Repairs and Maintenance Services-** Procurement/Public Works Department

It was moved to approve to enter into a contract with B&W Mechanical Contractor's Inc. and J2 Connect Inc. for On-call Plumbing Repairs and Maintenance Services.
The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Gunn.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez,
Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

11. **Council Approval on the Request from the Forest Park's Ministers Association to Use 803 Forest Parkway for a Public Forum-** Recreation and Leisure Department

It was moved to approve the Request from the Forest Park's Ministers Association to use 803 Forest Parkway for a Public Forum.
The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez,
Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

XIII. CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember Gunn thanked residents for their participation and concern for the city. She addressed questions regarding the proposed data center, noting it has been in development for five years and that future technological advances may further improve such facilities. She emphasized that the City has held public forums to ensure transparency and encouraged residents not to be fearful. Councilmember Gunn also highlighted local resources available to assist the community, including food pantries operated by Gateway Restoration and The Rock of Forest Park, services from the Clayton County Community Service Authority for utility assistance, and programs through the Elevate Workforce Resource Center that support employment, housing, and job readiness. She closed by urging residents to remain unified, support one another, and take pride in Forest Park's strength and community spirit.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked everyone for attending, wearing pink, participating, and

expressed appreciation to city employees for their contributions. He commended Dr. Beeler for his prayer and emphasized that healthy conflict is a part of progress, noting that each Council member brings different perspectives shaped by their backgrounds and experiences. He stated that while members may disagree at times, all share the common goal of doing what is best for Forest Park. Councilmember Gutierrez also highlighted the importance of breast cancer awareness, recalling a survivor's message that men can also be affected, and encouraging early detection.

He also highlighted the importance of breast cancer awareness, stressing that early detection is critical and greatly improves survival. Councilmember Gutierrez shared that a survivor who regularly attends city events encourages awareness with the reminder "on the first, touch yourself," underscoring that both women and men can be affected. He concluded by thanking attendees and welcoming Councilmember Mears back.

Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked Christine Ellington for her remarks and recognized Director Dennis and his team for their work in organizing community events, noting the positive feedback received. She highlighted Fun Friday as a success and announced upcoming karaoke in the park on October 20, sponsored by Mr. Jones Entertainment, with appreciation extended to Ms. Wynn Ellison for her sponsorship of prior events. Councilmember Akins-Wells emphasized the importance of community involvement and voting, stating that residents choose council members for their differences and perspectives. She affirmed her commitment to transparency, representing all residents of Forest Park, and continuing to serve as a voice for the community.

Councilmember Mears thanked attendees for their participation and apologized for arriving late due to parking issues at the recent middle school ribbon-cutting. He noted that the Council comprises individuals with diverse perspectives who collaborate to serve the city as effectively as possible. He also invited attendees, after the meeting, to view the updated speaker and camera setup behind the dais.

Councilmember James recognized the Forest Park Ministers Association for hosting the Living Legends Award, noting that she was honored along with Councilmember Gutierrez and Chief Criss. She also commended Director Brown for organizing the employee health fair, which provided valuable resources such as dental services, screenings, massage therapy, and food from The Varsity. She encouraged employees to take advantage of these opportunities when offered. In addition, she congratulated Public Works for winning first place in the City's Scarecrow Contest.

Councilmember Gutierrez, who works at the local middle school, invited attendees to visit the school and offered to provide personal tours, encouraging the community to see where students are learning.

Mayor Butler thanked everyone for attending and echoed the sentiments of her colleagues, as well as her appreciation to Ms. Dennis and Ms. Clay for their work on the Blues on Main event. She joked about accepting Councilmember Akins-Wells' invitation to sing, noting that singing is not one of her talents. Mayor Butler also announced the upcoming "Pawtober" event, encouraging residents to bring their pets in costume and noted that Councilmember Gunn would serve as one of the judges.

Councilmember James noted that an exciting announcement was first shared at the recent Ward meeting and encouraged residents to attend future meetings for important updates. She deferred to Director Dozier or Director Dennis to provide additional details.

Director Dozier announced that the City of Forest Park has been selected to participate in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program. She explained that the City's housing committee will now have the opportunity to work with the program in developing housing opportunities and strengthening housing codes for Forest Park.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

(When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate) OCGA is §50-14-1 (A) (2)

It was moved to recess into Executive Session at 8:11 pm. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate.

The motion was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells and seconded by Councilmember Gunn. Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

It was moved to reconvene in the regular session meeting at 9:03pm.

The motion was made by Councilmember James and seconded by Councilmember Gunn. Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells, Councilmember Mears.

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

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.

City Clerk Signature

Mayor's Signature