



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Council Chambers and YouTube Livestream

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 Dabouze Antoine

The Honorable Hector Gutierrez

The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells

The Honorable Allan Mears

Ricky L. Clark Jr, City Manager

Randi Rainey, City Clerk

Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney

APPROVED MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Mayor Butler called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Dr. Beeler.

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; James Shelby, Interim Director of Planning & Community Development; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis, Deputy HR Director; Bobby Jinks, Public Works Director; Nigel Watley, Deputy Public Works Director; Fire Chief Latosha Clemons; Deputy Fire Chief David Halcomb; Geoff May, Fire Department, Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Pauline Warrior, Senior Management Analyst; Javon Lloyd, PIO; Kwame Marshall, Media Specialist; Derry Walker, Code Enforcement Director; Tarik Maxwell, Rec and Lesure Director; Rochelle Dennis, Interim Economic Director; Authur Geeter, Procurement; Talisa Clark, Procurement; Brandon Criss, Police Dept.; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Director, Talisa Adams Purchasing; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was moved to approve the agenda with the deletion of item # 4, to move #8 up to #1, and to have a Public Hearing for items #13 & #14.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council Approval of Special Called Meeting from May 1, 2024, and the Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2024- City Clerk

It was moved to approve Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2024

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

Abstain: Councilmember James

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were no public comments.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Ricky Clark noted that he will condense his report due to the agenda. He wanted to share the playground initiative, that Perkins Park will start this week and all the parks should be in full swing by the end of summer. He noted he would send out an email with the contents of the City Manager's report.

1. Council Approval on Establishing the City of Forest Park as a Purple Heart City-Executive Office

It was moved to approve the City of Forest Park as a Purple Heart City.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James

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

A proclamation was presented, and the mayor and council took pictures.

The City of Forest Park was presented with a certificate recognizing it as a Purple Heart City.

State Representative Rhonda Burnell- thanked them for the recognition and noted the goal is to make the whole county a Purple Heart County. She said the county date is in June, Lovejoy, and Lake City, and by the end of June, all the cities will be Purple Heart Cities. She noted Monday is Memorial Day and they will have signs outside wherever they designate, saying they are a Purple Heart City.

CEREMONIAL:**Proclamation in recognition of National Public Works Week-May 19-25, 2024-Legislative Offices****Background/History:**

National Public Works Week is an annual event typically observed during the third week of May. It is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the contributions of public works professionals and the importance of public works infrastructure in communities. The week serves as an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of public works professionals who play a vital role in maintaining and improving the quality of life in cities, towns, and municipalities across the country. It also highlights the significance of investing in infrastructure to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of residents.

The Mayor and Council took pictures.

Key to the City and Proclamation recognizing Sania Nicole Feagin for winning the 2024 NCAA Women's Basketball National Championship Tournament- Legislative Offices (Sponsored by Councilwoman Akins-Wells, Ward 4)**Background/History:**

The Forest Park City Council would like to recognize Sania Nicole Feagin, a 2021 graduate of Forest Park High School and member of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks Women's Basketball Team, which accomplished a remarkable undefeated record of 39-0 for the 2023-2024 season and won the 2024 NCAA Women's Basketball National Championship Tournament.

The Mayor and Council took pictures.

Councilmember James- noted that Sania was the Grand Marshal of the Caravan. She stated they are excited about everything she has done and will continue to do in her life.

Key to the City recognizing Justin Eboigbe for being selected by the Los Angeles Chargers in the 2024 NFL Draft**Background/History:**

The Forest Park City Council would like to recognize Justin Eboigbe, a proud Alumni of Forest Park High and the University of Alabama. He has been known for earning First Team All-SEC honors and winning the SEC Championship in 2020, 2021, and 2023 while playing for the University of Alabama. The Los Angeles Chargers are selecting Mr. Eboigbe in the 2024 NFL Draft. His mother, Lucy Earl, will accept the key to the City on Justin's behalf.

The Mayor and Council took pictures.

Lucy Earl- thanked everyone for giving recognition to Justin and noted he is a very humbled person. She noted, she is a proud mother and is very excited by her new title as an NFL Mom. Thanked all the people that have touched him in life. Ms. Lucy noted Justin, is in LA at training camp and she has encouraged him to stay focused.

Councilmember James- noted he retired his jersey and donated it to the city. She noted, they are grateful for the talent that comes through the City of Forest Park. She stated they are humbled and thankful for all the accomplishments of all of the students and future leaders.

Certificate of Recognition - The City of Forest Park received a certificate for being a 2023-2024 trusted partner in education with the Clayton County Public Schools-Legislative Offices

Background/History:

The City of Forest Park has received a certificate for being a 2023-2024 trusted partner in education with the Clayton County Public Schools.

Councilmember James – noted she had the certificate and wanted to present it to Mr. Clark. She noted it came from the Superintendents Dr. Smith and Dr. Wiley.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Financial Reporting of the FY2023-2024 Monthly Financial Report

Background/History:

The Finance Department is presenting FY2023-2024 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.

John Wiggins, Finance Director- noted this was a report for the April financials. He noted the year-to-date revenue was \$31.8 million with the expenses at 27.2 million and that the expenses are slowly catching up with the revenue but should not exceed it. He gave an overview of the General Fund summary by departments and the balance is \$10.7 million. He noted they are starting to clean up all the other funds. He noted you can see some budgets are in the revenue as well as in the expenses, which was one of the audit findings. He noted they have corrected it, and it will be corrected for the next budget term, and this finding should not show up in next year's audit.

3. Presentation of the Forest Park Police E-911 Center and Operations-Police Department

Background/History:

The Forest Park Police E-911 Center operates around the clock, every day of the year, ensuring continuous service to the community. Currently, the center comprises four shifts, each staffed with three communication operators, along with a dedicated Manager overseeing operations. This unit plays a crucial role in supporting the police, fire, and code enforcement departments, enabling them to effectively serve the citizens of Forest Park.

Ms. Johnson, who assumed the role of Communications Manager approximately six months ago, is here to offer an overview of our services and share insights into the future direction of the E-911 center.

Brandon Criss, Police Chief – noted that Ms. Johnson is the Communication Manager, and he is excited about the direction that the department is headed. He noted she is here to give an overview of where they started and where they are now.

Ms. Johnson – noted when she first started, she was told one of the things missing was the use of technology. She noted she was tasked with what can be done to increase that use. She noted she started by obtaining RapidSOS an intelligent safety platform that links life-saving data to 911, RapidSOS safety Agents, and field responders. The system uses software called What3Words that helps pinpoint exactly

where you are, because a lot of people are unfamiliar with their location. It also uses a program called Safety Pioneer which allows you to text if you are unable to call.25.54

NEW BUSINESS:

- 4. Council Approval to purchase a 2024 Chevy Tahoe from Jim Ellis Chevrolet for the Code Enforcement Department in the amount of \$68,939.00-Code Enforcement Department**

It was moved to approve to purchase of a 2024 Chevy Tahoe from Jim Ellis Chevrolet for the Code Enforcement Department in the amount of \$68,939.00

This item was removed from the agenda.

- 5. Council Approval of a Telework Policy–Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve the Telework Policy.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione

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

- 6. Council Approval of a Consent Agenda Introduction–Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

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

- 7. Council Approval on the Employee Benefit's Renewal for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 – Executive Offices**

It was moved to approve the Employee Benefit Renewal for Fiscal Year 2024-2024.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James

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

- 8. Council Approval on Establishing the City of Forest Park as a Purple Heart City-Executive Office**

This item was moved to #1.

- 9. Council Approval of an Employee Assistance Program (EAP)–Executive Office**

It was moved to approve the Employee Benefit Renewal for Fiscal Year 2024-2024.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

10. Council of Board Appointments–Executive Offices (discussed in Executive Session)

11. Council Approval of the Municipal Court Fines and Fees Schedule–Municipal Court Department

It was moved to approve the Municipal Court Fines and Fees Schedule.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione

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

12. Council Approval of a Task Order for Falcon Design to assist the City of Forest Park with Bid Assistance and Construction Administration for Park Signs–Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to approve the Task Order for Falcon Design to assist the City of Forest Park with Bid Assistance and Construction Administration for Park Signs.

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

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

13. Council Approval of Case # CUP-2024-01- Conditional Use Permit–Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to recess the regular meeting and enter into a Public Hearing Conditional Use Permit Case # CUP-2024-01.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

It was moved to open the Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit Case # CUP-2024-01

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

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

There were no speakers in favor of the conditional use permit.

There were no speakers in opposition to the conditional use permit.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing for the Conditional Use Permit Case # CUP-2024-01.

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

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

14. Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-02 – Text Amendment-Planning and Community Development Department

It was moved to enter into a Public Hearing for Text Amendment Case # TA-2024-02.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

There were no speakers in favor of the conditional use permit.

There were no speakers in opposition to the conditional use permit.

It was moved to close the Public Hearing for the Text Amendment Case # TA-2024-02.

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

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

It was motioned to approve the Conditional Use Permit Case # CUP-2024-01.

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

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

It was motioned to approve the Text Amendment Case # TA-2024-02.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antione

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

15. Council Approval to recognize the Forest Park Police E-911 Operators as First Responders-Police Department

It was motioned to approve to recognize the Forest Park Police E-911 Operators as First Responders

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

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

16. Council Approval to Transfer a Service Weapon- Police Department

It was motioned to approve the Transfer of a Service Weapon.

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

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

Councilmember Gutierrez noted that he would like to apologize to the officer that it took so long.

17. Council Approval to award Omega Pest Solutions for City wide Pest Control-Procurement Department

It was motioned to approve the award Omega Pest Solutions for Citywide Pest Control.

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

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

18. Council Approval of Designating Public Works as First Responders-Public Works Department

It was motioned to approve the Designating of Public Works as First Responders

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

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

19. Council Approval on a Five (5) Stall Portable Restroom for city events in the amount of \$20,250.00-Recreation and Leisure Department

It was motioned to approve a Five (5) Stall Portable Restroom for city events in the amount of \$20,250.00.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she would like to decide what those events are because they only have 15 times to use them and want to make sure there are not any issues.

City Manager – noted that those 15 events have been codified and the way in which they will be handling the events. He noted he would like to make sure it is clear before the events start because there are more than 15 events in a year.

Director Tarik Maxwell named the events that would fall under those 15 uses.

Mr. Clark noted the reason he was having this conversation.

Director Maxwell noted these are city signature events, where the city is doing it for the city.

Councilmember James -wanted to know if it was for multiple hours.

Director Maxwell noted it was more festival and would involve entertainment, kids' zones, and food trucks.

Councilmember Akins-Wells – wanted to know what restroom is being used for Food Truck Friday.

Director Maxwell- noted they are using the restroom at 696. He also noted that some dates have not been included, such as Selena Day, which brings a large crowd out. Also, there is Juneteenth and Day of the Dead, and others that are being looked at.

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

20. Council Approval on Senior Center Floor Repairs-Recreation and Leisure Department

It was motioned to approve the Senior Center Floor Repairs.

Motion made by Councilmember Antione, Seconded by Councilmember James

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember Antione- Thanked everyone for coming.

Councilmember Gutierrez- thanked everyone and noted it filled him with pride to see the two Forest Park High Schools go and accomplish great things. He hopes as they build the city that they build the athletics because that brings a town together. He thanked the employees, and they are the backbones in everything. He noted the national certification that Bobby mentioned, and the innovative things that are being used at the 911 center separates them from others. He reminded everyone about how important it is to vote.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- thanked all the directors and employees for all they do. She noted to her colleagues, that the mayor commented that they have come a long way. She agreed but noted they still have a long way to go. She congratulated Sanai and Justin on their accomplishments and stated they have some great kids in the City of Forest Park.

Councilmember Mears- thanked everyone for being there. He noted he has been around the world and Forest Park is the best-kept secret in the world. He noted he has run into people who do not know the interior of the city and people who work in Forest Park. He noted the city has a great fire department, policemen, public works, and great ministers who give spiritual guidance. He noted he has been in Forest Park all his life and he is glad to see it in the position that it is in now.

Councilmember James – noted she had a coworker at Huey Elementary who passed away and stated for people to not take life for granted. She noted high school graduation is on Thursday, at 8:00 at the Georgia International Convention Center. She stated that Big Dave Cheese Steak is having its anniversary week and will be giving out free eggrolls with a purchase tomorrow. On Wednesday they will have Forest Park High School Day, as well as other things this week. She thanked everyone for coming and being a part of the great. She noted that wonderful things are happening, and more is still to come.

Councilmember Gutierrez- noted he was blowing up the city manager's phone this weekend about a light that was blinking on Thurman and Jonesboro. He said the city manager was going through a loss himself and extended his condolences.

Councilmember Akins-Wells- noted she had been in touch with Mr. Clark, as she is sure they all have. She notes he does a lot, and she may send an email on the weekend. She thinks everyone should give him a break and allow

him to be with his family whether he is grieving or not. She noted people have lives and he deserves his life too, because he deals with a lot.

Mr. Clark- noted the flower he received from the city was beautiful. He thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Butler – noted it makes you put things into perspective.

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 8:30 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

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

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

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

It was motioned to reconvene into the Council Regular Session at 10:36 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Antoine.

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

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