



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, June 02, 2025, 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 Hector Gutierrez

The Honorable Delores A. Gunn
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 7:50 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: The invocation and pledge were led by Elder Cook.

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK:

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		•
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		•
Delores Gunn	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, Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Diane Lewis; Deputy HR Director, Kwame Amuleru-Marshall; Multimedia Specialist; Talisa Adams, Procurement Manager; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Nigel Wattley; Deputy Director Public Works, Alton Matthews, Public Works Director, Taril Maxwell, Recreation Director, Nicole Dozier; Planning Community Director, Michelle Hood; Deputy City Clerk, Municipal Court, Brandon Criss; Police Chief, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to approve the consent agenda with the removal of item #5.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of a Presentation for the Volleyball Team, removal of items #3 Rezoning per the applicant, 8, and #9 which does not require action. Add the Censure of Mayor Butler, the sound equipment #5.

Councilmember James noted she would like to add the approval for Technique Concrete, the bid that was tabled a couple of meetings ago for the Grapevine.

Mayor Butler asked the attorney for the verbiage.

Councilmember Gutierrez noted he spoke earlier with the City Manager and asked if he was ready to propose this.

City Manager Clark noted he asked the procurement department to provide him with information. He noted the only thing the Council would be approving is if the city funds would be used in its entirety to fund the buildout of the Grapevine. He noted the plan was to always leverage the funds within some of the authorities that are for revitalization and redevelopment to offset the cost of the buildout. He noted Councilmember James' request that if the question is whether the city will fund 2.8 million, then the source of funds needs to be identified.

Councilmember James asked if the initial item on the agenda two council meetings ago was to approve or to do the city's funding.

City Manager Clark noted that the typical procurement process involves going through a process and then presenting it to the council for approval. He noted that they were never asking the General Fund to pay 2.8 million dollars for the Grapevine.

Councilmember James asked why was it on the agenda in the first place?

Mr. Clark noted so it could go through the normal process. He said they are working through the URA and the DDA because both areas are within their delineated areas for said funds. He said if there is a balance based on what is received from the other authorities, they will come back to the city to see if it is something the city wishes to move forward with, based upon the proposed dollar amount.

Councilmember James withdrew her request.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

Presentation for the Volleyball Team

Coach Folami highlighted the team's achievements by noting they won most of their matches and lost only two games. She stated they played a scrimmage game against PD and won. She noted they maintain an A-average in

school, and their ages range from 9 to 14. Ms. Falomi asked the team to introduce themselves: Ava Walker, Janine Rosario, Bemisol Rio, Skylar Sherfield, and Carson Blakes. They took photos with the Governing Body.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from May 19, 2025-** City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from May 19, 2025.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were (7) seven Public Comment Speakers.

Zack Parker noted he has stood before them countless times desperately trying to get them to see what he has seen for years. However, they chose not to hear and ignored it and purposely overlooked. He noted in the Mayor's recent memo where she spelled out FU, is what finally opened their eyes. He noted outrage when he spoke about corruption, intimidation, and civil rights violation. He asked where the anger was when his safety and wellbeing were being threatened by those in power. He stated for his Ward 1 Councilmember not to vote with the censure is not surprising but appalling. He noted he will be moving out of Forest Park because of the nonsense that continues to be thrown his way, and simply because he never belonged there. He said remember you chose to ignore my voice, when the truth knocked you turned away, but now when the city image is tarnished, remember every time you stayed silent when you could have stood with me. Enjoy your city.

Ms. Falomi noted that she heard of some words that were placed in a memorandum about a veto. She noted that she wanted to apologize to her neighbors because she had introduced the mayor to the city. She said she never thought it would get this low to send a message through a memo. She stated that when she brought her it was to introduce him to help transition the city, and she thanked her for what she had done and for what she had not done. She stated she would be remised if she did not say she was disappointed in her. She said she would like to know whether she would ever say to everyone, herself and the Lord, that she is sorry.

Ann Keith noted she is disappointed in the council and noted you do not have to like someone to respect someone, but you have to respect people to be respected. She said she would appreciate it if they could all work together to move the city forward. She stated Ricky Clark is a great City Manager, and he is moving the city ahead. Ms. Keith stated the Beautification Committee will meet this Saturday, June 7, at 10 a.m. at 785, right behind Planning and Zoning, for their cleanup.

Mr. Wilson noted that his neighborhood on Green Hill Way is great, but it appears as though one neighbor has weaponized city services against the rest of the community. He stated that if you have deliveries or friends visiting, they call the police and be like no parking. He noted the police were called, and they had a discussion. He turned around and called Code Enforcement to ask about the requirements for off-street parking, but he never heard back from them. Then, a few weeks later, there were signs on both sides of the street. He wants to know the requirements for off-street parking because signs are on his half of the street, but not on the other half.

Lois Wright noted she stays on Lee Circle and would like to know about the recycling center. She noted even if it can't be open every day, once or twice a week will be good. She said they used to be able to set things on the edge

of the street, and the city would pick it up, but now they have to figure out a way to get it hauled off. She noted she is asking again and wants to know if they can put it in the budget for this year to get that done. Ms. Lois noted she has lived at her address since 1997, and her road has always been patched and not paved. She noted she is asking for it to be on the list for this year to be paved.

Dewayne Thomas noted he is inviting everyone out to an event that is about giving back to the community. He noted on the 7th they will be hosting a community giveaway at Scott Boulevard Park, in the Unidos School parking lot, and the event is free. Mr. Thomas noted that this is about celebration, connection, and community fun. He noted the event is more than giving things away; it is about showing up for each other and proving. He said Forest Park will be stronger, more unified, and supportive for everyone who calls it home when they come together. He noted Dog Tag Jeepers is a vendor and will be on site, giving away thousands of items. He noted that all veterans who attend will receive brand new sheets, pillows, and comforters while supplies last. Mr. Thomas noted everyone is invited and asked them to spread the word.

Carl Evans noted he is there again about Waste Management. He said that when they pick up the trash cans, they should not be placed where they are blocking the sidewalk, because there are disabled people who cannot navigate around them. Mr. Evans noted on this other matter, as a Christian and Ordained Minister, everyone sins and makes mistakes. He said you should repent and ask God for forgiveness, because if this continues, God is not going to bless the city. He stated he has seen the council not following the Rules of Order, and if the city is going to move forward, you must act professionally.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Clark noted that with so much division and discord saturating the government worldwide, he believes that, from a leadership standpoint, you should always strive to listen more intently, speak kindly, and work together with purpose and unity. He noted that sitting on the Dias and trying to deliver information in real time is not easy, and often things may come out in a way that is not intended. Mr. Clark noted he would like to take the opportunity to apologize to Councilmember Akins-Wells, if his response relative to the financial if he came off as rude, because that was not his intent.

Lieutenant Anderson introduced Officer Madison, Officer Howard, and Officer Wilson.

Chief Criss noted they also have Ms. Victoria, who will be working in the records department.

City Manager Clark noted in reference to the Public Comments for Ward 4 Lee Circle, it is on the LMIG list. He said that it does not guarantee the entirety of that road will be paved, but necessary work will be done for that particular road. He stated they have been having conversations about the recycling center, noting there does need to be better education and a better way to handle things for those who want to recycle. Mr. Clark covered several key areas, stating that the Star Park renovations are near completion, pending the Water Authority's approval. He noted that the City Center project costs increased from 19.5 million to 124 million, requiring value engineering. He noted the funding will be coming from some bonds that were issued, as well as the SPLOST Fund. He discussed other projects like sidewalks, park improvements, and road extensions. Mr. Clark highlighted the employees' survey from the town hall, noting that majority of the employees who took the survey stated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their job with the City of Forest Park. Mr. Clark gave an overview of the approximate 43-million-dollar budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. First Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 25-26 Budget- 1st Public Hearing- Executive Offices

Background/History:

The Proposed Funded dollar amount of the FY25- 26 Budget is \$43,034,857.00. The budget meticulously allocates resources across various city priorities and programs. These allocations are made with the intent to enhance public safety, improve infrastructure, promote economic development, and provide essential services. From maintaining our parks and recreational facilities to supporting educational programs and ensuring the upkeep of our streets and utilities, the budget is designed to meet the diverse needs of our community. The City Manager will present a complete overview of the proposed budget.

The first Public Hearing will be at tonight's regular session meeting at 7 p.m.

The second Public Hearing will be held in a Special Called Meeting on June 16, 2025, at 5 p.m.

The third Public Hearing, with the adoption of the budget, will be on June 16, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the regular session meeting.

The regular meeting was closed to open the first Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

There was one speaker for the Budget.

LaWanda Falomi noted that she would like each department to speak with Mr. Wiggins to ensure they know what the 43 million will represent. She said the city has many city managers, but Mr. Clark is executing things. She said there is no problem with the budget; the problem is moving the money to be productive. Ms. Falomi said that with the city's budget, she hopes to see development starting on the ground because the way Forest Park looks is sad. Ms. Folami stated she is for the budget, and that things that make sense need to be executed, and they should get back to listening to the citizens' ideas.

There were no speakers against the budget.

It was motioned to close the Public Hearing and reconvene into the Regular Meeting.

Motion made by Councilmember James, seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

3. Council Approval on Case # RZ-2025-01- Rezoning Request for 5116 Sargent Street- Planning and Community Development Department

Background/History:

The subject property is a residential dwelling located at 5116 Sargent Street, at the southeast corner of South Avenue and Sargent Street in Ward 3. The property spans on approximately 0.208+/- acres and is currently zoned RS (Single-Family Residential District). According to Clayton County property records, the site contains a two-bedroom, one-bath, ranch-style single-family home. However, a visual inspection reveals that the structure now appears to be a two-story home, despite no recorded permits or documentation indicating that a second level was added. Surrounding properties to the north, south, east, and west are also zoned for single-family residential use and the applicant is requesting to rezone the

property to RT (Two-Family Residential District) to permit the use of the home as a two-family dwelling (duplex).

This item was removed from the agenda per applicant.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the First Annual Renewal of the Youth Sports Uniforms Annual Contract with Krown Sports– Procurement/Recreation and Leisure Services Department

5. Council Approval of a Resolution authorizing the First Annual Renewal for Sound Equipment Services with Digital World Live – Procurement/Recreation and Leisure Services Departments

6. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the First Annual Renewal for City-Wide Pest Control Services with Omega Pest Control – Procurement/Public Works Departments

NEW BUSINESS:

- 7. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the allocation and use of funds for each line item within the ward, including the establishment of a monthly reporting process, as well as clarification on the accounting and tracking of donations received-** Legislative Offices

It was motioned to approve a Resolution Authorizing the allocation and use of funds for each line item within the ward, including establishing a monthly reporting process and clarifying the accounting and tracking of donations received.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Comments/Discussion from Governing Body:

Councilmember Gutierrez asked, "Wouldn't this just be a report that the City Manager could be ordered to give them? He wanted to know why it was something they were voting on.

City Attorney Matricardi noted there is no resolution because it does not have to be an action, but there is no harm in voting on it.

Mr. Clark noted they talked about a policy and wanted to know if it was beneficial for them to bring it before the body for adoption. He noted they can develop a policy as a directive for a monthly financial itemized report to be provided.

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

- 8. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the upcoming SPLOST funding on City Projects-** Councilmember James, Ward 1

This item was removed from the agenda.

- 9. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the revamping of the Boards and Commissions Application-** Legislative Office

This item was removed from the agenda.

10. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing an Appointment to the Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA)-Executive Offices

This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

11. Council Approval of a Resolution for Task Order No.PPI 2025.01a for Precision Planning Inc. to provide Construction Documents and Permitting Services for the New City Center-Procurement/Executive Office

It was motioned to approve a Resolution for Task Order No.PPI 2025.01a for Precision Planning Inc. to provide Construction Documents and Permitting Services for the New City Center.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

12. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing a Budget Amendment for General Fund and Police Special Funds- Finance Department

It was motioned to approve a Resolution Authorizing a Budget Amendment for General Fund and Police Special Funds.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

13. Council Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Forest Park Fire & EMS trade/exchange for Fire Engine One Aerial – Fire &EMS Department

It was motioned to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Forest Park Fire & EMS trade/exchange for Fire Engine One Aerial.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

14. Council Approval to Censor Mayor Angelyne Butler, for Unprofessional Conduct.

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

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gunn, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,

Voting Nay: Councilmember James

Abstain: Councilmember Mears

15. Council Approval of a Resolution authorizing the First Annual Renewal for Sound Equipment Services with Digital World Live, with these conditions: the governing body to have dialogue with the actual sound company relative to the issues that have been found, investigate if there is a way to go on month to month or three month to work through some kinks and to get assurance that they will provide everything within the scope of services that have been provided.

Councilmember Gunn asked if they could receive the contracts at least 3 months before expiration.

Mr. Clark noted he could give a directive to get them 90 days out.

It was motioned to approve the Sound Equipment Services with the above conditions, and a directive to staff to present the governing body with contracts 90 days before expiration.

Councilmember Gunn asked if they could receive the

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

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

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Gunn gave a shoutout to Code Enforce, the Sassy Seniors, and residents for showing up to the block party. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked everyone for coming out and noted he appreciates the public comments. He stated that he hopes Mr. Parker has a safe move and said he will miss his accountability with certain things, and hopes he is safe wherever he goes. Councilmember Gutierrez stated that there is a summer series going on for the Star Wars movie. He congratulated the Volleyball team and noted he was proud of them. He thanked the City Manager for sharing the surveys and noted he is glad that the people enjoy their workplace. He said he has been getting a lot of calls from the Hispanic community and that it is hard not to have a solution for things, and people come to this land with a lot of dreams. Councilmember Gutierrez thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked everyone for coming out and noted to Zack Parker that his request did not fall on deaf ears and that some of them did what they could. She thanked him for holding them accountable and noted she is not perfect but continues to work on herself. She said that just because you are an elected official, it does not mean that you are not human and want make mistakes. She stated it also does not mean you will not be held accountable for those mistakes. She asked that people continue to hold them accountable. She thanked Councilmember Gunn for teaming up with Code Enforcement and putting on an amazing event, because that is what their community likes and is used to. She noted that Officer Thomas is an amazing person, and she thanked him for bringing the mentorship he brings to the community.

Councilmember Mears- thanked everyone for coming out and recognized Mr. Finch as the oldest citizen to attend the meetings continuously.

Councilmember James noted that you do not have to say your address when making public comments because the meeting is broadcast live. She stated to the people at Greenhill Way that she has been in contact with Code Enforcement and the Chief and will remove the signs from one side. She asked them to remember that the streets are small, and she will get with staff, and accept feedback from the community on the best policy for the city.

Councilmember Gutierrez mentioned they will have Food Truck Friday and Bingo Night this Friday.

Councilmember Gunn noted to the City Manager that she would like to sit down with him and Chief Clemons on the vehicle storage facility and the potential for that property.

City Manager Clark told her to let him know what the schedule is, and he will accommodate it. He said he could assure her that he rode past there, and the grass would be cut tomorrow if that is what she wanted to meet about.

Councilmember Gunn noted it was not.

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 9:05 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

It was moved to reconvene the regular session at 9:46 p.m.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gunn.

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

It was motioned to approve Melanie Carter's appointment to the URA board, with a term expiring March 14, 2028.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the City Clerk's Office at 404-366-4720 at least 24 hours before the meeting.