



CITY OF  
**FORESTPARK**

**CITY OF FOREST PARK  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING  
Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM  
Forest Park City Hall | Council Chambers  
745 Forest Parkway, Forest Park, GA 30297**

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**The Honorable Mayor Gwen W. Ellison**  
**The Honorable Kimberly James**                      **The Honorable Delores A. Gunn**  
**The Honorable Hector Gutierrez**                      **The Honorable Latresa Akins-Wells**  
**The Honorable Allan Mears**  
**Latosha Clemons, Interim City Manager**  
**Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk**  
**Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE**

**Council Meetings will be live-streamed and available on [Forest Park's YouTube Channel](#)**

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME** - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ellison at 6:00 PM.
- II. ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK** – All members were in attendance.
- III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS** – Mayor Ellison stated Roman Numerals V, VI would be presented at the Regular Session Meeting.  
  
Motion to approve Roman Numerals V, VI to be presented at the Regular Session meeting was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.
- IV. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS**  
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Gunn. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.  
  
Motion to Reconsider the approval of the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Jame; seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.  
  
Motion to move the Consent Agenda to New Business was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**V. MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL DURING THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING -**

1. NO ACTION - Work Session Meeting Minutes - March 16, 2026  
NO ACTION - Regular Session Meeting Minutes - March 16, 2026

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

2. NO ACTION - The Park at Fort Gillem Update will be presented during the Regular Session Meeting

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA – ITEM MOVED TO NEW BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA**

Councilmember Gutierrez asked if the Council would have an opportunity to discuss the item on the Consent Agenda during the meeting, noting he has questions.

Mayor Ellison stated that this item will be moved to new business.

3. **Council Consideration for approval of the Trade-In Administrative Vehicle to purchase (2) two aging Public Works Vehicles (2003 Ford F250 and 2006 Ford Ranger). Presented by: Alton Matthews, Public Works Director**

**Background/History:**

As part of the City's aging vehicle replacement initiative, the Public Works Department, in collaboration with the Procurement Division is requesting approval to Trade-in 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe Vin# 1GNS6UED6SR291734, Value of approximately \$43,000.00. This vehicle will facilitate the replacement of 2 vehicles in our Fleet. Details of the Replacement Vehicles: 2003 Ford F250 and 2006 Ford Ranger. Total Cost to cover the acquisition: \$80,000. Funding: Capital Vehicles: 301-51-1540-54-2503

Director Matthews reviewed the background and history of the Trade-In Administrative Vehicle to purchase (2) two aging Public Works Vehicles (2003 Ford F250 and 2006 Ford Ranger).

Councilmember Gutierrez stated that it is not about Director Maxwell or this specific request, but he does see the type of vehicles that their directors sometimes have, the luxurious SUVs and brand-new vehicles; further stating it is taxpayers' dollars being used to purchase city vehicles, and the city needs to be more conscientious of that; noted more elevated vehicles should be used for chaperoning potential developers here in the city.

Director Matthews stated that these vehicles would be four-wheeled drives, and they would also have the towing capacity to pull things like the skid steering equipment that they use out in the field, which they try to mobilize.

Councilmember Akins-Wells asked Director Matthews if these were the same vehicles that are already in Public Works and was this vehicle for his use.

Director Matthews responded that the vehicles are for the crew, the 2500 will be for one of the members, the streets team, and the F-150 will be for the Deputy Director.

Councilmember Akins-Wells asked if the other vehicles in Public Works were the same as this one.

Director Matthews stated the request is for Ford model vehicles and noted there is a range of vehicles in Public Works to include Chevrolets and Ford vehicles.

Councilmember Akins-Wells stated that she thought the city had a purchase deal with Ford or Chevrolet, with a lower price, noting the requested vehicles should be comparable to what is currently being driven by Public Works staff, and these vehicles seem to be more elevated.

Interim City Manager Clemons stated that the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works share a wide variety of vehicles and are Chevrolets and Ford vehicles and have towing capacity and all carry equipment.

Councilmember Akins-Wells asked if the proposed vehicle is going to be a 2026 Chevy Silverado and asked if the vehicle would be used for hauling.

Director Matthews' response was that there are vehicles in the department such as Ford Rangers, which are small, and they are not four-wheel drive, and they can only accommodate two workers. He stated that a four-wheel quad cab would accommodate four comfortably.

Councilmember James stated that she wanted to point out to the Council that that the request includes a trade of the 2025 Chevy Tahoe, and as she understands, it is not a vehicle that can be readily used by the Public Works department because it cannot tow anything; noting the request to be a good thing to trade in the Tahoe currently not being used.

Councilmember Akins Wells asked who was driving the Tahoe that they are referring to for the trade in.

Director Matthews responded that no one is currently driving that vehicle.

Councilmember Mears stated he worked for Ford, noting most of the blocked trucks and cars are owned by GDOT because there are specific areas where the vehicles can operate, and because they offer special deals on these specific types of vehicles that other dealers cannot; and further noted that the city of Forest Park does not buy their police vehicles locally, but rather the vehicles are purchased through the public safety dealer who offers the lowest price.

Director Matthews referenced the State rate that is used.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **4. Council Consideration to approve a Special Facility Usage Request - Kiwanis Stadium – Presented by: Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director**

#### **Background/History:**

The Georgia Mass Band has rented the football stadium every Thursday and Friday from 5:30p-8:30p between the months of May and July since 2024. The Georgia Mass Band was founded in 2016.

Director Maxwell stated that since the last meeting, the Council Aides delivered surveys as tasked during the March 16, 2026 meeting; and noted all the surveys responses were in approval with no opposition; and recommended the facility rental be approved with supervision as outlined.

Councilmember Gunn thanked everyone who was involved with the survey and it to the community noting the community has spoken. Councilmember Gunn emphasized that the residents were given an opportunity for their voices to be heard, and she really appreciates that.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **5. Council Consideration to approve Text Amendment Case #TA-2026-01. Presented by: SaVaughn Irons-Kumassah, Interim Planning and Community Development Director. Background/History:**

Interim Director Irons reviewed the background and history for consideration to approve Text Amendment Case #TA-2026-01. Interim Director gave an overview of the Text Amendment, noting the purpose of this amendment is to revise the membership composition of the Public Arts Review Board while maintaining the intent and function of the board as previously established. The Public Arts Review Board was created to oversee and promote the integration of art into public spaces, support local artists, encourage community engagement, and ensure that public art reflects and enhances the identity and values of the City of Forest Park.

As originally drafted, the composition of the board included one representative from the Downtown Development Authority. Staff is proposing this amendment to remove that requirement and replace it with one additional Forest Park resident. This change is intended to broaden community representation on the board while preserving the overall structure and purpose of the Public Arts Review Board.

The proposed amendment is limited solely to the membership composition provision under Section 8-8-169(1), Composition of Board, and does not alter the duties, authority, review procedures, or overall purpose of the Public Arts Review Board.

The text amendment was reviewed by the Planning Commission on **March 19, 2026**, and is now before Mayor and Council for final consideration and action.

### **6. Council Consideration and Approval an Agreement Between COFP and Clayton County Public Schools for a Summer Food Service Program – Presented by: Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director Background/History:**

Director Maxwell reviewed the background and history of Clayton County Public Schools providing free breakfast and lunch meals from June through July to children (18 years of age and under) at the Forest Park Community Recreation Center since 2021. The renewal of this agreement will allow children in the community that heavily depended on school breakfast and lunch to eat during the school year the opportunity to receive meals throughout the summer break months.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, Cyber Security OCGA § 50-14-1.**

Motion to convene Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. to discuss Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, and CyberSecurity was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene the Work Session Meeting at 6:59 p.m. was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Gunn. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT –** Motion to adjourn the Work Session Meeting at 7:01 p.m. was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Gunn. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

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Gwendolyn Ellison, Mayor

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