



CITY OF
FORESTPARK

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

Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM
Forest Park City Hall | Council Chambers
745 Forest Parkway, Forest Park, GA 30297

The Honorable Mayor Gwendolyn W. Ellison
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
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.
- II. **ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK** – All members were present.
- III. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS**
Motion to adopt the Agenda was made by Councilmember Akins-Wells; seconded by Councilmember Gunn. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Council Discussion and Action to Reappoint or Appoint a City Representative to the Clayton County Land Bank Board. Presented by: SaVaughn Irons-Kumassah, Planning and Community Development Interim Director. Background/History:

Ms. Irons-Kumassah gave an overview of the request: Since the establishment of the County Land Bank in 2020, the City of Forest Park has historically designated the Planning Director to serve as the City's representative on the Land Bank Board. Since that time, the City's appointed representative has been the serving Planning Director.

Following the departure of the former Planning Director and the transition of Planning & Community Development leadership, the Land Bank requested clarification regarding the City's designated representative. At that time, the City's seat was temporarily listed as vacant pending formal action by the Mayor and City Council.

On February 16, 2026, Mayor and Council appointed the Interim Planning Director to serve as the City's representative on the Clayton County Land Bank Board. The current appointment term for the City's seat is set to expire on April 21, 2026. As such, this item is

being brought forward at the April 20, 2026, Council meeting to allow Mayor and Council to take timely action to either reappoint the current representative or designate a new appointee for the upcoming term.

Per the Clayton County Land Bank Board structure, appointments are for a four (4) year term and members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Acting prior to the expiration date will ensure the City maintains uninterrupted representation and voting authority on the Board.

Accordingly, staff is bringing this item forward for Mayor and Council consideration to formally designate a representative to serve on the Land Bank Board on behalf of the City of Forest Park.

Ms. Irons-Kumassah noted annual dues must be submitted by the department budget.

2. **Council Consideration to approve Amphitheater Facility Request Usages –**
Presented by: Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director. **Background/History:** Mr. Maxwell stated the 4th annual “Jam for Peace” festival is looking to return to the City of Forest Park on Saturday, May 9th. This event will feature performances by local artists, church, and school choirs. This event will also provide the community with an educational, job and health fair; and noted the event representative is present to provide additional information.

Mr. Jay Francis Springs noted this will be the 4th event in partnership with the City of Forest Park, and there have not been any negative issues, and requested the Council’s support.

Mr. Maxwell noted the Jam for Peace representatives are responsible for obtaining insurance and security from the City of Forest Park Police Department.

Councilmember Gutierrez inquired about the Summer Camp Program offered by the city, and noted a resident was turned down.

Mr. Maxwell noted 100 applications have been received, and that the ratio is 1 counselor for every 10 children, with the age group of 7-12 years old in high demand; and noted that he has been working with Finance and HR to secure additional funding for more counselors, noting there is a wait list.

Mayor Ellison asked Mr. Maxwell to let the governing body know what you need to move forward with the request.

3. **Council Consideration to approve 696 Main Street Facility Request Usages –**
Presented by: Tarik Maxwell, Recreation and Leisure Director. **Background/History:** Mr. Maxwell stated the Clayton County Community Orators Toastmasters Club is a dynamic and supportive public speaking and leadership development club dedicated to empowering individuals to find their voice and lead with confidence. Proudly housed in Forest Park, the club serves as a central hub for communication and leadership growth within Clayton County. The club meets in person on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the Month. As part of Toastmasters International, the club follows a proven education program that helps members enhance public speaking, strengthen leadership skills, and build self-confidence through structured speeches, evaluations, and interactive roles.

Mr. Maxwell stated that before the city commits to a year long program, he recommends staff complete a 3–4-month analysis, where a member of his team would participate and monitor the program.

Councilmember Gunn asked if this is the first time the Toastmasters have utilized the facility.

Mr. Maxwell responded no; however, they have used the facility in a different format.

Councilmember James asked how long each meeting is expected to take place.

Mr. Maxwell stated the group is proposing 5-6pm or 4-5:30 p.m.

Councilman Gutierrez stated groups such as Toastmaster and Kiwanis are fading out, and that he is happy to see that this group is still around, noting their focus is on teaching public speaking, and wants to see the program promoted by the city.

4. **Council Consideration to approve surplus items list from the Economic Development Department** – Presented by: Rochelle, Economic Development Director. **Background/History:** The Economic Development and Planning & Community Development Departments request approval for surplus items pe attached list. Ms. Dennis noted the request is a collaboration between Economic Development and Planning and Community Development items for surplus, and the request is for Phase I, which will authorize Public Works to pickup the items from the building; and noted Phase II will be Finance and Procurement itemizing and placing the items on GovDeals for sale.

V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate, CyberSecurity - OCGA is §50-14-1 (A) (2)**

Motion to convene Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Motion to reconvene the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with No Action and sign an Affidavit was made by Councilmember James; seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor Ellison adjourned the Work Session Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vanessa Holiday, City Clerk

Gwendolyn Ellison, Mayor