



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, January 06, 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 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 7:13 PM.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Elder Cook led the invocation and pledge.

ROLL CALL - CITY CLERK: A quorum was established.

Attendee's Name	Title	Absent	Present
Angelyne Butler, MPA	Mayor, At-Large		X
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		X
Hector Gutierrez	Council Member, Ward 3		X
Latresa Akins-Wells	Council Member, Ward 4		X
Allan Mears	Council Member, Ward 5		X

John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance, HR Director; Diane Lewis; Deputy HR Director, Fire Chief Latosha Clemons; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil; Level 2 Support Engineer, Nigel Wattley; Deputy Director Public Works, Public Works Director, Alton Matthews; Tarik Maxwell, Recreation Director, Marsellas Williams, Economic Director; Nicole Dozier, Planning Community Director; Michelle Hood, Deputy City Clerk; Brandon Criss, Police Chief; and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to approve the agenda with the following addition: amend the agenda to select a Mayor Pro-tem.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2024**
- City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from December 16, 2024, with recommended changes.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were three (3) Public Comment Speakers.

Carl Evans noted that the city website does not have the date of the election and does not state that the Special Election is to fill the term of Ward 2. He noted that this could confuse people who are trying to qualify, as they may think it is for a 4-year term.

Ann Keith noted she would like to talk about transparency. She noted she looked out her window and saw two people walking around in a parking lot next to her home. She stated it was a developer and a builder. She said she was informed that they were looking to build retail/townhomes. She said she missed what was going on and that she was disappointed about the transparency when something was going on in the city. She wants to know how they can improve the process of letting people know what is going on in the city.

Zack Parker noted that leadership is about authenticity and meaningful change. He urges the governing body to prioritize action that serves the community over symbolic gestures. He noted that he has been treated differently by a member of the board while making his public comments, which has been disheartening. He noted that it is the start of a New Year, and he is starting his renewed efforts. He wished everyone the day they deserve.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ricky L. Clark Jr. noted that the election information will be corrected by 9 a.m. He said that it is on the public notice but not the page. He noted to Ms. Keith that he was not sure about the development that is being referenced.

Mayor Butler noted she thinks it was the one that was denied.

City Manager Clark, noted the reason she knows nothing about it is because it was denied and will not be happening. He said they are working on the website to increase communication with the agendas, and various boards and authorities and how notices are released. He noted that her concern has been heard and they will get with staff to see how they can better communicate what is going on in the community. He said he would also like to share information on the Workforce initiative. He noted it is taking longer than expected because they are relying on other partners to catapult things. He said that it is their goal to make sure the residents and the homeless have the same type of job opportunities. He noted they will have a presentation for this at the next meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chief Chris introduced two new employees: Officer Burgess from the Clayton County Sheriff's Office and Officer Brown from Lake City.

Director Walker introduced a new employee, Taylor Robinson, to the Code Compliance Department.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Senior Center Updates -Recreation and Leisure

Background/History:

This presentation highlights key activities and program participation at the Forest Park Senior Center demonstrating our continued commitment to providing social, recreational, educational and wellness services to our Legacy Residents. Anne Foster, Senior Center Coordinator is present to brief the Governing Body on updates relative to Senior Activities and Programs.

Ann Foster- Gave an overview of the programs that have been implemented since she has become employed with the city. She noted they have a Wellness Program every Tuesday and Thursday that involves chair exercises. She said they have a partnership with Community Health Care to offer healthy food demonstrations and free lunches and giveaways. She noted the Nutritional Program with the University of Georgia Clayton County Extension Program was a monthly program, and now it is a weekly program. She noted they offer Mental Health education, and Dr. Gholson comes in monthly for discussions. She said they also educated the seniors about fraud and different scams, targeted them, and offered CPR training. She talked about the Sassy Seniors' different competitions and awards won.

CEREMONIAL: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Council Approval to deny Case # CUP-2024-04, Conditional Use Permit to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC). Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to recess the regular meeting to open for the 1st Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to open the 1st Public Hearing to deny **Case # CUP-2024-04, Conditional Use Permit to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC).**

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

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

It was motioned to close the 1st Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to deny **Case # CUP-2024-04, Conditional Use Permit to open and operate a place of worship within the Institutional Commercial District (IC).**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

4. Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-06 and TA-2024-07 Text Amendments for Article B. – Zoning Districts, and Design Guidelines Established, Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances. - Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to open the 2nd Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-06 and TA-2024-07 Text Amendments for Article B. – Zoning Districts, and Design Guidelines Established, Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Akins-Wells
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 2nd Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

It was motioned to approve **Case # TA-2024-06 and TA-2024-07 Text Amendments for Article B. – Zoning Districts, and Design Guidelines Established, Section 8-8-50 Gillem District (GZ) and Section 8-8-42 Urban Village District (UV) of the City of Forest Code of Ordinances**

Motion made by Councilmember Akins-Wells, Seconded by Councilmember James.
Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Akins-Wells,
Councilmember Mears

5. **Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-09 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article G. – Fees, Section 8-7-81 Fee Schedule, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update fee schedule text.** - Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to open the 3rd Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-09 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article G. – Fees, Section 8-7-81 Fee Schedule, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update fee schedule text.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears

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

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 3rd Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

It was motioned to approve **Case # TA-2024-09 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article G. – Fees, Section 8-7-81 Fee Schedule, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update fee schedule text.**

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

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

6. **Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-10 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article B. – Procedure, Article C. Plats and Data of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update plat instructions.**- Planning and Community Development

It was motioned to open the 4th Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-10 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article B. – Procedure, Article C. Plats and Data of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section and update plat instructions.**

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

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

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 4th Public Hearing.

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

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

It was motioned to approve **Case # TA-2024-10 Text Amendment for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 7. Subdivisions, Article B. – Procedure, Article C. Plats and Data of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, and update plat instructions.**

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

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

7. **Council Approval of Case # TA-2024-11 Text Amendments for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article E. – Tree Protection, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-142 Tree Bank Ordinance.- Planning and Community Development**

It was motioned to open the 4th Public Hearing **Case # TA-2024-11 Text Amendments for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article E. – Tree Protection, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-142 Tree Bank Ordinance.**

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

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

There were no speakers in favor of or against the text amendment.

It was motioned to close the 5th Public Hearing.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez

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

It was motioned to approve **Case # Case # TA-2024-11 Text Amendments for Title 8. – Planning and Development, Chapter 8. Zoning, Article E. – Tree Protection, of the City of Forest Park Code of Ordinances to amend such section, adding section 8-8-142 Tree Bank Ordinance.**

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

It was motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

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

Council Approval to Surplus Vehicles: Fire and EMS Department

Council Approval to Adopt the City of Forest Park Pedestrian Bridge Feasibility Study- Planning and Community Development

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:**8. Council Discussion of a Resolution to Become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency and Participate in one or more of GIRMA Funds- Human Resources****Background/History:**

The Ashley Wilson Act (HB 451) mandates that all public entities in Georgia provide a supplemental benefit program for first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of exposure to traumatic events encountered in the line of duty. This legislation establishes a one-time financial safety net designed to help first responders cover uninsured costs associated with PTSD treatment and recovery.

The program ensures that first responders can access benefits quickly and confidentially, mitigating concerns about stigma or potential job loss. Importantly, this Act does not affect employer health plans, which are already required to cover PTSD and other mental health conditions.

This new program, referred to as the PTSD Program, becomes effective on January 1, 2025. Local government participation is required under this legislation, which includes completing an application and signing a participation agreement to implement the program. Approval of this agenda item will authorize the City to comply with the requirements of HB 451 and provide this critical benefit to its first responders.

It was motioned to approve a Resolution to Become a Member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency and Participate in one or more of GIRMA Funds.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

9. Council Approval of the 2025 appointment of Mayor Pro-tem.

Mayor Butler noted it goes in chronological order and that Councilmember Akins-Wells had it in 2024. She asked Councilmember Mears if he was up for the challenge.

Councilmember Mears respectfully declined and nominated Councilmember James to fill in.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Voting Abstaining: Councilmember Akins-Wells

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James wished everyone a prosperous year and noted that she is looking forward to great things in 2025. She also paid her respects to the people affected by the tragedy in New Orleans and paid tribute to President Jimmy Carter and the services he provided. She noted to Ms. Keith that they are trying to bring transparency and will continue to do so.

Councilmember Gutierrez wished everyone a Happy New Year. He offered his condolences to the Carter family and noted that Mr. Carter was his favorite president. He said that he is very grateful to have Ms. Dixon in his life. He noted that she has been his right hand since he was an elected official. She has helped him execute every event and idea and connected him with people at times. He noted that he is very excited to get to work this new year.

Councilmember Akins-Wells thanked Tenisha Dixon for all she do and wished her a Happy Birthday. She welcomed the new employees. She also noted she thought it was a nice gesture that the officers stand when the councilmembers enter the room. She thanked those who have and will qualify. She noted to Ms. Keith that she was sorry she had to find out by just walking outside, and she could receive her monthly Newsletter if she would like. She noted they should be informing the community on what is going on, but sometimes they do not know. She said there was a nonprofit organization wanting to come into the city and get a building where the homeless people can go to and wash, shower, have a pantry with groceries, have access to computers etc. She noted this is something she would like to see in her community. Councilmember Akins-Wells said those who have the city and the employee's best interest at heart will always win. Those that don't are never around that long. She noted she is and always will be the voice for the people and for what is right.

Councilmember Mears thanked everyone for coming. He noted that Mr. Finch was not in attendance because it may be a bit cold for him. He said that this is a great city with good, hard-working people.

Mayor Butler wished everyone a happy, prosperous New Year. She noted that 2024 was an amazing year for the City of Forest Park and that they had made a lot of progress.

Councilmember James noted that they made it in the Georgia Cities Magazine. She also thanked the new commission chair, Dr. Alieka Anderson-Henry, who is the first female to serve. She noted she is looking forward to 2025, and they are headed in the right direction.

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 7:59 p.m. for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate matters.

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

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

It was moved to reconvene the work session at 8:49 pm

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

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 8:49 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.