



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING

Monday, March 17, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

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

Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Joshua Cox, IT Director; Rodney Virgil, Level 2 Support Engineer; Javon Lloyd, PIO; John Wiggins, Finance Director; Jeremi Patterson, Deputy Finance; Shalonda Brown, HR Director; Nicole Dozier, PDC Director; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Municipal Court Director; Tarik Maxwell, Rec and Leisure Director; Nigel Whatley, Public Works Deputy Director; Latosha Clemons, Fire Chief; David Halcome Deputy Fire Chief; Brandon Criss, Police Chief, Derry Walker, Code Compliance Director, and Danielle Matricardi, City Attorney.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to remove items # 3 and # 4 from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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 removal of item #9.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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 March 3, 2025- City Clerk**

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from March 3, 2025, with the recommending changes to spelling on pages 16 and 18.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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. Mr. Ibenez was not allowed to speak as his residency is in question.

Laverne Mitchell thanked Mr. Walker for always showing up on time and all the employees who did not get recognized enough. She noted Waste Management has been doing a great job.

LaWanda Falomi thanked Ward 3 and the City Manager for assisting with their banquet. She also thanked Director Matthews, Judge Freeman, and Dorthy Roper-Jackson for their help and the work they do. She thanked Councilmember Gutierrez and Councilmember Akins-Wells for always stepping up to assist with the Leisure Recreation Department. She noted that it is volleyball season, and she will provide the schedule soon.

Duane Thomas wanted to thank those who have shown support for the Chain Center Mentor Group for the 100 young men across Clayton, Gwinnett, and Cobb County. He noted on March 2 they had their grand opening. He said it was joyous and thanked everyone who attended. He noted he was disappointed because when he applied for the business license, he was told the city would reach out to assist with the planning, as they do other businesses in the city. He stated his business received no recognition, and as a city employee and business owner, it was disheartening.

Mayor Butler noted that another person signed up, but he listed an address in another city and spoke at the council meeting while she was in attendance. She explained when residents could speak and when visitors could speak along with the process. Their residency is being challenged, so they were advised to talk with the city attorney on how to move forward. She expressed that no one is being denied an opportunity to speak, but they have to follow the process.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Clark noted there are representatives present to speak about ESPLOST, and he wants them to share updates.

Monica Colbert stated she has been an advocate for the county for seven years and a resident. She stated ESPLOST stands for Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. She stated it does not affect home taxes nor House Bill 581. She said it is found by tourism and airport visitors. She said this penny sales tax has done so much for the schools in Clayton County and Forest Park. She stated they are asking people to vote yes to help get it passed.

City Manager Clark gave a brief update on the legislative office events, which included the Journey Play, Teachers' Celebration, Seniors Bingo, Teen in Action Vision Board, Wellness with Wells, and the Community Closet Grand Opening. He stated the city held its first graduation with the first Administrative Cohort Class in partnership with Clayton State University. He said Deputy City Clerk Michelle Hood was chosen to speak on behalf of the Cohort Class and gave a remarkable presentation, along with Mr. Roscoe, who was cleaner than a pastor on Sunday. He said with the home program 17 contracts have been issued out. He noted they are 98 percent complete within the participating phase 1 and have processed 100 percent of 276 applications for phase 2. He gave an update on all the departments in the city. He noted the implementation of the AP Automation system in finance has allowed the city to process and streamline payments efficiently. He stated Alley, the new K-9, is going through training and will soon meet her new family. He noted the Biggest Loser Challenge is underway. Mr. Clark noted he is happy about the partnership that includes Jonesboro Mock Trail that Director Roper Jackson has come up with. He noted in February, 66 business licenses were issued, and 31 PD permits were issued. He stated the new website has been approved, and they are looking to have it launched by the 3rd quarter and will be able to translate in multiple languages.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Financial Reporting of the FY2024-2025 Monthly Financial Report

Background/History:

The Finance Department is presenting FY2024-2025's Monthly Financial review of the City's financials. The purpose of the monthly financial review is to help us understand how healthy the City's cash flow is and evaluate department performance to see if the executive office needs to reallocate resources to achieve the city's financial goals.

Director Wiggins gave an overview of the financials for the month of February. He said the snapshot ending on 2.28.2025 shows the budgeted revenues and expenses at 43 million 752 thousand 359. He stated the monthly take-in was 941 thousand 26 dollars. He noted the year to date is 29 million 104 thousand 462. He stated the monthly spending was 2 million 962 thousand 584, and the year-to-date actual expenses from February were 26 million 708 thousand 808 dollars. Director Wiggins gave an overview of the different departments that gives you the budget to actual monthly spending and the percentage of the budget being used. He stated all the departments together have only used 61 percent, and usually, around this time, it is 66 percent. He said they are under, which is good.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS / DELETIONS:

It was motioned to remove items # 3 and # 4 from the consent agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

3. Council Approval to purchase 6 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units - Procurement/Fire & EMS Department. **This item was removed from the agenda.**

4. Council Approval to Purchase a Record Management Software System - Procurement/Fire & EMS Department. **This item was removed from the agenda.**

5. Council Approval of a Fee Proposal to provide ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) cost estimate for Starr Park-Executive Offices

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Council Approval to Launch 1-800-BOARDUP- Fire & EMS Department

It was motioned to approve to Launch 1-800-BOARDUP.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

7. Council Approval for the Sale of Firearms from the Police Department's Evidence Room- Police Department

It was motioned to approve this but to come up with a way to distinguish the sale of firearms from the police department.

Motion made by Councilmember Mears, Seconded by Councilmember James.

Governing Body Comments/Discussion

Councilmember James asked about the process for determining who they will go to. She stated she was not comfortable making a decision and seconded it so they could have discussions on this.

Councilmember Gutierrez, a War veteran, noted that he is not fond of guns and would like to dispose of them. He stated that, as an elected official, since it can be money for the police department and ammo, he will put his personal feelings aside on this. He stated honestly that he did not want to put the guns back out there.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she is in agreement with Councilmember James and does not feel the city should benefit from putting guns back on the streets. She stated she would not be in favor of selling the guns.

Councilmember Mears noted there is a way to do this, or you can just destroy them all. He stated that some people can have weapons, and some should not. He noted that he is in agreement with what the governing body decides, but it will not solve the problem.

City Manager Clark noted that Officer Daniels, the evidence custodian, is present and knows more about this topic than anyone. He asked if there was any value in this.

Officer Daniels noted that some are highly collectible, and some are not, but they can all be sold. He stated he could not site the statue right off, but the State of Georgia passed it about 8 years ago, saying guns cannot be destroyed and have to be sold. He noted he could provide that statue tomorrow.

Councilmember Gutierrez asked if there was a way that they could sell them that they only are collectibles or determine the destination of the weapons.

Attorney Matricardi noted no. They have to be done via sealed bid or public auction, not specific individuals.

Officer Daniels noted that they would be sold to a licensed dealer who does not operate in the State of Georgia.

City Manager Clark noted that Mr. Daniel is correct. Citation 17-55 FL states that unclaimed firearms in law enforcement agencies' possessions must be disposed of through public sales to licensed firearms dealers unless certain exceptions apply.

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

8. Council Approval on the Re-Appointment (s) of the Urban Design Review Board Members- Planning and Community Development Department

It was motioned to approve the Reappointment (s) of the Urban Design Review Board Members.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

9. Council Approval to approve a Clayton County Pocket/Skate Park on 851 Alpine Way and authorize city funding for the continuation of sidewalk improvements from the daycare center on the corner of Jonesboro Road and Alpine Way to the park property- Planning and Community Development Department This item was removed from the agenda.

10. Council Approval on a Partnership with Georgia Haitian American Chamber of Commerce and The Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta – Recreation and Leisure Services Department

It was motioned to approve a Partnership with the Georgia Haitian American Chamber of Commerce and The Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta with conditions that both entities work with the city in order to iron out the logistics for the Flag Day on May 18.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James thanked everyone for coming out and wanted to remind them that the 3rd Thursday of the month is her Ward meeting. She stated on Thursday that Jerry's Café will be the caterer for the Ward meeting. She

noted you will be able to hear from the directors, and the other meetings are on the website. She noted the meetings have been tabbed so you can go directly to the director you want to hear. She thanked those who participated and donated to the Hunger Walk. Councilmember James stated the weather prevented them from walking, but they did raise \$1,100.00 dollars, and the first food giveaway will be Friday, April 4th, and some of the students will be walking that day. She noted the giveaway will be at Forest Park High School at 11:30, and flyers will be going out soon. She thanked the recreation and police department for coming out to the GMASS Festival last week, which was a collaboration with all of the schools, and they serviced some of the community members there. She congratulated Mr. Thomas on the ribbon cutting of his Change Center and said that ribbon cutting are usually done throughout the week during the day, so it is not during their personal time. Councilmember James thanked him for the work he is doing with the young people. She stated during this time of the political season, there is always a focus on what you are not doing, and it is disheartening.

Councilmember Gutierrez thanked Ms. Mitchel and Ms. Falomi for their comments. He thanked the police department. He noted the merged bingo night with the St. Patrick's Day event so the seniors could attend. He stated next Friday is Food Truck Friday, and they will show the movie Wicked and April 18 is Selena Day. He congratulated Lifus, on his retirement and wished him well. Councilmember Gutierrez congratulated Officer Thomas and stated he was sorry about how he felt. He noted that he has his number and to please reach out in the future and noted what he is doing with the children is amazing and needed. He said he is excited about the Haitian Flag Day and can't wait to go and hang out with them. He told everyone to be sure and go exercise their vote, and because of ESPLOST, they are getting a 92 million-dollar building right down the street, Forest Park Middle School, which is stem-focused.

Councilmember Akins-Wells apologized for not being there and noted she did not feel well. She thanked Mr. Lifus for giving the city 25 years. She said the city celebrates new employees, and they should do the same for those who have given blood, sweat, and tears to the city. She thanked Director Maxwell and everyone who played a part in his send-off being great. She noted that Wellness with Wells is still going on, and this is the 5th year, and there is more participation. She noted the Community College is doing well, and she thanked everyone who played a part in it. She thanked Ms. Dixon and Mr. Henry for working extremely hard. She thanked the Rock Church of Atlanta and noted she was able to go there and visit and help give out food to the community. Councilmember Akins Wells thanked Officer Thomas for his comment and stated that she is sorry he felt that way. She asked all elected officials to be consistent when celebrating the businesses. She said maybe they can get with the department that handles the new businesses something can be set up so that they feel welcome.

Councilmember Mears thanked everyone for coming out. He states he has been around for over 60 years, and it is so much better now. So, if you see a city employee around, thank them for the work they do looking after the city. He acknowledges Mr. Finch as the eldest person in the room.

Mayor Butler noted tomorrow is an election day, so make sure to go and vote. She stated that ESPLOST is very important. She said, as stated earlier, with this being election time, if it is meant for someone to have the seats, they will have them. She noted you do not have to go to the extreme to find stuff to put on someone. She said she looks forward to the next person filling Ward 2 seat to come on board and continue the progress already started.

Councilmember Gutierrez wished Pastor Mike and Pastor Michelle a Happy Birthday. He noted that he has had the chance to attend Rock Church, and it was great. He noted that El Malone Fitness not only keeps them fit but also helped his wife, who was stressed because their dog jumped out of the vehicle.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (When an Executive Session is required, one will be called for the following issues: Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate)

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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.