



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Monday, December 16, 2024 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 pm

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Dr. Payton 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		•
Kimberly James	Council Member, Ward 1		•
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, Fire Chief Latosha Clemons; David Halcomb, Deputy Fire Chief; Joshua Cox; IT Director; Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff; Director, Marsellas Williams, Economic Director; Nicole Dozier, Planning Community Director; Dorothy Roper-Jackson, Court Director; James Shelby, Project Manager; 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.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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: #12 Confirmation of the Public Works Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Council Approval of Council Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2024 -**
City Clerk

It was motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes from December 2, 2024.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (All Speakers will have 3 Minutes)

There were two 2 Public Comment speakers.

Carl Evans thanked the mayor for mentioning the hard work that Sandra did to bring the Marta Facility to the city. He noted the hard work he has done the past 7 to 8 months with animal control, that there is nothing available to people who cannot care for their fur babies, to surrender them. He would like the city to be the first to come up with a program to help the people. He wants the city in the forefront to come up with something. He noted there is one homeless shelter in Clayton County, which is unacceptable; something is needed to help the underprivileged people.

LaWanda Folami noted that there is an election coming up, and it is the city's duty to have things in place so there are no questions. She said you cannot run for a position if you are a state government employee. She congratulated the soccer team for winning their championship. She thanked the parents and the coaches. She noted she thinks Human Resources should have a vehicle to do their errands like the other departments. She noted that it is about to be a new year, and if they can't get on one accord, there will be changes.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Clark noted the winner of the holiday tree is the Municipal Courts Service Department. He noted that the IT Department won last year, and the Senior Services has stepped up and made a fantastic tree with ornaments of those still alive and gone on before us. He thanked everyone who participated. He noted there were new employees and asked Ms. Scott to introduce their new team member.

Onesia Scott introduced Jesus Carranza as the new Code Compliance Officer.

City Manager Clark noted Recreation and Leisure has amazing news about the local soccer team.

Director Maxwell noted that on December 7th and 8th, the U12 Soccer Team participated in the generational Adidas and North Cross Cup in Norcross, Georgia, sponsored by Adidas. Director Maxwell noted that they won the championship and congratulated them.

Mr. Clark noted there were two employees he failed to introduce. First, with Fire and Emergency Elaine Homer and the new Council Aide Andrew Walker.

PRESENTATIONS:

2. Forest Park Fire & EMS – Onboarded two (2) new hires to the Department – Introductions Only

The Forest Park Fire & EMS Department has recently onboarded two (2) new employees.

Kya West (recruit)

Elaine Comer (Staff Assistant)

Fire Chief Clemens will present the introductions.

Chief Clemons introduced Janiah Davis and Toney Taylor as new hires also.

Kya West noted she is from Riverdale and has been with the city for a month. She recited the mission statement and thanked the chief for hiring her.

Tony Taylor was a former Battalion Chief for Riverdale. He noted he had been with the city for 6 months and had been doing fire for 27 years. He noted that their station closed down, and the chief asked him to come to Forest Park. He thanked her for doing so.

Janiah Davis noted that she comes from Dekalb County. She noted that she spoke with the chief, who encouraged her to come. She noted that she has been doing fire for 25 years and is happy to be here.

Elaine Comer noted she was a previous city employee with approximately 18 years of experience, and this has been her home. She noted that the chief motivated her to come back, and she is happy to be here again.

Pauline Warrior, Chief of Staff, gave an overview for the month of November, noting that the Mayor and Council have been busy doing things with and in the community. There were Turkey Giveaways, Bingo Night, luncheon as well as other things. She gave an overview of the different departments within the city and noted there are 10 new businesses. She said Starr Park, the new City Center, Monument, and the Grapevine Vine are still being discussed.

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

Background/History:

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

Director Wiggins noted that revenue was budgeted at 42.1 million for the month of November, and the monthly take-in was a little over 1.1 million. He stated that the year-to-date for November was 24.2 thousand. He noted the expenses budgeted were 42.1 million, and the monthly spending was 2.6. The year-to-date was 2.6 million. Director Wiggins noted the budget for actual monthly spending, which is only 34 percent of the overall budget. He showed a summary of the other funds revenue and expenditure. Director Wiggins noted while talking to outside auditors they are on track to get their audit on time, to receive their budget award.

CEREMONIAL: NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

It was motioned to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

4. Council Approval of Lighting Service Agreement for 4798 Jonesboro Rd – Public Works

5. Council Approval of Surplus Vehicles – Public Works Department

6. Council Approval of 14 Temporary Easements for Sidewalk Improvements on Linda Way, Forest Park, GA- Public Works

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Council Approval of Board Appointment – Executive Department

It was motioned to approve Jay Evans to the Downtown Development Authority Board.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

8. Council Approval of Clayton County Board of Election to Conduct any and all Elections for the city – Executive Department

It was motioned to allow Clayton County to Conduct any/all elections for the City of Forest Park.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

9. Council Approval to issue a Call for the Special Election to Fill a Vacancy for Ward 2 – Executive Department

It was motioned to approve the call for a Special Election for Ward 2 seat. The qualifying period will be January 6, 7, 8, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

10. Council Approval of Budget Amendment for General Fund and Special Revenue (Police)- Finance Department

It was motioned to approve the Budget Amendment for General Fund and Special Revenue. (Police)

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

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

11. Council Approval of Ordinance requiring City Employees to resign upon Qualifying for Office – Ward 1 Councilmember Kimberly James

It was motioned to approve the Ordinance requiring city employees to resign upon qualifying for office.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

12. Council Approval of the appointment of the Public Works Director.

It was motioned to approve the appointment of the Public Works Director Alton Matthews.

Motion made by Councilmember James, Seconded by Councilmember Mears.

Voting Yea: Councilmember James, Councilmember Gutierrez, Councilmember Mears

Voting Nay: Councilmember Akins-Wells

CLOSING COMMENTS BY GOVERNING BODY:

Councilmember James welcomed the new employees and congratulated the soccer team and Director Maxwell on expanding the vision of the young people. She noted that the monthly Ward meeting takes place on Thursday, and the Mayor will host it. She said if you are not able to make it there will be a recording online. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Gutierrez welcomed all the new employees and congratulated Ms. Evans on her appointment to the board. He congratulated the Forest Park teams for winning. He said for the community to reach out if anything is needed and advised them to spend time with their family. He told everyone, if they are of age, not to forget about the Seniors Ball on Friday at 6:00 pm at 696.

Councilmember Akins-Wells noted that her in-law, Ms. Betty Sutton, passed away yesterday, and she sends her condolences to the family. She welcomed the new employees and stated they had joined a great team. She noted that she believes in fair chances when it comes to the employees who are already here and has nothing against those coming in, which is why she voted no. Councilmember Akins-Wells noted she would also like to receive information weeks in advance if they are confirming someone and not the night they are to be confirmed. She noted she

understands the policy for workers running for office, but it should have come from someone other than the person being run against.

Councilmember Mears thanked everyone for coming. He congratulated the soccer team on their win and the coaches who helped them. He acknowledged Mr. Finch as the oldest citizen to attend the council meetings. He thanked the fire, police, and public works department and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Butler showed a video of her daughter flying a plane and landing it. She noted she received her private pilot license, and she is so very proud of her. She said 2024 is coming to a close and thanked them for all the hard work they have done. She said Forest Park is being talked about on so many different platforms for good reason, and she noted it is because of you all. She noted as the new minimum increase role in the pension, the Leaf Life Initiative that they are striving to make Forest Park a great place to live, work, and spend time. She noted it has been an honor to serve as the Mayor to this community.

Councilmember Gutierrez told Mr. Evans he would look into the comment about the animals. He noted that they may even start a committee that he can participate in.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Butler adjourned the meeting at 7:56 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.