

**MINUTES OF THE
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL
March 12, 2024**

Mayor Tom Andrews, Mayor Pro-tem David Black, Council members Haskell Kibler, Ryan Newton, and Stephen Oliver were present, along with City Administrator Shaun Greenwood, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Andy Smith, Police Chief Don Robinson, and City Attorney Will Dillard.

Mayor Tom Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Stephen Oliver led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. City Council Meeting February 13, 2024

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously approved the minutes as amended.

3. Mayor's Issues & City Projects

a. Responses to Community Forum Items:

Administrator Greenwood reported that the stop work order remains in place for the Satchel Ford housing project. The contractor continues to work on the remediation of the lot to move forward. City Engineer added that he received a report last week that the contractor has until Monday, March 18th for Richland County. He will follow up on the progress.

4. Public Comment Related to Items on the Agenda:

Citizens that wish to speak about an item specifically listed on the agenda must call 803-782-9475 by 5 pm the day before the meeting to be added to the list of speakers.

No items to report.

5. New Business:

a. Resolution in recognition of the service and dedication of Judge Kirby D. Shealy, Jr.

Mayor Andrews honored the life of the late Judge Kirby D. Shealy and his many years as a Judge in the City of Forest Acres.

b. Discussion and approval of a streetlight on Calendar Court

Council member Oliver brought to attention that there are a few classes taught on Calendar Court in the evening hours and the parking areas are extremely dark. Police Chief Robinson surveyed the area and agreed with Mr. Oliver's assessment. Following a discussion regarding the request in the area, on a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved the streetlight request.

c. Discussion of potential zoning overlays related to the Zoning Ordinance Update Project

Administrator Greenwood said that the previous discussion of different densities and uses of construction fronts around the city had the consultant come up with overlays for the Zoning Ordinance. The various overlays allow different types of uses and building standards in each of the areas. Discussion regarding square footage of commercial buildings, mixed use development, neighborhood friendly designs, architectural review, height/story restrictions, mural and painted walls, drive-thru services, parking and traffic flow ensued.

d. Staff request for Hospitality Tax Funds

i. Gills Creek Memorial Park: Grand Opening \$10,000

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the staff request.

6. Old Business:

a. Second Reading: ~~AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF FOREST ACRES, BE~~

~~AMENDED BY ADDING SECTION 21.12 PROVIDING FOR CATEGORIES OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING PROHIBITED IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS (Postponed)~~

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously agreed to defer this reading.

7. City Administrator Report:

- a. GCMP Update
Mr. Greenwood reported that we are going through the fine details and working through the punch list with the contractor.
- b. FLP Extension Update
Mr. Greenwood reported that the contractors are working hard to stay on the goal of the project being completed by early April 2024.
- c. Richland Mall Update
Mr. Greenwood reported that fencing is going up around the mall and demo is scheduled to begin on March 20, 2024. A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for Council to partake.
- d. Budget
Mr. Greenwood reported that staff has begun work on the annual budget and stated that staff would have major items ready for discussion at the budget workshop scheduled for April 23.

8. Finance Director Report: Monthly Financial Report

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Smith reported that revenues and expenditures are typical for this time of year. He also noted that Council was provided a copy of the audit and that the auditor would be at the meeting in April to present the findings. Mr. Smith further explained that the audit indicates a clean finding with no material weaknesses. The delay in reporting this year is due to conflicts with schedules and added reporting requirements related to ARPA funds.

9. Police Chief's Report:

Chief Robinson reported the February 2024 crime and traffic statistics to Council.

FAPD held its first Traffic Blitz and it went well. They will be conducting them more often and throughout the city.

A new certified officer has been hired and will be introduced at the April 2024 meeting.

A security assessment for cameras has been completed for GCMP and will be presented to Council in April 2024.

Front porch roll calls are being scheduled for spring.

Mandatory harassment and supervisory training for all employees is being completed.

Chief had a discussion with Council regarding Constitutional Carry of firearms now being in effect and businesses in Forest Acres.

10. Community Forum:

Resident Kathy Marie Davis expressed her continued frustration and concern regarding the slope with the new development on Satchel Ford and the over abundance of water flowing into her and her neighbors' backyards. She stated that her and her neighbors are meeting with an attorney to discuss options.

11. Council Items:

No items to report.

12. Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 8:15pm.

- a. Receipt of legal advice related to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by Attorney-Client Privilege
 - i. Breach of peace/public nuisance matter (Satchel Ford Terrace)
 - ii. FAPD police pursuit matter

- b. Discussion of contractual matters related to:
 - i. Potential purchase of vacant property
 - ii. Hiring a Financial Consultant

NOTE: Items discussed in Executive Session may result in action by City Council upon its return to general session

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously agreed to go back into regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously authorized the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate a proposed contract for financial consulting services as discussed in Executive Session.

13. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Black, Council adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen
Administrative Coordinator
City of Forest Acres