

**MINUTES OF THE
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL
August 13, 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 6:00 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 July 9, 2024

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the minutes.

b. Special City Council Meeting July 24, 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:

No items to report.

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. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing the life and service of Leigh Ann Poston

Mayor Andrews presented a proclamation to the family of Leigh Ann Poston in honor of her life and proclaiming August 13, 2024, Leigh Ann Poston day in Forest Acres.

b. FAPD introduction of new officers and promotions

Chief Robinson promoted Cpl. Jeff Roberts to Sergeant.
Sgt. Trevor Griffith was promoted to Detective.

c. Discussion of a potential event featuring wellness and fitness

Council member Haskell Kibler said that this event is in an idea phase. Community fitness centers would potentially come together to promote health and fitness in Forest Acres. In doing so, contributing centers would be able to promote their businesses. It would be a donation based type model that would donate funds to a non-profit in Forest Acres.

d. Discussion of operating hours for businesses and drive-thru restaurants

Council held a discussion regarding operating hours in Forest Acres for drive-thru restaurants, grocery retail hours, health care facilities, pharmacies, and gas stations. Mr. Greenwood added that any special exceptions would go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. That is so that our residents would have the opportunity to provide input.

e. Hospitality Tax Committee recommendations:

a. The Therapy Place: \$15,000 Therapalooza

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

Council member Oliver left chambers recusing himself from the vote.

b. Satchel Ford: \$2,500 Freaky Friday

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

Mayor Andrews left chambers recusing himself from the vote.

f. Appointment and Reappointments

a. Planning Commission

i. Vacant Seat

1. Andrew Epting

2. Kristin Hudson

3. John Suber

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously appointed Kristin Hudson to a two year term on the Planning Commission.

6. Old Business:

a. Discussion of an ordinance related to the clustering of smoke and vape shops

City Attorney Will Dillard reported that after discussions with Planning Commission a couple of changes have been made. One would be to modify spacing distances and properties in our one C-4 district on Two Notch Road be exempt from having these establishments.

On a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously agreed to the proposed ordinance modifications and to set the Public Hearing at the September 10, 2024, Council meeting.

7. City Administrator Report:

a. Richland Mall update

The demolition continues and the contractors are moving along.

b. Zoning Ordinance update

We have been busy reviewing the articles submitted by the consultants and then they will be submitted to Planning Commission.

c. Citadel and Idalia Park water fountains

The fountains which include the bottle filling stations have been installed and are operational.

d. Administrative positions

We are in process of restructuring some of the current positions and will be adding a Business Licensing Specialist.

e. Concert series

The concert on August 9th was attended well. There will be two additional concerts on September 12th and October 3rd.

8. Finance Director Report: Monthly Financial Report

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Smith reported that we just finished up FY '23-'24 and there are a lot of moving parts on getting everything closed out. We do have some anticipated revenue and accruals to process. Our hospitality tax revenue was slightly more than we anticipated. No activity for ARPA funds in the last month. We do anticipate some activity in the first quarter of FY '24-'25.

9. Police Chief's Report:

Chief Robinson reported the July 2024 crime statistics.

The drone has been delivered and we will send some officers to a class in September for training.

New certified police officers have been hired and we are anticipating several more soon.

The speed blitz in July worked well. We are continuing that and several other speed initiatives.

10. Community Forum:

Residents Robert and Brenda Young voiced her concerns about a house built near hers on Valleybrook Road in Richland County that is contributing to stormwater problems on their property.

Resident William Brantley added to the concerns that the stormwater is a serious problem on Valleybrook Road.

The Therapy Place Director Dawn Darby thanked Council and the city of Forest Acres for their continued support.

11. Council Items:

Council member Oliver reported they had a productive meeting with Representatives Bauer and Bernstein, Council member Don Weaver, RCRC's Director, and Tony Cooper at Trenholm Park. Discussed was a potential inclusive park and much needed renovations at the park.

12. Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm.

- a. Receipt of legal advice and discussion of contractual matters related to:
 - i. Potential purchase of vacant property and acceptance of same
 - ii. Reciprocal easement agreement and special contract stipulations regarding mall/park site
 - iii. Executive session procedural update (Matter covered by attorney-client privilege)

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 return to regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously authorized the Mayor to sign the purchase form of vacant property and to use HTax funds of \$175,000 plus closing costs to effectuate the purchase as discussed in Executive Session.

13. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen
Administrative Coordinator
City of Forest Acres