

**MINUTES OF THE
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL
September 10, 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 Ryan Newton led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

1. 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 A SECTION OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 4629 SANDY RIDGE ROAD, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER R14115-03-17.

City Attorney Will Dillard opened the hearing at 6:01 pm stating that the purpose of the public hearing is to entertain public comments on a proposed annexation into the City of Forest Acres. With there being no questions or concerns either in favor or opposition to the annexation request from either Council or the public, Mr. Dillard closed the public hearing at 6:02 pm.

2. 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 A SECTION OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 5800 PINEBRANCH ROAD, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER R14113-05-06.

City Attorney Will Dillard opened the hearing at 6:02 pm stating that the purpose of the public hearing is to entertain public comments on a proposed annexation into the City of Forest Acres. With there being no questions or concerns either in favor or opposition to the annexation request from either Council or the public, Mr. Dillard closed the public hearing at 6:03 pm.

3. 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 REVISING CHAPTER 21 (ZONING ORDINANCE) TO ADD PROVISIONS GOVERNING SMOKE OR VAPE SHOPS

City Attorney Will Dillard opened the hearing at 6:03 pm stating that the purpose of the public hearing is to entertain public comments on proposed amendments to the governing of smoke or vape shops ordinance. Mr. Dillard explained the amendments as defined in the ordinance. With there being no questions or concerns either in favor or opposition to the annexation request from either Council or the public, Mr. Dillard closed the public hearing at 6:06 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. City Council Meeting August 13, 2024

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

b. Special City Council Meeting August 19, 2024

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

3. Mayor's Issues & City Projects

a. Responses to Community Forum Items:

Mr. Greenwood stated the Valleybrook/Satchel Ford homeowners were encouraged to contact Richland County to discuss their concerns regarding the new construction on Valleybrook. The city also followed up and contacted the county. An inspector met with surrounding homeowners and although we do not know if they reached a resolution, we were able to get them in touch with the right person.

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 the Employee of the Quarter by the Forest Acres Public Safety Foundation
Council member and PSF Chair Stephen Oliver presented Sgt. Martha Berry with the Officer of the Quarter.

b. Presentation of information related to the Richland County Transportation Penny
Mr. Michael Maloney, Director of Public Works and Transportation at Richland County, made a presentation. He reported that The TPAC has been in the works since 2012. Town/city needs assessments and community outreach were both conducted, and they took in a lot of input. There have been 120 miles of roads resurfaced, 500 roadways paved, bikeways/greenways have been completed, 85 dirt roads that have been changed from gravel to improved drainage systems, and 11 intersections were completed. Economic growth has steadily increased over the last 12 years and continues. Mr. Maloney summarized what is currently on the plan and future plans.

c. Resolution committing the City of Forest Acres to providing a local match for a MASC Hometown Economic Development Grant

Mr. Greenwood said that the city annually applies for this grant. We believe that the best project we have that would make us competitive for funds would be our entryway signs.

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved the resolution so that the city can apply for the MASC Hometown Economic Development Grant.

d. First 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 A SECTION OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 4629 SANDY RIDGE ROAD, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER R14115-03-17
On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved the annexation.

e. First 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 A SECTION OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 5800 PINEBRANCH ROAD, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER R14113-05-06
On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously approved the annexation.

f. Discussion of the City of Forest Acres Rotary Membership and the associated dues
Council member Stephen Oliver recused himself and left chambers. Mayor Andrews stated that he does not support the city paying dues for a Council member on Rotary. Mr. Kibler supported Mayor Andrews. On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved those dues only to be paid by the city if a staff member attends Rotary.

g. Discussion of a proposal by the Public Safety Foundation and Beautification Foundation to increase the number of members on each board.

Mr. Greenwood said that in speaking with our City Attorney, the foundations would have to amend their bylaws to add additional members. Following discussion on a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously voted to support additional members on the two foundations.

- h. Staff Request for Hospitality Tax:
 - a. Marketing: \$2,100 Fig Magazine
On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved the request.

- i. Appointment and Reappointments
 - a. Hospitality Tax Committee
 - i. 2 Vacant Seats
 - 1. John Suber
 - 2. Edward Peagler
 - 3. Robert Dozier

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Kibler, Council unanimously agreed to defer this item until the October 8, 2024, meeting.

6. Old Business:

- a. First 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 REVISING CHAPTER 21 (ZONING ORDINANCE) TO ADD PROVISIONS GOVERNING SMOKE OR VAPE SHOPS
On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

7. City Administrator Report:

- a. Richland Mall Update
Mr. Greenwood said that the work continues, and demolition is progressing quickly. Development master plans are being worked on by the city and land developer.
- b. Zoning Ordinance update
Article 7 is currently being reviewed and comments will hopefully be ready for the consultants soon.
- c. Comprehensive Plan 5-Year update
We are due for our 5-year update, however, Mr. Greenwood said that it does not make sense to complete the update until we are done with the zoning ordinance project.
- d. Administrative Position
Our front office position in City Hall has been filled and Mary Elizabeth Greene will begin on Monday, September 16, 2024.
- e. Grants
There are several grants that we are working on currently. Most of the deadlines are in early Spring 2025.
- f. National Night Out
This event will be held on October 3, 2024.
- g. Concert Series
Whiskey Tango Review will be playing at our 2nd concert in the three concert series on Thursday, September 12, 2024.
- h. SC DOT
Representative Heather Bauer has arranged for Tony Magwood to attend our October 8, 2024, Council meeting and conduct a question/answer session for residents.

8. Finance Director Report: Monthly Financial Report

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Smith reported a multi-year report on two different sources of funding. In FY 22 we received the first half of 5.1 million from ARPA and in FY 23 we received the second half. Expenses with ARPA began following the receipt of the funds and we are now done with ARPA as of

FY 24. The second source of funding is Multi-County park funding. In FY 22 we received the first payment and FY 23 we received a partial payment. We are in line to receive the balance of FY 23 and payments in FY 24 and FY 25.

9. Police Chief's Report:

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

We have four new employees that will be introduced at the next meeting.

We are currently utilizing a new simulation on screen training program for engagement of suspects.

Front porch roll calls are being scheduled now that the heat of summer is cooling.

10. Community Forum:

Resident Brian Willis stated that Covenant Road has him concerned. He doesn't see any progress and is in despair. He is also concerned about the bikeways being filled with debris. Some of the wraps on the utility boxes are fading with the weather.

Resident Chappelle Fleming said that there is a truck cab that is running all night with a couple of people who are sleeping in the cab.

11. Council Items:

Council member Stephen Oliver is asking for Council to consider adding a memorial at GCMP for the late Shell Suber who served on Council for 47 years.

12. Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 7:20 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. Contract for the design and construction management of the Richland Mall Park
- b. Discussion of employee matters related to City Administrator's annual evaluation

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

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Newton Council unanimously agreed to rejoin regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously authorized the City Administrator to execute the contract with Land Plan South on behalf of the city and the use of HTAX funds to fund the agreed upon services.

13. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Black, Council adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen
Administrative Coordinator
City of Forest Acres