

**MINUTES OF THE
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL
November 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 Pro Tem David Black called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Haskell Kibler led the invocation and introduced Boy Scout Troop 10 from Eastminster Presbyterian Church who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Scout Leader – Dave Heydt Boy Scouts – David Hewett, Dan Lavigne, Holmen Guenyard, Andrew Heydt, Jamie Dillard, Brooks Cathcart, and Daniel Larkin)

2. Approval of Minutes

a. City Council Meeting October 8, 2024

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

3. Mayor's Issues & City Projects

a. Follow up from Community Forum Discussion:

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. Resolution recognizing Ryan Horton's assistance during Hurricane Helene

Mayor Pro-tem Black recognized Ryan Horton's above and beyond assistance during and immediately following Hurricane Helene.

b. Resolution requesting the South Carolina Legislature to enact a statute to require security cameras at the entrances and exits of nursing homes, residential care facilities, and assisted living center

Councilmember Kibler said that the City of Columbia and the Town of Lexington have passed this resolution, and it would benefit our elderly community greatly.

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

c. Approval of a Grant Agreement with SCPRT for \$2,500,000 for Richland Mall Redevelopment

Administrator Greenwood said that our representatives helped us secure these funds for our Mall project.

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

d. Htax Committee Recommendations

a. AC Flora Annual Golf Outing - \$2,500

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

d. Appointment and Reappointments

a. Public Safety Foundation – Vacant Seat

Council agreed to make this appointment at the December 10, 2024, meeting.

- b. Beautification Foundation – 2 Vacant Seats
On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously appointed Lorien Owens. One seat remains open.
- c. Code Board of Appeals – 3 Vacant Seats
 - i. Todd “Berry” Mattox
 - ii. Patrick Kirck
 - iii. Ryan Horton
 On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously appointed all three applicants.

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 REVISING CHAPTER 5 (BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS) TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND APPEALS TO THE CODE BOARD OF APPEALS
On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously agreed to defer this item to the December 10, 2024, meeting.

7. City Administrator Report:

- a. Richland Mall Update
Mr. Greenwood said that the demolition is on schedule and all the standing concrete should be done by the end of 2024 and the clean up is scheduled to be done by March 2025.
- b. Helene Recovery Update
To date we have collected 739 tons of yard debris from the recovery. Our normal pick up is an average of 290 tons of debris. Our public works department are all working hard to clean up all the debris.
- c. GCMP Bridge Memorial Update
Mr. Greenwood and City Attorney Will Dillard have been looking into the state requirements for naming the bridge. The city owns the bridge, and we are trying to verify if the specific SC DOT requirements apply to our bridge.
- d. Sweet Seasons
PIO Lynnsey Baker updated Council on the December 3, 2024, event sponsored by Lexington Medical Center. The event is from 5-8 pm in the Lowes parking lot.

8. Finance Director Report: Monthly Financial Report

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Smith reported that we are in the first third of the fiscal year. WE have recognized about \$1 million of our revenue towards our \$10 million budget. On the expense side we are recognizing 27-28% spent. For Htax collections we are recognizing 40% of our budget expectations. Our annual audit is wrapping up and will be reported soon.

9. Police Chief’s Report:

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

FAPD dispatch is currently being audited by SLED and next will be our records area.

Our K-9 Indy is doing well following her surgery and she will be back on the road next week.

We are going to be evaluating cameras in a few areas and will decide if we should purchase a new camera Willingham and Bethel church or can move one from another location.

10. Community Forum:

Resident William Brantley asked about the new stop signs added on Fernwood Road and Satchel Ford Road. Mayor Andrews reported that we asked SC DOT to assess where stop signs should be added to help deter speeding in neighborhoods. The new signs were added as a result of their recommendations.

Resident Brooks Cathcart asked about the potholes in Forest Acres. Mayor Andrews explained that most roads in Forest Acres are state maintained, and we are at the mercy of SC DOT and their schedule. Residents can report serious pothole problems and SC DOT does respond.

11. Council Items:

Council member Oliver recognized that Crayton Middle school are 2nd time District Football Champions.

12. Executive Session:

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 7:00 pm.

- a. Receipt of legal advice and discussion of contractual matters related to:
 - i. Reciprocal easement agreement and special contract stipulations regarding mall/park site and proposed memorandum of understanding regarding the same
 - ii. Lobbying services
 - iii. Landscape Architecture Services for potential projects at Citadel Park
- b. Discussion of employee matters related to City Administrator's annual evaluation
- c. Discussion of a personnel matter related to the Chief of Police

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

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

On a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously authorized Mayor Andrews to write a memorandum of understanding regarding the mall park site with a modified site plan as discussed in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously authorized the City Administrator to sign on behalf of the City a Lobbying Services contract.

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously authorized the City Administrator to sign a contract for landscape architecture services for Citadel Park.

13. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen
Administrative Coordinator
City of Forest Acres