**MINUTES OF THE**

**FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL**

**January 10, 2025**

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.

**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 4657 SYLVAN DRIVE, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 14116-07-18.**

City Attorney Will Dillard opened the hearing at 5:59 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 6:00 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. City Council Meeting December 10, 2024

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

1. **Mayor’s Issues & City Projects**
	1. Responses to Community Forum Items:

No items to report.

1. **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.

1. **New Business:**
	1. Presentation by the Public Safety Foundation of Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year

Council member David Black and Chief Don Robinson presented Detective Henry Jackson Employee of the Quarter and Dispatcher Matthew Parr as Employee of the Year.

* 1. Presentation by FAPD of new officers and promotions

Chief Don Robinson introduced new FAPD officers Tammy Behney and George Pelltier.

* 1. Resolution Closing the City of Forest Acres ARPA Program

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by; Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the resolution to close the Forest Acres ARPA Program

* 1. Memorandum of Understanding with Richland County Voter Registration and Elections

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously agreed to defer this item until after Executive Session.

* 1. 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 4657 SYLVAN DRIVE, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 14116-07-18

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

f. Htax Committee Recommendations:

a. AC Flora Baseball Request: $30,000 Forest Acres Classic

 On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously awarded

 $25,000 for the Classic.

b. AC Flora Softball Request: $2,500

 On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously awarded

 the request.

c. Town Theater Request: $4,300

 On a motion by Mr. Oliver Seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously awarded

 the request.

1. Appointment and Reappointments
	* + - 1. TPAC – 1 Vacancy

On a motion by Mayor Andrews seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously appointed Council member Kibler to TPAC.

1. **Old Business:**
	1. Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES, STATE OF SOUGH CAROLINA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 21 (ZONING

ORDINANCE) TO ADD PROVISIONS REGULATING HOURS OF OPERATION OF BUSINESSES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council agreed to defer the second reading to the February 11th City Council meeting.

* 1. 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 A SECTION OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 4713 NORWOOD ROAD, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 14111-03-04

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved the annexation.

* 1. Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THE DATES FOR: PUBLIC NOTICE OF 2025 GENERAL ELECTION, DEADLINE FOR FILING STATEMENTS OF CANDIDACY AND 2025 GENERAL ELECTION

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

1. **City Administrator Report:**
	1. Richland Mall Update

Mr. Greenwood said that the work continues, and demolition is progressing quickly. They are working on their plans for the next stage.

* 1. GCMP Bridge Memorial Update

Mr. Greenwood reported the company that completed the other memorial in the park responded and gave a quote for the memorial plaque on the bridge in honor of our longest serving Council member Shell Suber and the updated plaque at the opposite end of the park.

* 1. Speed humps on Falcon Drive

We were able to obtain a quote from a company for the speed humps. The company is asking for FAPD to control traffic for the project. We are going to communicate with SCDOT for their traffic requirements and will have more for Council in February 2025.

* 1. FAPD camera at Bethel Church and Willingham

Mr. Greenwood said that Chief Robinson will have this in his report.

* 1. Sweep the Acres

This coming week a meeting with Council member Kibler, Mr. Greenwood, and other past participants will be scheduled to discuss the upcoming 2025 spring event.

1. **Finance Director Report:** Monthly Financial Report

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Smith reported that we recognized $2.1 million of revenue on our nearly $10 million budget. On the expense side we recognize 47.25% of our anticipated expenses for the year. Mr. Smith will begin reporting on the Richland Mall Park project with his monthly report.

1. **Police Chief’s Report:**

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

FPAD is looking into ways to utilize our newly acquired drone for some of our traffic enforcement.

The culprit who started several fires in roll carts on January 9, 2025, has been arrested.

FAPD is close to being fully staffed.

One of the cameras at Gills Creek Memorial Park will be moved to Bethel Church and Willingham.

1. **Community Forum:**

Residents Mike and Debbie Williams reported that there is a serious storm water problem at the four garden homes on Lakeshore Drive. Surrounding residents Daisy Rodriguez, Patricia Brazen, and Austin Coleman supported the concerns. Richland County has inspected the problem and did a small amount of work at one point, however, did not finish the work. Another report was made and now the residents are being told that this is not RC’s responsibility. Mr. Greenwood said that he has met with the homeowners and spoken with Representative Beth Bernstein who put him in contact SCDOT again. SCDOT looked at the situation as well as Don Weaver from Richland County. The claim from SCDOT is that there is no easement, and it is too far onto private property. City Attorney Will Dillard and Mr. Greenwood will be reviewing documents the residents have from years back that Richland County sent.

Resident Austin Coleman also reported that the speed humps on Brentwood need to be painted to be visible at night. Mr. Coleman also requested assistance dealing with speeding on Clemson Ave specifically during the times that parents are dropping off and picking up from Crayton.

1. **Council Items:**

Mayor Andrews relayed a compliment he’d received regarding the professionalism and kindness of Code Enforcement Officer Eric Sapp.

1. **Executive Session:**

On a motion by Mr. Kibler 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. Proposed contractual arrangement regarding an easement for entryway sign

ii. Proposed memorandum of understanding with Richland County Voter Registration and

 Elections

iii. Proposed contractual arrangements regarding demolition of City Park property

**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. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously authorized city staff to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Richland County Election Commission as discussed in Executive Session.

**13. Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Newton, Council adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen

Administrative Coordinator

City of Forest Acres