

**MINUTES OF THE
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL
January 13, 2026**

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

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

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Ryan Newton led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing:

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 6100 SYLVAN DRIVE, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 14114-11-11

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 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 6:04 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. City Council Meeting December 9, 2025

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

3. Mayor's Issues & City Projects

a. Follow up from Community Forum Discussion

Mr. Greenwood said that staff have not been able to complete the research for both a memorial dedication policy and the use of goats for landscaping purposes, however, we will try to have it for Council at the February 10, 2026, meeting.

4. New Business

a. Resolution honoring and acknowledging AC Flora Girls Tennis 4A State Championship Title
Resolution moved to February 10, 2026, City Council meeting.

b. Resolution honoring and acknowledging AC Flora Competitive Cheer 4A State Championship Title
Resolution moved to February 10, 2026, City Council meeting.

c. Presentation by the Forest Acres Public Safety Foundation of Employee of the Quarter and Employee of the Year

Council member and Public Safety Foundation Chair Ryan Newton and Chief Don Robinson recognized Officer George Pelletier as Employee of the Quarter.

Employee of the Year recognition moved to February 10, 2026, City Council meeting.

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 6100 SYLVAN DRIVE, RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NUMBER 14114-11-11

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

- e. **First Reading: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 AND AMENDMENT OF THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE**
On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the ordinance.
- f. **Htax Committee Recommendations:**
 - i. **Town Theater: Arts in the Acres (\$5,000)**
On a motion by Mayor Andrews seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the \$5,000.00 request.
 - ii. **Rockbridge: Bankhead Smash Cancer Tennis Tournament (\$10,000)**
On a motion by Mayor Andrews seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved \$7,500.00.
 - iii. **The Therapy Place: Miracles in Motion (\$7,500)**
On a motion by Mayor Andrews seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously approved \$5000.00 in Htax funds.
 - iv. **The Therapy Place: Therapalooza (\$20,000)**
On a motion by Mayor Andrews seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved \$12,500.00 in Htax funds.
- g. **Appointments:**
 - a. **Public Safety Foundation**
 - i. **Open Position (August 2027)**
 - ii. **Open Position (1 Year Term)**
 - 1. **Cody Sherriff**
On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously appointed Cody Sheriff to the term ending in August 2027.

5. Old Business

- a. **Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, APPROVING A TEMPORARY RIGHT-OF-ENTRY AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF COLUMBIA REGARDING RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAP NO. 13908-04-36 (W/S BELTLINE BLVD.)**
On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

6. City Administrator Report

- a. **Richland Mall Update**
Mr. Greenwood reported that the concrete removal continues. The developer believes they remain on a solid timeline for vertical construction to begin after the bids for a contractor are complete.
- b. **City Parks**
The path replacement at Quinine Hill Park has been poured and work is in progress at Citadel Park.
- c. **Grants**
Mr. Greenwood said that this time of year is when we begin the different grant processes. We are still waiting for an appeal through FEMA for additional funds from Hurricane Helene. Lastly, we are also waiting to hear what we were granted through the Investigator Grant.
- d. **Entryway Sign**
Mr. Greenwood reported that the sign project was completed and closed out.
- e. **Zip Code Project**
Mr. Greenwood said that a few years ago we applied with the USPS to be made primary on the designation of the 29204 and 29206 zip code drop boxes. We recently were informed that we were denied the request. We can appeal that decision, however, if we do and are denied again, we would be unable to apply again for ten years. We are going to submit an entirely new application and request to be the secondary choice on the drop

box. Mayor Andrews suggested asking our representatives to assist in the request. Mr. Greenwood said that we will reach out with the new application.

f. **Forest Acres Festival**

Mr. Greenwood said that we have a tentative date of April 25, 2026, for this year's festival.

7. Finance Director Report: Monthly Financial Report

Brittany Adams reported that as of the end of 2025, we have received approximately 22% of our anticipated revenues and at 46% regarding expenses for the year.

8. Police Chief's Report:

Chief Robinson reported the December 2025 crime statistics.

Our officers have received good training from our DUI prosecutor, and the DUI arrests are up and following protocol to create airtight cases.

We have been focusing this month on Atascadero and Bethel Church for traffic.

For January and February 2026, we are focusing on traffic on Forest Drive to hopefully assist in the reduction of roadway accidents.

9. Community Forum:

Resident William Brantley reported that a house on Vanwood was emptied out and a large pile of debris remains on the roadside. Mr. Greenwood added that Code Enforcement and Public Works are aware of the property and have taken the appropriate steps for removal of debris. Unfortunately, it is a lengthy process, however, we will begin removal as soon as possible.

Resident Bryan Willis asked if 4424 Bethel Church was granted a license for beer and wine sales and has the road paving been completed on Atascadero. City Attorney Will Dillard said that to his knowledge a license has not been issued. Mayor Andrews added that when a challenge is issued on a beer/wine sales license application, the license is automatically denied through the Department of Revenue. The owner's then have to submit an appeal if they want to pursue the license. Mr. Greenwood stated that regarding the paving on Atascadero he will reach out to SCDOT to inquire about the project's completion date.

10. Council Items:

Council member Kibler mentioned that the planning for 2026 Sweep the Acres will begin soon.

11. Executive Session:

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

a. Receipt of legal advice related to claims and potential claims and other matters covered by Attorney

Client Privilege:

i. Election Ordinance

b. Discussion of contractual matters related to:

i. Proposed contractual arrangements related to lobbying consultants

ii. Potential purchase of 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 and seconded by Mr. Black Council unanimously agreed to return to general session.

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously authorized the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate and execute a contract with Parker Poe Consulting, LLC for government relations services as discussed in executive session.

On Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously authorized the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Lake Shore Strategies, LLC, for government relations services as discussed in executive session.

12. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen
HR Director/Assistant City Clerk
City of Forest Acres