

# MINUTES OF THE FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 11, 2013

Mayor Frank Brunson and Council members, Ginger Dukes, Shell Suber and Curt Rye, Jr. were present, as were City Administrator Mark Williams, Assistant City Administrator Jake Broom, Finance Director Robert Massa, Police Chief Gene Sealy and City Attorney Lee Holloway.

Mayor Brunson called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

**1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Dukes gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing: FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET**

Attorney Holloway called the Public Hearing to Order at 5:21 p.m. Attorney Holloway stated that the public hearing was to entertain questions, comments or concerns regarding the City of Forest Acres Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2013—2014. The public notice was in the State newspaper on May 29, 2013. Administrator Williams presented the budget to Council and the public stating the this year's budget was the fifth consecutive year without a property tax increase to residents with the millage rate remaining at forty-seven mills. Another notable expenditure is a 3% pay increase to employees which is the first increase to salary base in over three years. Another is the city's increase in health insurance premium of about 5%. Administrator Williams also presented the Hospitality Tax budget. With no additional questions or comments Attorney Holloway called the public hearing closed at 5:26 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

City Council Meeting on May 14, 2013:

On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

**3. Mayor's Issues & City Projects:**

a. TPAC report, Carol Kososki

Ms. Kososki stated that the TPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2013 so that she may have a report for the July council meeting.

b. Citadel, Idalia, Pinetree Parks

Administrator Williams stated that landscape architects Grimball-Cotterill submitted a revised parking plan to SCDOT and was asked by SCDOT for additional information. That project remains in progress.

c. Forest Lake Place Bridge

Administrator Williams stated that there was nothing new to report.

d. Responses to Community Forum Items

Administrator Williams stated that there no items on which to report.

**4. New Business:**

a. Renewal of Mutual Assistance Agreement with Richland County Sheriff's Department

Administrator Williams stated that the city has an ongoing mutual assistance agreement with Richland County Sheriff's Department that requires periodic renewal.

On a motion by Mr. Rye, seconded by Mr. Suber, Council unanimously approved the renewal.

b. 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 REPLACING CHAPTER 12; PROVIDING FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT

Administrator Williams stated that there were a few more details that needed to be worked out with the FAPD before supervision of the municipal court can be transferred to administration and asked that the ordinance reading be deferred to the July meeting. Council agreed.

- c. **Hospitality Tax Policies**  
Administrator asked for policy guidance on the moratorium on the distribution of HTAX funds to outside entities, specifically whether or not the moratorium would be extended as had been discussed at a recent city council retreat. In light of the proposed HTAX budget reflecting current and future projects within Forest Acres council discussed "banking" funds as opposed to again offering an opportunity for outside entities to again apply for grants. Council noted funding a corridor study of Forest Drive and Administrator Williams said that staff would probably need ninety days needed to fine tune an RFQ and subsequent study that could be the basis for future improvements to Forest Drive. Williams said he believed the imagined improvements could well run into the millions of dollars and that HTAX would be the only source for funding all or part of future project costs. Council agreed that extension of the existing moratorium was desirable and applications will not be taken for the upcoming fiscal year.  
On a motion by Ms. Dukes and seconded by Mr. Rye, Council unanimously agreed to another fiscal year on the moratorium.
5. **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 PROVIDING FOR THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**  
On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council unanimously approved the budget as submitted.
  - b. **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 333 LAUREL SPRINGS ROAD, TMS 16802, BLOCK 06, LOT 22**  
On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council unanimously approved the ordinance as presented.
  - c. **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 6118 SACHELFORD ROAD, TMS 14114, BLOCK 11, LOT 14**  
On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Mr. Suber, Council unanimously approved the ordinance as presented.
6. **City Administrator Report:**
  - a. **Shepherd Center commemoration on Charlie's clock**  
Administrator Williams stated that after a meeting with a representative of the Shepherd Center he wanted to alert council that members of the center wished to commemorate Charlie Fetner by placing a plaque on the city clock that all agree would may never have been commissioned without Charlie's passion for the project. Mayor Brunson and Council responded that the city should take charge of such recognition and follow through with a plaque in Charlie's honor.
  - b. **Willingham Bridge**  
Administrator Williams reported that SCDOT has begun replacement of the Willingham Bridge and reported that the bridge will be re-opened no later than August 18, 2013.
  - c. **2013 Forest Acres Festival**  
Administrator Williams reported that George Shissias and the FA Rotary Club had refunded the city \$1,026.00 in HTAX funds provided for their conduct of the 2013 Forest Acres Festival.
  - d. **Four-way stop at Meadowood and Sylvan**  
Administrator Williams reported that the Highway Department has approved, and will soon be installing, a four-way stop at Meadowood Road and Sylvan Drive.

7. **Police Chief's Report:**

Chief Sealy stated there was a boating accident on Forest Lake recently but there were no injuries. A hit and run fatality also occurred on Two Notch Road and the investigation of that incident is continuing.

8. **Community Forum:**

Leigh Lumpkin thanked the city for its prior HTAX support of the Columbia City Ballet.

Resident Kathy Davis reported a sinkhole at the corner of Valleybrook and Brenthaven that continues to subside after repeated repair by the DOT. Ms. Davis asked for support from the city in contacting SCDOT in pursuit of an effective repair to her street. Administrator Williams said that the city is aware of the sinkhole and had previously advised the SCDOT of conditions there. Residents William Brantley and Ralph Bailey also expressed their concerns and frustration concerning the sinkhole and other road problems. Both residents asked Council to use whatever influence may be brought to bear with state government representatives to encourage SCDOT for action on the major road issues. Mayor Brunson said that he would draft a letter and send on behalf of the residents.

9. **Council Items:**

Council had no items to discuss.

10. **Adjourn:**

There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Dukes and seconded by Mr. Suber, the meeting ended at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen  
Administrative Assistant  
City of Forest Acres