

MINUTES OF THE FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 12, 2013

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

Mayor Brunson called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council member Ginger Dukes gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes of February 12, 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)- Mr. Williams reported there was no update.

- b. Citadel and Idalia Park Update-

Administrator Williams reported that the Quad Spring Rider play equipment at both Citadel and Idalia has been determined to be defective and recalled by the manufacturer, who indicates that the defect cannot be rectified. A two person spring rider will be substituted at no cost to the city as well as a reimbursement for the difference in value between the two pieces of equipment.

- c. Forest Lake Place Bridge- Administrator Williams stated that there was no news report at this time.

- d. Salute to Cardinal Newman Cardinals, 2012-2013 SCISA 3A Boys' Basketball State Champions

- e. Salute to Dent Middle School MathCounts Team, 5th state championship in a row; to compete in national finals in Washington, DC

- f. Salute to A.C. Flora High School, 2013 International Paper Baseball Classic Champions

- g. Responses to Previous Community Forum Items-.
There were no community items to report.

4. New Business:

- a. Forest Acres Festival, May 18th \$29,500 HTAX funds

Administrator Williams reported that the festival is scheduled for May 18th at the A.C. Flora football field. The city has funded the festival at \$26,500 for the last several years but this year given the Rotary Club's expenses for managing the festival have increased \$29,500 was requested. On a motion by Ms. Dukes and seconded by Mr. Rye, Council unanimously granted the request.

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 BY ADDING A SECTION PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES TO ACCOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES.

Administrator Williams asked that the item be deferred to April 2013 meeting due to the necessity of meeting a public notice deadline.

- 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 REVISING SECTION 9-21, CLASSIFICATION AND RATES, APPENDIX A, RATE SCHEDULE OF SAID CODE, PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE BUSINESS LICENSES CLASSIFICATION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE RATES.

Administrator Williams stated that the second reading was to correct the table of rates to include a rate for precious metals dealers, which had inadvertently been omitted from the original ordinance. On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

6. City Administrator Report:

- a. Purchase of Farmers Market tent with HTAX funds (\$19,500)
Administrator Williams stated that Richland Mall owners have suggested that they believe the market would be more successful if it moved to the street level parking area by the old Dillard's on Beltline Blvd. A large 30 x 105' tent for vendors and patrons is \$19,500, plus tax and shipping. On a motion by Ms. Dukes and seconded by Mr. Rye, Council unanimously approved the purchase of the tent, but asked that the city acquire a green striped tent and feature the city's logo.
- b. HTAX Overtime for Forest Acres Classic and AC Flora vs. Lower Richland Basketball Game \$2,000
On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council unanimously approved the subsidy of overtime with Hospitality Tax funds because of the nexus to sports tourism and a non-typical department expense.
- c. New city hall renovation expenses
Administrator Williams stated that the new city hall renovations were bid and the lowest bid was offered by Palmetto Construction and Realty, Inc. at \$69,285. On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council unanimously approved the expenses for new city hall renovations with funds being drawn from reserves.
- d. State Health Plan
Administrator Williams stated that the city's group health insurance renews July 1 and he asked Council for authorization to explore coverage through the State Health plan. There is a non-refundable \$500 application fee. On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Mr. Suber, Council unanimously approved the application and its \$500 fee.
- e. Sedimentation issues at Lake Katherine
Administrator Williams asked Council to recall a meeting with Mayor Benjamin and staff regarding the sedimentation issues at Lake Katherine last fall. The topic has been brought up again and the Forest Acres has been asked to join a meeting with the City of Columbia and Richland County to discuss a potential dredging project. Williams said everyone upstream of Lake Katherine is being expected to contribute to resolution of the sedimentation problem.

7. Police Chief's Report:

Chief Sealy presented 2012 crime statistics to Council for more detailed discussion at April's meeting. He then reported on a 5K walk conducted on March 16th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, on a March 30th a 5K walk to be held by Life Changing Ministries, and a 5K run to be held on April 20th hosted by the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. Chief Sealy gave a visual crime mapping presentation with the assistance of Assistant Administrator Jake Broom. The presentation was a beta version and minor issues are being worked out prior to the crime mapping going live to the public. Chief Sealy reported that he had been approached by deputies at AC Flora High school about noise complaints from residents regarding after hours play at the baseball field. There is a permit exemption that the school can apply for to extend the hours of the noise ordinance. No action was taken

Sgt. Lori Tumlin reported to Council that Nixle public alert system will soon be active and described how the tool will be utilized to advise the public of emergencies and non-emergency community alerts.

8. **Community Forum**

Albert Epstein and Paige George introduced themselves as candidates for the City of Forest Acres City Council election on May 14th.

Resident Jerry McDaniels, spoke on parking issues surrounding Citadel Park and the lack of parking regulation that is allowing park visitors to park in front of neighbor's homes. Administrator Williams reported having discussed this problem with the SC DOT, who indicated to him may be in favor of more strict parking regulation if additional parking can be provided on the park side of the streets. Williams added that he has contacted the park's designers to explore that possibility.

William Brantley of Valleybrook Road stated there are some properties in Richland County adjacent to his neighborhood with dead trees that are potential danger to his property if they fall. Administrator Williams said he would give the county Ombudsman's contact information to him due to the city not having any jurisdiction over property owners in unincorporated Richland County.

9. **Council Items**

There were no items for discussion.

10. **Executive Session-** Discussion of personnel issue related to Municipal Judge; and former FAPD employee

On a motion by Mr. Rye and seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council entered executive session at 6:08 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Dukes, seconded by Mr. Rye, Council exited executive session at 6:37 p.m.

11. **Appointment of Municipal Judge**

Councilmember Shell Suber made a motion to extend the contract of William Womble by two years. There was no second to the motion.

Councilmember Curt Rye then made a motion to appoint County Magistrate Phil Newsom as judge for two years. There was no second to this motion.

Councilmember Dukes then made a motion to appoint County Magistrate Caroline Streeter as judge for two years, effective May 11. Frank Brunson seconded the motion. After several minutes of discussion, Mr. Brunson withdrew his second to the motion.

Councilmember Rye then introduced a motion to appoint William Womble for two years as municipal judge; motion was seconded by Shell Suber. Motion carried 3-1.

Motion to adjourn by Curt Rye, seconded by Shell Suber and the meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen
Administrative Assistant
City of Forest Acres