

**MINUTES OF THE
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 14, 2017**

Mayor Frank Brunson, Mayor Pro-Tem Curt Rye, Council members Ginger Dukes, Beau Powell, and Shell Suber were present, along with City Administrator Mark Williams, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Andy Smith, Police Chief Gene Sealy and City Attorney Lee Holloway.

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

- 1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance-** Ms. Ginger Dukes
Ms. Dukes gave the invocation and introduced Brownie Troop 1687 who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Approval of Minutes**
City Council Meeting held February 14, 2017
On a motion by Mr. Rye seconded by Mr. Powell, Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Special City Council Meeting held March 6, 2017
On a motion by Mr. Rye seconded by Mr. Powell, Council unanimously approved the minutes.

- 3. Mayor's Issues & City Projects**
 - a. TPAC
No report.

 - b. Pinetree Park
Administrator Williams reported that the park is almost completed, however, there have been some irrigation problems that are being addressed.

 - c. Responses to Community Forum Items
Administrator Williams reported that the flood deposited debris at Forest Lake Place condos that came out of Gills Creek has been removed as part of the city's Emergency Watershed Protection project.

Administrator Williams stated he has contacted SC DOT to consider the possibility of adding a pedestrian walk way across Trenholm in front of Cooper library and has not heard back yet.

- 4. New Business:**
 - a. FARMA 2017-Marketing effort by city until 501(C)(3) issued
Administrator Williams stated that until FARMA obtains 501(C)(3) status they are ineligible to receive HTAX funds according to city HTAX policy since 2014. So FARMA has asked for the city to act on its behalf to direct the proposed Forest Acres marketing campaign. Jack Oliver discussed FARMA's 2017 budget stated that the budget is based on activities similar to its 2016 television campaign, community sponsorships, day to day operations, website, Rooftop Rhythms, and Sweet Seasons for a proposed total of \$211,550. Mr. Oliver stated that the funds will focus on the advertising campaign since there will be no Rooftop Rhythms or Sweet Seasons in 2017 at Richland Mall. Mayor Brunson stated that Sweet Seasons will happen in 2017 and the budget needs to be adjusted to reflect this annual event, even if it's conducted at a different venue. Administrator Williams recommended the city assist with administration of FARMA's through June 30, 2017 and revisit the budget for the next fiscal year. He suggested that future FARMA budget requests should coincide with the city's July 1 fiscal year instead of a calendar year.

 - b. HTAX Subcommittee recommendation re: HTAX request of \$50,000 for SC Guard Air Ground Expo; May 6 & 7
Action deferred for further information requested per Mayor Brunson and Council.

- c. 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 1905 GREENOAKS ROAD, TMS 16812, BLOCK 13, LOT 02.
On a motion by Ms. Dukes seconded by Mr. Rye, Council unanimously approved the first reading for the annexation.

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 OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF 5660 PINEBRANCH ROAD, TMS 14016, BLOCK 06, LOT 16. (BINNIKER)
On a motion by Mr. Rye seconded by Ms. Dukes, Council unanimously approved the annexation.
- b. Survivor Health and Dental benefits for employees killed in the line of duty
Administrator Williams asked Council to defer until April 2017. Council agreed.

6. City Administrator Report

- a. Updates on adaptive traffic signals installation
Administrator Williams said that SC DOT contacted him to advise that they have begun installation of adaptive traffic signal hardware on Forest Drive and expect to have it operational by late spring or early summer.
- b. Beach Company development
Administrator Williams said he requested a timing update from The Beach Company and was told that they should apply for building permits in May 2017 and begin actual construction in July 2017.
- c. Code Enforcement efforts at Wall Group Property at Pinestraw and Two Notch Rds.
Administrator Williams reported that there is an ongoing problem with no upkeep of this property by the owner and he has rebuffed repeated contact by the city, including those by the city attorney. The property is an attractive nuisance, with several derelict mobile homes, open structures, and overgrown vegetation. Williams said he expects the cost to remedy conditions at this five-acre property will be significant, but once estimates are received from contractors, he will ask city council for authorization to proceed with the clean-up work with the cost-plus attorney fees to be filed as a lien on the property.
- d. Trees threatening Quinine Hill Park fence from neighbor's property
Administrator Williams reported that an arborist inspecting park trees for the city has discovered a neighboring property has four dead trees that will damage the city's fence if they fall in that direction. Williams had asked if council wanted to approach the owner with an offer to cut them as they will damage city property but council demurred, suggesting instead that the city advise the neighbor of his potential liability.
- e. 2017 Municipal Election status
Administrator Williams reported that the closing date was March 9th and if there are no declared write-in candidates identified by March 23 at 5:00 p.m. that the Municipal Election Commission will close the election cycle and declare the incumbent candidates re-elected.

7. Finance Director Report

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director stated that the city's budget is performing as expected for this period in the fiscal year that that revenues and expenditures are consistent with the same period in prior years. Mr. Smith also discussed the CD's held at First Citizens bank, several of which are maturing soon. The city will reinvest those CD's in the Local Government Investment Pool until City Council and Administration decide otherwise in accordance with the city's investment policy.

8. Police Chief's Report

No items to report.

9. Community Forum

Forest Lake condo resident Carol Lee Witt thanked the city for the debris removal.

Resident Ralph Bailey brought to Council's attention the donut holes Richland County properties within Forest Acres. Administrator Williams said he would create an informational brochure to prepare for a mail out campaign describing the advantages of annexing into Forest Acres to adjacent unincorporated residences of Richland County.

10. Council Items

Mayor Brunson recognized Boy Scout Troop 37 and thanked them for pursuing their civic duty to attend a city council meeting.

Ms. Dukes asked about the Forest Acres Festival and Mr. Williams said that AC Flora reported that the baseball outfield may be utilized for the site of the 2017 festival and that the Rotary Club should be able to work around the construction on nearby areas.

11. Adjourn:

On a motion by Mr. Rye seconded by Ms. Dukes at 6:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen
Administrative Assistant
City of Forest Acres