

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-5

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 SECTION 4-3 PROVIDING FOR TEMPORARY USE OF GOATS FOR PRESCRIBED GRAZING AND ADOPTING PERMIT FEES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Forest Acres find that it would be beneficial to the public interest and general welfare of the City to amend the City's animal control ordinance in order to permit the temporary use of goats for prescribed grazing of overgrown areas; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that the permit fee provided for herein is reasonable and proportionate to the burden on the City of administering a prescribed grazing permit program; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the power vested in the Council of the City of Forest Acres by virtue of Sections 5-7-30 and 47-3-20 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, City of Forest Acres:

Section 1. That Chapter 4, Article I of the Code of Ordinances, City of Forest Acres, South Carolina, is hereby amended by adding Section 4-3 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-3. – Temporary use of goats for prescribed grazing.

- (a) *Definitions.* Prescribed grazing means the temporary use of goats as a landscape management technique to control the growth of undesirable vegetation and a prescribed grazing permit means a permit issued by the city's zoning administrator that allows prescribed grazing of only female and neutered goats within the city limits, the purpose of which is to establish conditions under which the temporary and periodic use of a limited number of goats for prescribed grazing for vegetative landscaping.
- (b) *Permit required.* Notwithstanding the restrictions on livestock as may be found in section 4-1, a prescribed grazing permit to be issued by the city's zoning administrator, must be obtained prior to the use of any goats within the city limits for the limited purpose of prescribed grazing. A one-time fee of \$25.00 shall be charged to offset the cost of administering this permit and such permit shall be nontransferable.
- (c) *Standards.* The use of goats for prescribed grazing shall be compliant with the current standards and procedures promulgated by the zoning administrator as prescribed grazing permit conditions. In addition to other, more specific standards as may be set forth in the prescribed grazing permit conditions, the following shall apply to all permits:
 - (1) An application for a prescribed grazing permit must include at a minimum: a detailed site plan, a description of the fencing to be used, the dates the project will begin and end, a signature of the premises owner, the company name and contact information of the goat supplier, as well as a certificate of insurance maintaining coverage in an

amount of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, and \$2,000,000.00 in the aggregate from the goat supplier; and,

- (2) No more than five goats per ¼ acre and no more than 15 goats per project will be allowed and no front yard grazing shall be allowed on lots with a residence or business; and,
 - (3) The use of one joule or less electrified low voltage fencing may be allowed for the duration of the permit subject to approval and provided a copy of the permit is displayed on the premises; and,
 - (4) All fencing must have a warning sign clearly visible and posted every 25 feet with a minimum of one sign per side of fencing with said fencing to be placed not closer than one foot from adjacent occupied property and for front-yard grazing on vacant lots an additional orange-colored fence shall be required four feet in front of any electrified fencing and at least two feet back from front property line; and,
 - (5) All premises on which goats are kept shall be clean and used in a manner so as not to constitute a nuisance either by odor, noise, attraction of vermin, impairment of water quality, or violation of any other regulation found elsewhere in this Code.
- (d) *Duration.* No person shall keep any goats under a prescribed grazing permit for longer than seven consecutive days or 14 total days in any six-month period. This duration and frequency may be extended with a written exemption from the zoning administrator when he/she determines the scope of the project warrants it. The permit shall issue only when in the discretion of the zoning administrator the keeping of such an animal in a yard or building under the circumstances as set forth in the application for the permit will not injuriously affect the public health.
- (e) *Inspections and enforcement.* The premises for which a permit issues shall at all times be open to inspection by a city official during the grazing period. If a violation of the permit terms is found, the property owner or goat owner will be notified and the violation remedied within 24 hours or the permit may be revoked by the zoning administrator.

Section 2. The City's Master Fee Schedule is hereby amended by adding the following permit fee as adopted by this ordinance:

Miscellaneous Fees

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Basis</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Goat Prescribed Grazing Permit	Per Permit	\$25.00

Section 3. Should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this Ordinance be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences, or words of this Ordinance as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Effective date. The effective date of this ordinance shall be immediately upon its passage.

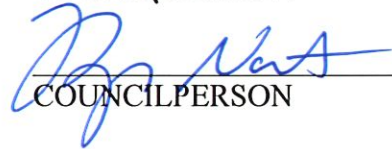
ORDAINED AND ADOPTED under the Corporate Seal of the City of Forest Acres, State of South Carolina, this 14th day of April, 2026.


MAYOR


COUNCILPERSON


COUNCILPERSON


COUNCILPERSON


COUNCILPERSON

ATTEST: , City Clerk

Approval of City Attorney as to form: 

Person Requesting Ordinance: City Council

Public Hearing: April 14, 2026

First Reading: March 10, 2026

Second Reading: April 14, 2026