

**MINUTES OF THE  
FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL  
December 12, 2023**

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

**Mayor Tom Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Tom Andrews led the invocation and Boy Scout Troop from Eastminster Presbyterian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. 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 21.4.2 (ZONING MAP) OF SAID CODE; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY ZONING MAP FOR A 0.4861-ACRE SUBDIVIDED PORTION OF 1462 FLORAWOOD DRIVE (TMS R14005-06-05) FROM R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO C-1 (OFFICE AND LIMITED COMMERCIAL DISTRICT).**

City Attorney Will Dillard opened the hearing at 6:01 pm stating that the purpose of the public hearing is to entertain public comments on a proposed rezoning at 1462 Florawood Drive. Mr. Dillard reported that the Foerst Acres Planning Commission did not recommend the property be rezoned. Applicant Susan Laird stated that she has lived on the property for five years. The side of the property she is asking to rezone is facing Landmark which is already zoned for office space and limited commercial. The applicant's father Bill Stevens spoke in favor of the rezoning. No residents spoke in favor of the rezoning. Residents Jack Tompkins, Ryan Gato, Christie Case, Mary & James Milton, Natalie Allen, and Catherine Jagler spoke in opposition. Council member Stephen Oliver presented several letters from nearby businesses to be entered into the record in favor of the rezoning.

With there being no further questions or concerns either in favor or opposition to the rezoning request from either Council or the public, Mr. Dillard closed the public hearing at 6:35 pm.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

a. City Council Meeting November 14, 2023

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously approved the minutes.

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

a. Responses to Community Forum Items:

i. Construction activity on Satchel Ford

City Engineer Keith Lindler reported that the builders were moving earth on the property and have since stopped due to the County not having given full approval for land disturbance. The building department has issued permits for the homes to be built, but the builders must wait to begin construction due to land disturbance.

**4. Public Comment Related to Items on the Agenda:**

Citizens that wish to speak about an item specifically listed on the agenda must call 803-782-9475 by 5 pm the day before the meeting to be added to the list of speakers.

No items to report.

**5. New Business:**

a. Presentation of a Proclamation recognizing the Morganelli Family

Mayor Andrews recognized the Morganelli Family and their 50-years of business in Forest Acres and their support of the community.

- b. Proclamation in honor of Greg Alia Day  
Mayor Andrews and retired Mayor Brunson presented Kassy Alia Ray with a proclamation honoring Officer Greg Alia and their anniversary of December 14, 2023, as Greg Alia Day.
- c. FA Public Safety Foundation presentation of Officer of the Quarter  
Council member Stephen Oliver and Chief Robinson presented Officer Treyvon Warren with the honor of Officer of the Quarter.
- d. Discussion and approval of a grant agreement with SCPRT  
Mr. Greenwood presented the standard agreement for the city to receive \$2 million from the state for the Richland Mall Park project. On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously authorized Mr. Greenwood to finalize and sign the agreement as amended.
- e. Discussion related to the number of positions on the City's Htax Committee  
Council member Oliver stated he has spoken with a few small businesses and looked at other municipalities and would like to add an in city business owner to the committee. Following discussion, the city will notify the public in May of upcoming open seats in fall of 2024.
- f. 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 REVISING CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE II, TO PROVIDE FOR DISPOSITION OF FORFEITED AND CONFISCATED WEAPONS  
On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved the first reading.

**6. 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 REVISING CHAPTER 9, BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE, TO ADOPT THE LATEST STANDARDIZED BUSINESS LICENSE CLASS SCHEDULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUSINESS LICENSE STANDARDIZATION ACT (2020 ACT NO. 176).  
On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

**7. City Administrator Report:**

- a. GCMP Update  
Mr. Greenwood reported that the road behind Cava is now open, however, the bridge remains closed at this time. The park itself is close to being completed.
- b. FLP Extension Update  
Mr. Greenwood said that this project is coming along, and they continue to work on the drainage.
- c. Grants  
Mr. Greenwood said that the City applied for several safety grants through the MASC and are awaiting notice of award.
- d. Sweet Seasons  
PIO Lynnsey Baker reported record high attendance and the entire event was incredibly successful. Next year's event will be held on December 3, 2024.

**8. Finance Director Report: Monthly Financial Report**

Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Smith reported that five months into the fiscal year we have spent 36% of our budget and our revenues are all as expected at this time. Our larger revenues are received at the beginning of the calendar year and the spring. Our hospitality tax fund is performing well for the year, and we are recognizing grant funds that have been received.

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

Chief Robinson reported the November 2023 crime and traffic statistics to Council.

The entire FAPD staff was coordinated, and traffic and parking was handled well at the Sweet Seasons event.

FAPD has been diligent in protecting both Beth Shalom and Tree of Life synagogues.

**10. Community Forum:**

Resident Kathy Marie Davis asked about the operation of the security camera on Valleybrook and Satchel Ford Roads and if the sinkhole on Satchel Ford road where the construction of the new houses will be addressed. City Engineer Keith Lindler said that the camera will be active very shortly and Mr. Greenwood reported that the property is being investigated by Richland County to make sure that the builders are doing what they are supposed to do regarding the land disturbance.

Resident Pattie Lamont asked about the water leak on Pinestraw continues. Mr. Greenwood said that the water department said that they have made the repairs. He will contact them again.

Resident Steven Fasteneau asked if Council will consider an architectural design review board for commercial projects in the city. Also added if Forest Acres will consider allowing goats to be used for brush clearing.

Resident Bryant Willis said that the water pressure on Havana Court has diminished significantly below the PSI standard. He asked if the city could help the residents on the block to contact the City of Columbia and East Richland Sewer. Mr. Greenwood said that he will reach out to his contacts.

Resident Jerry Pate voiced his concerns about the turnover rate at FAPD. Resident Sherri Ardis voiced her concerns about the turnover and the lack of interaction with businesses by newer officers.

**11. Council Items:**

No items to report.

**12. Executive Session:**

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 8:00 pm.

- a. Receipt of legal advice related to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by Attorney-Client Privilege
  - i. Hydronic Heater litigation
- b. Discussion of contractual matters related to the Forest Lake Place Bridge and Park Project and Forest Lake Place Extension
- c. Discussion of contractual matters related to Forest Lake Place Extension right-of-way agreements and easements
- d. Discussion of contractual matters related to entryway signage on Forest Drive
- e. Discussion of contractual matters related to submittals for the City's Richland Mall Park RFQ
- f. Discussion of contractual matters related to City Lobbyist Contract
- g. Discussion of recruitment and retention matters in FAPD
- h. Discussion of personnel matters related to City Administrator's annual performance incentive goals

**NOTE: Items discussed in Executive Session may result in action by City Council upon its return to general session**

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously agreed to return to regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously agreed to the settlement of the Hydronic Heater litigation as discussed in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously agreed to ratify acceptance of FLP Extension right-of-way agreements and easements as discussed in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the RFQ finalists for the Richland Mall Park as discussed in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously approved the City Lobbyist contract as discussed and amended in Executive Session.

On a motion by Oliver seconded by Mr. Black, Council unanimously approved the City Administrator's contact addendum and incentive goals as discussed in Executive Session.

**13. Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Newton seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen  
Administrative Coordinator  
City of Forest Acres