**MINUTES OF THE**

**FOREST ACRES CITY COUNCIL**

**June 10, 2025**

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 Kendall Adams, Finance Director Brittany Adams, 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 Pro-tem David Black led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Public Hearing**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE RAISING OF REVENUE AND ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

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 the proposed FY 25-26 City Budget. He added that the proposed budget provides for revenues and expenditures of $10,530,727 based on a milage rate of 53.6 mils. With there being no questions or concerns either in favor or opposition to the FY 25-26 budget from either Council or the public, Mr. Dillard closed the public hearing at 6:02 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes**
	1. City Council Meeting May 14, 2025

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

* 1. Special City Council and Joint Planning Commission Meeting May 20, 2025

 On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

1. **Mayor’s Issues & City Projects**
	1. Follow up from Community Forum Discussion

 No items to report.

1. **New Business**
	1. Proclamation recognizing AC Flora Men’s Tennis and Women’s Soccer State Championships

Mayor Andrews presented Proclamations to both teams recognizing their current State Championship wins.

1. **Old Business**
	1. Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDEING FOR THE RAISING OF REVENUE AND ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FOREST ACRES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously approved the ordinance.

1. **City Administrator Report**
	1. Richland Mall Update

Administrator Greenwood reported that they have finished with the demolition of our park area and continue to work on the ground elements of the project.

* 1. Entryway Sign

Mr. Greenwood reported that we have our sign easement from Lexington Medical and we have our sign project out to bid on SCEBO. The deadline for bid submittal is July 2, 2025.

* 1. AC Flora Speed Humps

Mr. Greenwood said we are in communication with the school for the best week for us to have the work done. We don’t want to interfere with any of their summer programs.

* 1. Bridge Dedication

Mr. Greenwood said the dedication was delayed due to several repairs to the bridge and walkway. New quotes are necessary because the timeframe on the first quotes ran out.

* 1. Zoning Update

 Mr. Greenwood said that after the joint Council and Planning Commission meeting, we are close to having a final draft of the Unified Development Ordinance. We are working the last few comments currently. The final draft is predicted to go to Planning Commission in July 2025.

* 1. Farmer’s Market

Mr. Greenwood said that the market has been going well. The princess/superheroes vendor is a huge hit with our visitors.

* 1. City Parks

Mr. Greenwood said that we are in the hard design phase of the new mall park. We are looking at architectural elements and getting closer to some plans.

We still have portions of the walking path at Quinine Park closed off for safety reasons.

There are repairs on the smaller slide and a number of hardware items that need to be done at Citadel Park. There are also a few areas of the play surface that need repairs. We are looking at all of the comments from Council after the May presentation for the park updates.

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

Brittany Adams reported that as of eleven months into the 2024-2025 fiscal year we are at 68% of our revenues and expect them by the end of June 2025. As far as expenses we are roughly $600,000 less than last fiscal year.

1. **Police Chief’s Report:**

 Chief Robinson reported the May 2025 crime and traffic statistics to Council.

 Officers are watching the current crime trends closely and they will hopefully be resolved very soon.

 Speed blitz initiatives are planned for the next few weeks.

1. **Community Forum:**

Resident Cynthia Steel reported that they have a difficult time taking down some invasive trees. She introduced a program called Columbia Green that addresses how hot it is in South Carolina and how tree canopies help with the heat.

Resident Kathy Marie Davis asked if Forest Acres has a tornado warning system. Mr. Greenwood said that we do not.

Resident Joann Williams asked if the city could look at overgrowth near her home and stormwater wash off.

Mr. Greenwood said that Code Enforcement can look at the overgrowth and we will also look at the drainage issue to see if it would be a private matter between homeowners or another state/county entity.

Residents Autumn Pollak, Jerry McDaniel, Rod Dalton, Chris Elliott, and Marius Valdez all spoke and voiced their opinions, comments, and concerns regarding the shade and renovation plans at Citadel Park.

Resident Brian Willis reiterated his concerns of the renovation needs at Trenholm Park due to negligence. He also thanked FAPD for their extra care in the area around the park.

1. **Council Items:**

Council member Oliver acknowledged Austral Salon being in business for 39 years and SAS Shoes being in business for 30 years.

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm.

1. **Executive Session:**
	1. Receipt of legal advice and discussion of contractual and personnel matters related to:

 i. Proposed contractual arrangements regarding PIO Contract

b. Proposed contractual arrangements regarding Architect Services with GMK Associates

c. Reappointment of Chief Municipal Judge

d. Appointment of City Prosecutor

e. City Administrator’s Employment Contract

f. Proposed contractual arrangements related to Richland Mall redevelopment

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

On a motion by Mr. Kibler seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously agreed to return to general session.

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously authorized proposed work orders for GMK architectural services and authorized the City Administrator to sign the authorization.

On a motion by Mr. Oliver seconded by Mr. Kibler, Council unanimously appointed Kate Usry as the City Prosecutor and authorized the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate and execute her part time contract.

On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Newton, Council unanimously authorized the City Administrator to execute a proposed addendum to the sales agreement as discussed in Executive Session related to the Richland Mall redevelopment.

**12. Adjourn**

 On a motion by Mr. Black seconded by Mr. Oliver, Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Queen

Administrative Coordinator

City of Forest Acres