

**MINUTES
Foxfire Village Council
Regular Business Meeting
April 9, 2024 ~ 4:30 PM
Village Hall Meeting Room**

1. Call to Order: Mayor Gregorich called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM
2. Members Present: Mayor Pro Temp Janet Nauman, Councilmembers Mary Gilroy, Don Nelson, and Warren Morgan
3. Others Present: Several members of the public.
4. Moment of Silence: Mayor Gregorich requested those present to pause for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Approval of the April 9, 2024 Regular Business Meeting Agenda

Councilmember Morgan added *Water Update*, Councilmember Gilroy added *Article Overview*, and Mayor Gregorich added *Employee Announcement* to the agenda.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to adopt the April 9, 2024 Agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Nelson and carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

All items listed below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and without discussion.

- Approval of Minutes
 - March 12, 2024 Regular Business Meeting
 - March 12, 2024 CLOSED
 - March 29, 2024 Work Session

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman made a motion to approve the consent agenda as written, seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment Period

Steve Gunn – 41 Forest Lake Drive read a prepared letter asking that residents be permitted to walk and walk their dogs on the golf cart paths. He additionally raised concerns with vehicles still speeding in the Village. Mayor Gregorich responded that the golf course is a private business entity. The Village has no influence or authority over their rules. Councilmember Morgan added the Club is also concerned with liability. Councilmember Nelson suggested Mr. Gunn speak with the Golf Course GM.

8. Zoning Administrator's Report

Lisa Kivett provided a report on zoning activities from February 14, 2024 through April 9, 2024.

Currently a total of thirty-nine (39) homes are under construction or in the beginning stages of lot clearing.

Six (6) Single Family Residence Application:

167 Courtland Circle
142 Woodland Circle
555 Grande Pines Vista
146 Courtland Circle
3 Vineyard
1075 Tufts Vista (ETJ)

Nine (9) Certificate of Zoning Compliance were issued:

25 Ridge Road
8 Richmond Rd
126 Woodland Circle
127 Courtland Circle
7 Ridge Road
14 Green Valley Lane
170 Courtland Circle
171 Sterling Way (Grand Pines)

1050 Tufts Vista (ETJ)

Other Permits Issued:

Ten (10) Fence

Five (5) Accessory Building

One (1) Deck

Two (2) Swimming Pools

One (1) Clearing

9. Council Member Reports:

A. Finance – Mary Gilroy

- Financial Report

Councilmember Gilroy reported the following cash balances as of March 31, 2024: The general fund balance is \$3,081,784 of which \$1,435,638 is reserved, and the water fund balance is \$1,194,577 of which \$247,398 is reserved. Year to Date Capital Trust Dividends received are \$108,504.

- 2024/2025 Budget

Councilmember Gilroy reported meeting individually with councilmembers to go over budget numbers. She and Councilmember Nelson will be meeting with Fire Chief Eric Stromberg to discuss the percent rate for fire services for the upcoming budget year. Salaries have not yet been discussed. Employee medical insurance with First Carolina Care will increase by 11%.

We received the County real property tax valuations, showing the total real property value at \$297,300,000. This number divided by the mil rate is a tax revenue of \$830,000 provided we collect at 100%. We will budget at 98% and pay the County a 2% commission for taking over property tax billing/collection. Motor vehicle valuations are \$27,000,000 and divided by the same mil rate comes in at \$78,300. Gilroy has not received anything yet on sales tax revenue. She would like the council to go through the budget line by line at the upcoming work session. Budget worksheets will be prepared for each department and distributed to in advance of the work session. Mayor Gregorich added that a lot of homes have been built in the Village over the past year. With the valuation of those properties as of January 1st, it only adds about \$23,000 of extra tax revenue.

- Article Overview

Gilroy shared a printed copy of an article she received from past Mayor, Mick McCue titled “Pay for Growth, Prospering from Development”. She provided a brief overview of the article. She feels the article puts things into perspective that are very important to the Village.

B. Public Safety – Don Nelson

Mayor Gregorich announced that Michael Amezquita has assumed the role of Police Chief. Chief Amezquita thanked the council for the opportunity to serve in this position and he provided the following report on departmental activities for March.

- Last month included a few DWI's, arrests, and other non-major crimes.
- Police staff have been staying on top of residence checks and well-site checks.
- Still communicating with the Dodge dealership about pricing for parts and repairs. The car is still not fixed.
- The Ford Explorer currently has 117,000 miles on the motor. There are no major issues with the vehicle, but it is starting to run sluggishly and in need of a tune-up.
- Applications are being accepted for the police officer vacancy. One gentleman brought in his application earlier in the day. He has approximately 4 years' experience and lives in Carthage.

Chief Amezquita provided the council with a proposal letter to make part-time Corporal Kivett a full-time Sergeant. Corporal Kivett has been employed for 5-6 years and an asset to the department, assisting when and where he is needed. Mayor Gregorich replied that council will take this into consideration.

Councilmember Nelson reported he and Councilmember Gilroy will meet with the Fire Chief on April 16th to discuss budget numbers. The County Fire Commission has proposed a new rate of .12 cents per \$100 for the county. Brief discussion followed.

C. Water Department – Warren Morgan

Councilmember Morgan reported that construction of the new well began the week of April 22nd.

D. Mayors Report – Janice Gregorich

- Pool Update

Mayor Gregorich reported we have requested several quotes for the added repairs to the pool. The multiple pool companies contacted are not providing quotes at this time because it is their busy pool season. We have been denied three times. At this point, we are looking into having a structural assessment done that will give us a good idea of the remaining life of the pool and its condition. This will give us and the Village residents the best information on where we should spend our tax dollars. Once we are able to get on the assessment company's schedule and have it complete, we will have a better idea on how to move forward with the pool.

- Employee Announcements

Mayor Gregorich announced once again that Michael Amezcuita was promoted to Police Chief. A full-time Administrative Assistant was hired as well and will begin working on April 22nd. Her name is Melanie Alexander. Melanie has very good office and computer experience as well as a great attitude. We are happy she has accepted the position.

10. LRP Goals Update:

a. Finance– Mary Gilroy

- *Cost Benefit Analysis of Email Option for Water Bills.*
- *Cost Benefit Analysis of ACH Option for Water Payments.*

Councilmember Gilroy reported that monthly fees for both are too costly at this time, and both are tabled for now. The council will move both items for consideration in a future year of the Long Range Plan.

b. Streets & Park – Janet Nauman

- *Identify Drainage Issues and Work with Consultants for Solutions.*

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman reported a meeting was scheduled for April 23rd with Pinhurst Zoning Director, Alex Cameron. We will ask for guidance on what the Village can do in terms of contractors and builders' responsibility for drainage issues. We will also discuss the possibility of having someone from their department assist us with inspections once a residence is complete. The costs associated will be added to the new construction application costs.

- *Develop Plan for Repaving & Correction of Drainage if Applicable.*

Nauman is confident the paving contractor she currently works with can give an assessment of Village streets and prioritize those in need of work. She has locked in prices with the paving contractor for the next three years, which is beneficial to the Village. Discussion followed about the need to paint yellow stripes on South Shamrock Drive.

c. Public Safety – Don Nelson

- *Relocate Yard Waste Facility & Police Impound.*

It was decided at an earlier work session to not move the yard waste facility due to costs. Revamping the existing facility is now under consideration. Nelson has received offers from a couple Village residents to assist with the redesign of the facility.

d. Mayor – Janice Gregorich

- *Organize Appearance Committee*

Mayor Gregorich has been filling in at the Village office over the past weeks, so she won't have an update this month. Gregorich did suggest the council consider relocating the Rick Rhyne Memorial from the Village Park to the front of the Police Department. A brick walkway and a low maintenance garden could be installed and maintained by the Appearance Committee. Brief discussion followed. Councilmember Morgan feels the memorial should stay at its current location.

11. New Business

None

12. Old Business

None

13. Public Comment Period - Comments on items listed on this agenda.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman thanked the FPOA for cleaning out the park storage room.

Rosie Juliano- 2 Burning Tree Place questioned what information the Village expects to get out of the pool assessment and how the community can become involved in the process. Mayor Pro Temp Nauman provided a brief explanation of what is expected to come from an assessment. Mayor Gregorich added that once all facts are gathered as far as life expectancy of the pool and costs for various options like refurbishing or removing and building a new pool, the community will have an opportunity to review the options.

Ms. Juliano asked what the Appearance Committee will do. Mayor Gregorich replied, the committee will consist of volunteers who will focus on the appearance and improvements to Village owned properties. The committee will be structured and required to have open meetings and take minutes.

Kathy Steranka- 46 Richmond Road asked why the Village waited so long to go out for extra bids to repair the pool. Gregorich replied that during the final inspection before the job started, additional required work was found. This added an additional \$25,000 to the cost which put the project over \$100,000. That is when we decided to have an assessment done so we could be more comfortable spending that kind of money.

Steve Gunn-41 Forest Lake Drive suggested the Village ask the County for financial support for safety issues on roads. He also offered his help with rearranging the yard waste facility.

Dan Leaary-73 N. Shamrock Drive said he read online that someone in the Windy Ridge development wanted chickens and questioned if they could if the HOA allowed them. He asked which were stricter, HOA covenants or Village ordinances. Gregorich replied whichever is stricter will supersede the other.

14. Motion to Adjourn

Councilmember Gilroy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.



Lisa A. Kivett, MMC, NCCMC, CZO
Village Clerk



Janice Gregorich
Mayor