

MINUTES
Foxfire Village Council
Regular Business Meeting
April 8, 2025 ~ 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 and Warren Morgan
3. Members Absent: Councilmember Don Nelson
4. Others Present: Police Chief Michael Amezquita and Several members of the public.
5. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
Councilmember Mary Gilroy led the opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
6. Approval of April 8, 2025, Regular Business Meeting Agenda

Mayor Gregorich removed *Ordinance #2025-07 Amending Village Code, Chapter 19 – Water Conservation* from Old Business.

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman moved to approve the April 8, 2025 Regular Meeting agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Gilroy and carried unanimously.

7. Consent Agenda

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

A. Approval of Minutes

- March 11, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
- March 6, 2025 Special Meeting
- March 27, 2025 Work Session

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman moved to adopt the consent agenda as written, seconded by Councilmember Gilroy and carried unanimously.

8. Public Comment Period for Items Not on the Agenda

Colleen Schlenker – 2 Sunset Lane asked if Mayor Pro Temp Nauman could provide an update on the pool construction during her report.

9. Zoning Report – Lisa Kivett

Lisa Kivett provided the following zoning report from March 12, 2025 through April 8, 2025.

Currently a total of twenty-five (25) homes are under construction or in the beginning stages of lot clearing.

Four (4) Single Family Residence Application:

6 Pine Valley Circle
128 Woodland circle
130 Woodland Circle
180 Sterling Way – Grande Pines

One (1) Certificate of Zoning Compliance issued:

555 Grande Pines Vista

Other Permits Issued:

One (1) fence
One (1) Accessory Building

Ms. Kivett reported receiving several emails and *Report a Concern* expressing dislike for the design of new construction and about a home with large holiday decorations still displayed. Kivett said she could not reply personally to each as they were issued anonymously or using fictitious names and addresses. Any future anonymous complaints or those using fictitious names and addresses will not be addressed.

Ms. Kivett added that SB25, adopted by the State Legislature in 2015, stripped away much of the Village's authority to enforce aesthetics. Other than setbacks and building heights, there is not much we can control. Prior to 2015, the ordinances prohibited the same style/design of home within a mile of each other and had stringent requirements on foundations, and garage placement.

Mayor Gregorich added that proposed legislation would remove even more authority in addition to removing our ETJ authority is being considered. She urged concerned residents to contact local legislators or even the governor with their concerns about the proposed changes.

10. Council Member Reports:

A. Finance – Mary Gilroy

- Financial Report

Councilmember Gilroy reported the following balances as of February 28, 2025. The total cash balance in the general fund is \$3,231,668 consisting of the First Bank checking, money market, petty cash and Capital Trust accounts. The total cash balance in the water fund is \$1,277,834, consisting of First Bank checking, money market capital project accounts, petty cash and Capital Trust accounts. Gilroy provided council members with an updated Budget vs Actual report for their respective departments. She is planning to meet with each member individually to go over budget numbers for their respective departments.

B. Streets and Park – Janet Nauman

- Pool

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman provided a brief update on the pool renovations. 99% of the pool interior is removed and new skimmers were installed. Once the skimmers are pressure tested, the pool interior work can be finished. It was recently found that the pump room doors will need to be replaced to open outwards. Once the interior work is complete, the pool deck will be complete. The pool will need to be inspected and passed by the County for opening in addition to hiring a pool manager and attendants. An employment ad for both manager and attendants was posted in the Pilot and on the Village website.

Nauman hopes the pool will open on Memorial Day weekend, but the opening could be delayed due to weather hindering completion of work, county inspection and the lack of staffing.

C. Water Department – Warren Morgan

Councilmember Morgan reported the construction of well #13 is still running behind due to obtaining an approval from the State. They are ready to construct the building and install the interior piping. Once the State gives their approval, the project should move along quickly.

Morgan asked to make a public service announcement that with summer around the corner, he encourages residents to conserve water, not waste it. The new well #13 will not alleviate the overall problem with water usage in the community. Residents should be prudent with how they use water. A message is posted on the Village website with information on ways to conserve water.

Discussion between council followed regarding the causes for a pink ring inside toilets and the delay issue with new well #13.

D. Public Safety – Don Nelson

Councilmember Nelson was absent. Police Chief Amezquita reported the following:

- He presented the department activity log for the previous month that included 1,696 events. Approximately one third of the total events were for premise checks.
- He explained the current steps the department takes when addressing ordinance compliance issues. Some folks are confused when they receive paperwork from the officer, thinking they are receiving a citation. He and Village Administrator Lisa Kivett worked to make a change to the current process.

Going forward, the process will be as follows:

1. The Officer will make contact and give verbal notice of the violation
 2. The officer will provide a written copy of the ordinance being violated. Ms. Kivett added the Clerk Certification attached to copy of the ordinance in violation is just to certify it is a true and accurate copy of a Village ordinance.
 3. A second copy of the ordinance in violation will be provided and a citation will be issued
- The department continues to receive complaints about trespassing and dogs running loose on the golf course which is private property. The course superintendent has asked that officers enforce the no trespassing rules on the golf course and issue citations when necessary. This will begin immediately.
 - 3 or 4 applications were received for the available Auxiliary Officer position. Auxiliary officers are unpaid volunteers who work the required number of hours in order to retain their BLET certification.

Fire Chief Eric Stromberg reported the Following:

- Stromberg reported a slightly slower month from January for call. Twenty calls for service, representing 28% of the total calls were for Foxfire.
- Fire staff have begun spring activities. They power washed the exterior of both station buildings and will paint the balusters.
- Annual hose testing and flow testing of hydrants is set to begin. This will take approximately 4 weeks. He will let both Jesse Southard and Lisa Kivett know when they begin so proper notice to residents can be posted.
- Stromberg reported several brush fires in the area and a gas tanker brakes fire on Hoffman Road. The gas tanker was hauling 87,000 gallons of fuel which was very concerning and requiring the road to be temporarily closed. He thanked the police department for assisting with traffic control during this event.
- Stromberg provided more information on the sawhorse style barricades that were suggested for the park trail closures. The barricades are 6' to 8' in length and average \$100 to \$250 each.
- WEFD is still working on the 2025-2026 budget.
- A full-time shift employee was transitioned to a regular M-F schedule and a new firefighter was hired to fill the shift position.

Mayor Gregorich asked about the recent brush fire and if a cause was determined. Stromberg responded it was still under investigation. Brief discussion followed on recent fires.

E. Mayors Report – Janice Gregorich

- Central Pines Update

Mayor Gregorich reported that Central Pines would be working to create job descriptions and salary ranges for the Village. She hopes this information will be submitted before the upcoming budget.

- Citizen Letters to Mayor

Gregorich reported receiving several letters from citizens this past month, reading aloud and commenting on each.

The first letter was from the Foxfire Golf Club General Manager regarding people walking, walking dogs, and children playing on the course, which is private property. He asked that police begin enforcing no trespassing and issue citations. This letter is made part of these minutes as ***“Attachment A”***.

The second letter was from a property owner in Pinewild who, along with a group of citizens, cleaned up the trash accumulating in a 2-mile stretch on Foxfire Road starting from Linden Road. He asked the Village to consider organizing a group who might be willing to clean up the portion on Linden beginning at Hoffman Rd. Gregorich suggested the FPOA consider doing something. This letter is

made part of these minutes as ***“Attachment B”***.

The final letter was a follow-up letter from a resident who wished to share her “Proposal to address council workload and meeting times”. This letter is made part of these minutes as ***“Attachment C”***.

Mayor Gregorich provided some brief answers to the letter including: the Village does not have a large tax base, that is why we do not have a large staff. The demands of the council members are the demands set on any council member of a small town structured like Foxfire Village, Mayor-Council. The Finance Officer is responsible for the budget and sworn to do so. She works with all staff, councilmembers, and the Village CPA to complete the budget. Gregorich agreed the councilmembers are volunteers however, they are elected representatives of the community and responsible to the voters and taxpayers of the Village. In a community of our size, with 1,444 residents and 8 Village employees, we would not need a town manager. The resident’s letter mentioned that hiring an administrator may be unaffordable, but if the Village could allocate nearly \$300,000 to repair a 50-year-old pool, it could find the funds to hire a qualified, experienced professional. Gregorich responded the \$300,000 invested in the pool is between a 10–15-year capital investment. Spending \$300,000 on a manager might get us by for a year and a half with salary and benefits, and a legacy cost that goes on. She added that during many past discussions about the pool, numerous residents made comments in favor of investing in the pool. Not one public comment saying we should not invest in the pool. Gregorich feels the council is doing a good job and the constituents can vote however they wish.

11. New Business:
NONE

12. Old Business:
• Resolution #R25-02 Opposing SB382 – Downzoning

Mayor Gregorich read aloud the resolution.

Councilmember Gilroy moved to adopt Resolution #R25-02 Opposing SB82-Downzoning, seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried unanimously.

- Ordinance #2025-06 Amending Village Code, Article II-Outdoor Special Events

Mayor Gregorich provided the details on what the amendment will change to the existing ordinance. She asked to add “*Special events must adhere to all Federal, State, and Local laws and ordinances*” under Sec.12-29 Regulation of special events on private property.

Councilmember Morgan moved to adopt Ordinance #2025-06 Amending Village Code, Article II Special Events with the addition to Sec. 12-29, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp Nauman and carried unanimously.

- ~~Ordinance #2025-07 Amending Village Code, Chapter 19 – Water Conservation~~

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

Dan Leary – 73 N. Shamrock said he has attended many council meetings and has listened to the amount of work each councilmember has done. He feels the Village is very lucky to have each member serving on the council.

14. Adjourn

Mayor Pro Temp Nauman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Gilroy and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.



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



Janice Gregorich
Mayor



Golf Course

From Randall Fuller <rfuller@greatlifegolf.com>

Date Mon 3/31/2025 8:46 AM

To Council Streets <council.streets@foxfirenc.com>; Mayor Foxfire NC <mayor@foxfirenc.com>; Donald Nelson <goldf007@gmail.com>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Can somebody please explain to me why I am still seeing people with their kids walking through the Golf Course while golfers are playing golf. The other day I ran into a woman and her two kids on the Red Course while players were teeing off and her kids almost were hit by a golf ball. I don't understand how people think it is ok to do this and put their kids in harm's way. We can't not emphasize this enough that people are not allowed to walk/run/bike/jump/dog walk on the Golf Course period. The woman explained to me it is ok my house is right there and I am allowed to do this. No, you are not allowed and please remove yourself from the Golf Course. Who is telling these people that this is ok for them to do this? I thought that I made it clear to everyone in the town that the Golf Course is not a playground nor a track. I have tried to be nice and give warnings to people and this is still happening. I have now contacted the Chief of Police to now start issuing summons for private property trespassing. Again, the Golf Course is not public property.

V/R

Randall J. Fuller (Randy)

General Manager

Foxfire Resort & Golf Course

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Outlook

Foxfire Road

From Bob Coates ·

Date Mon 3/31/2025 4:09 PM

To Mayor Foxfire NC <mayor@foxfirenc.com>

Madame Mayor -

Bob Coates here - Pinewild resident. As you know Foxfire Road can become very littered. A friend & I have cleaned it many times over the last 10 years but it doesn't stay clean for long. We set out last Saturday to clean a mile of it but ran out of bags(10) after 1/2 mile and 1.5 hours. Needless to say, it was a mess. We will continue our efforts in the near future.

The good news is that a chapter of the DAR 'adopted' the 2 miles of Foxfire Road starting at Linden Road. They have done a good job and that section looks very clean. Foxfire Road is exactly 4.0 miles. The NC DOT Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program would be the perfect vehicle to get the remaining 2 miles cleaned periodically. The obligation to AAH is to clean the adopted roadway once per quarter. The DOT will both supply bags & pick them up after an online report is filed.

Foxfire Road is a main gateway to your Village and first impressions are important. I was hoping that you could encourage some Foxfire group or citizens to consider signing up to take responsibility for the 2 miles of Foxfire Road starting at Hoffman Road. Here is a link which gives the details of the program:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/environmental/adoptahighway/Pages/default.aspx>

Thank you for your consideration. Let me know if I can be of any assistance. And, for the record, I am currently responsible for 2 miles of Linden Road.

Best regards,

Bob Coates

Subject: Proposal to Address Council Workload and Meeting Times

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to share my continued thoughts regarding the proposal to move council meeting times to later in the day. During the March 11, 2025, council meeting, the discussion highlighted the significant workload faced by council members and the challenges this poses for individuals with full-time jobs who may consider running for election.

At the meeting, Mayor Gregorich stated:

"I just want people to understand that ***we don't have a full staff*** just doing everything and we just come up here recap what happened during the week. So, I just wanted to make sure people understood that."

(Timestamp 42:42)

This comment underscores a critical issue: the demands placed on our current council members are simply too great. Instead of discouraging those with full-time jobs from running for election, perhaps it is time to address the root of the problem.

Currently, Council Member Mary Gilroy shoulders significant responsibilities, including preparing the annual budget.

While this arrangement may have been suitable when adopted by Foxfires Code of Ordinances 16 years ago, on November 10, 2009, the village has grown substantially since then. It is no longer reasonable to place such an important task on the shoulders of an unpaid volunteer.

In most communities, the responsibility of preparing the annual budget typically falls to a town manager or administrator. If we want to attract young, working residents to run for council seats, this system needs to change.

Some may argue that hiring an administrator is unaffordable or would lead to higher taxes. However, priorities matter. Recently, the council allocated nearly \$300,000 to repair a pool that is over 50 years old. If we can find funds for that, surely, we can invest in the future of our village by assigning critical responsibilities—such as managing the water system, budget, and bidding processes—to a qualified, experienced, paid professional.

Additionally, I noticed that Lisa now holds the title of Village Administrator, Clerk/Zoning Administrator. I do not recall this change being discussed at a meeting. When I requested job descriptions for Lisa, her part-time assistant, and the water superintendent, I received the following response:

"Job descriptions for these positions are not available at this time. The Village will be working with the Central Pines Regional Council in the coming months to conduct a pay and classification assessment and develop job descriptions for all Village positions."

This struck me as unusual, as I distinctly recall one of the first matters addressed following Mayor Gregorich's appointment on December 12, 2023 (Timestamp 52:50) was a collective agreement that profiles for all staff positions would be established promptly.

I propose the following suggestions:

1. Assign the responsibility of preparing the annual budget to our full-time Bookkeeper, who seems better equipped for the task than training a newly elected council member.
2. Shift certain responsibilities from council members to staff, developing a more balanced and manageable work load for council members.

As the demands of our village continue to grow, it is important to reconsider how responsibilities are assigned to ensure effective and professional management of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, *Sandy Cameron*

Due to the length of this letter, it would be very time consuming to read during a meeting. If you consider discussing this subject, attaching it to the agenda or just highlighting it would be nice.