

MINUTES OF  
CITY OF LORIS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
3909 WALNUT STREET  
LORIS, SC 29569  
FEBRUARY 6, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT	MAYOR	HENRY L. NICHOLS
PRESENT	COUNCIL	MICHAEL DOZIER JOAN S. GAUSE LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR. TODD HARRELSON MICHAEL E. SUGGS JAN P. VESCOVI

NEWS MEDIA present were Mrs. Joyce Graham, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune, and Ms. Jen Boyd, writer for The Loris Times, and Mr. Scott Harper writer for The Loris Scene.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nichols.

**OPENING:**

Choral director, Mrs. Scarlet Whittington led the Loris High School chorus in 2 songs. The chorus sang The Star-Spangled Banner and When I think about the Lord.

Councilwoman Vescovi thanked Mrs. Whittington and the chorus for the beautiful open songs. Mayor Nichols also thanked Councilwoman Vescovi for involving the youth and lining the performance up.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Councilman Hardee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Henry Nichols.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by Clerk Kenya Wright.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Invited all citizens to attend the monthly prayer breakfast sponsored by Emmanuel Seventh Day Church located at 1109 Church Lane on 2/14/17 beginning at 7:00 A.M.
2. Looking toward the possibility of high school and college student volunteering at City Hall. City Attorney Mike Battle we be drafting forms for Council to review and vote on at a later date.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

1. A Recreation Committee meeting will be held in the next week to discuss a reopening ceremony will be held at Watson Park on the opening day of baseball season. The date will be announced when the schedule becomes available.
2. Met with Jackie Mack with RIA who awarded us approval to move forward with the Bayboro Pump Station project. We will begin receiving bids and begin construction as soon as a bid has been awarded from the bid process.
3. Trial balance for the audit is in progress by City employees.
4. DHEC has rescheduled the City inspection and will reschedule later in the month.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

The department head reports were received as information.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT:**

Mike Haggie announced that the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and ??have a 3 hour continuing education class on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. at the Public Safety Building. All Council members are welcome to attend.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

- 1. Preparations have been made to begin the interview process for the Clerk / Treasurer and Administrator. The committee continues to work on an evaluation scale along with interview questions.**
- 2. Council members are reminded to file a statement of Economic Interest Form online. Deadline to file is March 30<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.**
- 3. Interview panel selection will be discussed in executive session. Members who wish to be on the panel are asked to inform the Finance and Personnel Committee.**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

- 1. A committee meeting was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Public Safety training room is subject to be used as an emergency operations center at any time in the case of an emergency such as Hurricane Matthew. A fire department employee recently spent time in Columbia to see how their emergency operations are ran. Items need to be purchased in the next budget year to insure that the City has a functional emergency operations center. Items such as a white board and multiple land line telephones need to be purchased for the room.**
- 2. A meeting will be held at the Public Safety Building on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. to discuss drug and gang prevention within the City and surrounding areas. Drugs and gang activity are a big issue within the City of Loris and surrounding communities. The Police Department is currently working on bringing the D.A.R.E. program to the City along with other crime prevention measures.**
- 3. Mrs. Sherry Whisnant, band director for Loris Middle School speaks about the importance to create a better environment for our youth. With crime and gang activity on the rise, as a community, we must teach and prepare our youth to rise up. The community must partner up with the schools to steer the direction of the youth's future. Mrs. Whisnant is willing to step in and do anything in her power to help the youth of our community.**

**BUSINESS:**

**A. Completion of Audit update**

Audit is in process.

**B. Spring Street School Contract**

Mr. Joe Burch with Horry County Schools gives an update on the Old Loris Education Center. Horry County is currently working on the final language of the quick claim deed and will meet on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mayor Nichols request clarification on asbestos within the building. Through an assessment, it was found that the asbestos is nonviable. Mr. Burch informs that the building is in good shape including the HVAC system. He also explains the layout of the building. Propane tanks and fuel tanks on site will be tested before a decision will be made. The field will be used for multipurpose by the City. Operating cost averages \$3,000 per month to include all utilities and upkeeps. Mr. Kempski has been asked to investigate all monthly cost to the City to present to council. Mayor Nichols advised the possible uses for the building if purchased by the City.

**C. Future of Water and Sewer (study by Hanna Engineering)**

Mayor advises that if the water and sewer system is sold, all employees jobs will be protected. Hanna Engineering can perform a 20 year projected study for the City on the Water and Sewer System to access how much the system is worth. They will also project an estimated future income of the system if the City keeps the water and sewer system. This study will cost between \$5,000 to \$15,000.

**D. City Grant Writer**

Mayor advises that Hanna Engineering has several grant writers that they use that the City can contract to get grants for the upgrades. Administrator Kempski will investigate as to whether the City's contract with Hanna includes the use of a grant writer.

Mayor advises that a grant writer is needed for the City to start on other projects. Mayor requested that Administrator Kempski present the cost to Council at the March meeting to be reviewed by council.

Councilman Dozier requested that the Administrator provide Council with price points to be present. Councilman Dozier also advised that Council must know where the money will be coming from within the budget to cover the cost of a contracted grant writer before a decision is made.

**Councilwoman Gause made a motion to allow Administrator Kempski to research the cost of a contracted grant writer to be presented to council. Councilwoman Gause's motion was seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. Mayor and all members voted favorably.**

**E. Surveying for City ditches and drainage**

**Hanna Engineering is able to survey all ditches and drainage areas within the City and inform the City of the cost for the needed upgrades. This study will cost between \$5,000 to \$15,000.**

**F. Bonnie Bay Rd. property – (seek funding / grants for training facility for Fire & Police Department on 40+ acres)**

**It was brought to Councilman Dozier's attention that the City owns about 40 acres of property on Bonnie Bay road which is outside of town previously used as a landfill for the City. The property is now a wooded lot and has not been used for several years. Police and Fire expressed interest in using the property for a training facility.**

**Councilman Dozier made a motion for Council give permission to the Police and Fire departments to begin seeking and researching funding options to build a training facility on the property owned by the City located on Bonnie Bay Road. Councilman Dozier's motion was seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. Mayor and all members voted favorably.**

**G. First reading of Ordinance 01-17 – Re: Easement to GSWSA**

**Ordinance Number 01-17 granting an easement to Grand Strand Water and Sewer for ingress and egress from Highway 45 to the Pleasant Meadow Swamp Plant.**

**Clerk Kenya Wright read the ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to give the first reading of Ordinance Number 01-15 as presented. Mayor Nichols and all Members favorably.**

**H. Opening / Award Recreation Uniform & Concession Bids**

**Councilwoman Vescovi inquired about the season start date. Mr. Singleton advised that the season will begin on the last week of March 2017. Councilman Dozier inquired as to how soon a bid needs to be awarded in order for the Recreation Department to receive uniforms before the start of the season. Mr. Kempski advised that a bid needs to be awarded as soon as possible in order for the Recreation Department to receive uniforms before the start of the season. Mayor Nichols requested that Mr. Kempski review bids after they are opened and select a company who meets all bid requirements.**

Clerk Kenya Wright opened all sealed bids. Recreation department concession bid number 1 is from Aaron Sarvis and bid number 2 is from Loris High School Band Department. Recreation Department uniforms bid number 1 is from Identity Promotions and bid number 2 is from Whitefish Creations. All bids were turned over to Administrator Kempski for review.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

After the executive session, Council reconvened to open session upon a motion by Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilwoman Gause. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

Mayor Nichols announced that a weighted evaluation system was discussed as well as recreation concessions and uniform bids.

Councilman Suggs made a motion to delegate Administrator Kempski to award a bid for recreation concessions and uniform bids in the best interest of the City. Councilman Suggs motion was seconded by Councilman Hardee. Mayor and all members voted favorably.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:**

Mr. Alan Levinson of 5020 Forrest Drive inquired about the easement letter sent out from City Hall in regards to updating drainage and cleaning out City ditches. Mayor explains easement letter only allows the City access to update the drainage system and clean out ditches. Mayor advised that all easement questions will be answered at a later date.

Mrs. Barbara Taylor purchased a lot and building located at 4122 Railroad Avenue in 2012. Mrs. Taylor states that previous administration agreed to purchase the lot from her once the building was removed and has since received grief in regards to the property. Mrs. Taylor has no documentation between herself and the City of Loris and the City does not currently wish to purchase the lot. Mrs. Taylor request the City to reconsider purchasing the lot.

Robert Stapleton of 3697 Liberty street, a civilian member of the Public Safety Committee inquired as to why Council wishes to remove civilians from committees. Mayor Nichols advised that the chair person for each committee will be a Council member and the remainder of the committee will be made up of citizens.


Mrs. Joyce Graham, writer for the Tabor-Loris Tribune, inquired as to whether decisions were made in executive session. Mayor Nichols advised that no votes were made and no action was taken.


Mr. Scott Harper, writer for the Loris Scene, inquires as to why the bid amounts would not be made public. Mayor Nichols advised that all bids will be made public at a later date after Administrator Kempfski reviews and compares them.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to adjourn. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 P.M.


**ATTEST:**

  
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**KENYA WRIGHT**  
**CLERK**

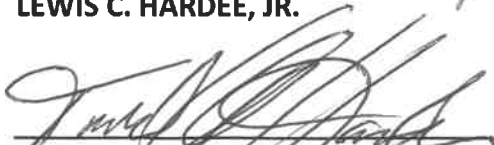
  
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**HENRY L. NICHOLS**  
**MAYOR**

**LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

  
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**MICHAEL DOZIER**

  
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**JOAN S. GAUSE**

  
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**LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.**

  
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**TODD HARRELSON**

  
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**MICHAEL E. SUGGS**

*Jan P. Vescom*

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JAN P. VESCOVI