

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
3909 WALNUT STREET
LORIS, SC 29569
JUNE 5, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.**

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

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nichols.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Hardee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Clerk Kenya Wright.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the special council meeting held on March 23, 2017 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilman Dozier to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

The minutes of the regular council meeting held on April 3, 2017 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Suggs, seconded by Councilman Dozier to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

The minutes of the regular council meeting held on April 20, 2017 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Dozier, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

COMMUNICATIONS:

MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Mrs. Samantha Norris with the Chamber of Commerce gave an update of upcoming events. Two winners of the Loris Bog-Off Festival pageant Miss. Asberry and Miss Hudson would be contestants in the Miss South Carolina Pageant on the 24th. These contestants have also raised a large amount of money during this time to be donated to the Children's Miracle Network.
The annual Bog-Off Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21st, 2017.
2. Mayor Nichols has received an application for a City Intern for review.
3. Mayor Nichols announced that the 2017 winner of the Miss USA pageant had immediate family from the City of Loris and would like to welcome her to the City for acknowledgement in the near future.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Administrator Kempski made a recommendation that the City go back to the process of sending out second notices to past due customers due to the high volume of complaints and customers being cut off. Kempski also presented a more cost-effective way of sending initial water bills.
Councilwoman Vescovi stated that she has also received several requests from community members to receive a reminder notice for water billing.
Councilman Dozier made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to move forward with the new presented water billing process. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

2. Explained that the City did not receive the CDBG Grant applied for due to not receiving enough surveys meeting the requirements of the grant. The City can reapply twice each year.
3. The Bayboro Pump station upgrade project is scheduled to begin on June 26th.
4. The Public Works department along with contracted engineers are researching locations that need attention in regards to drainage issues. All areas of the City will be addressed by priority from the most severe areas to the least severe areas.
5. Hills Grocery parking lot will be the pickup and drop locations in the City for the new Coast RTA bus route starting in the next two months. If the operation is successful the City will look in to upgrading a stop location.
6. Mauldin and Jenkins will be in the office the week of the 26th of July to begin wrapping up the audit.
7. Department heads will receive budget packets to begin the budget process.
8. The South Carolina Department of Transportation is currently working on bridges within the City. Work on Spring Street has been completed and repair has begun on Stevens Street.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Councilman Dozier informed that the new Fire engine is scheduled to be delivered around November. This grant requires that the City donate a fire engine that cannot be put into service before the delivery of the new engine. The Academy for Technology is interested in taking possession of the engine for educational purposes.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS:

Ricky Bellamy advised that as of April 27th, 2017 DHEC has closed out the Consent order for the City of Loris. All criteria required by DHEC has been met.

Water quality reports have been completed were mailed to all citizens along with the current water bills.

Last month Grand Strand Water and Sewer introduced Chlorine into the water system for disinfectant purposes. The process has been completed and water is now back to the standardized levels of chloramines.

BUSINESS:

A. Spring Street School Contract

Mayor Nichols advised that Horry County Schools has decided to sell the property on Spring Street previously discussed as a possible purchase by the City.

Councilman Dozier agreed that the City had a need for a property such as the school located on Spring Street. Councilman Dozier, Councilman Harrelson and Councilman Suggs all voiced concerns regarding the financial obligations that this purchase may bring to the City.

Councilman Hardee and Councilwoman Vescovi voiced concerns about the stipulations of the contract. Mayor Nichols and all other members agreed that at the current time, it would not be feasible for the City to purchase the Spring Street Property.

B. Mobile Home Park located on Lake Drive – Mr. Matthew McCourry

Mr. McCourry desires to purchase the property located on Lake Drive which currently has multiple older mobile homes that need to be replaced. Through a set of phases, he and his partners plan to completely renovate the park bringing in several new mobile homes. Current City ordinances will not allow new mobile homes to be brought in to replace older mobile homes. Mr. McCourry requests that the City amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow this project to move forward. Mr. McCourry feels this project will be a big asset for the City if approved. Councilman Dozier advised that he is aware of the current rundown condition of the property.

Council advises that Administrator Kempski along with Code Enforcement Officer Mike Haggie will be responsible for drafting the amendments needed to be voted on by Council at the next available meeting.

C. Appointment of Clerk of Court

Administrator Kempski introduced Shavona Chestnut as his recommendation for Clerk of Court for the City of Loris.

Councilman Suggs made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to appoint Shavona Chestnut as the Clerk of Court for the City of Loris. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

D. First Reading Ordinance 02-17 Rezoning from R-1.4-detached, single family dwellings to R-2-medium density residential TMS#048-09-02-004, owned by Bridgewater Associates, LLC located at Bayboro Road

Clerk Kenya Wright read the ordinance by title only. A motion was made by Councilman Dozier, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to give the first reading of Ordinance Number 02-17 as presented. Mayor Nichols and all Members favorably.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMENTS:

Veda Nichols of 4010 Church Street announced that the nonprofit organization called Monarch Family Center will launch it's first in house program called the Freedom Readers program on June 22nd. Mrs. Nichols also advised that the Loris Women's Coalition is currently seeking sponsors for the upcoming Veterans Day celebration to be held on Saturday, November 4th at the Loris Wellness Center.

Mr. Alan Levinson of 5020 Forrest Drive expressed concerns about the upcoming hurricane season and flooding issues within his area.

Mr. Levenson also expressed his feel for the need of the City to fly flags around town during the Martin Luther King Holiday.

Mr. Levenson was advised to contact the Loris Civitans Organization.

Mrs. Janice Hinson of 5006 Forrest Drive questioned Council as to when money would be allocated to begin cleaning out canal ditches throughout the City.

Mrs. Hinson also voiced concerns about prior easements.

Mrs. Hinson thanked the City for the plant delivered in remembrance of her late husband Mr. Elisha Hinson.

Councilman Harrelson advised that the City is currently working on projects throughout the City in regards to drainage issues.

Mrs. Joyce Graham, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune questioned the need for a City Intern and the possible exposure to City Government information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilman Hardee to go into executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

After executive session, Council reconvened to open session upon a motion by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilman Suggs. All members voted favorably.

Councilman Dozier made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hardee to draft a resolution to donate the fire engine to the Academy for Technology for educational purposes. All members voted favorably.

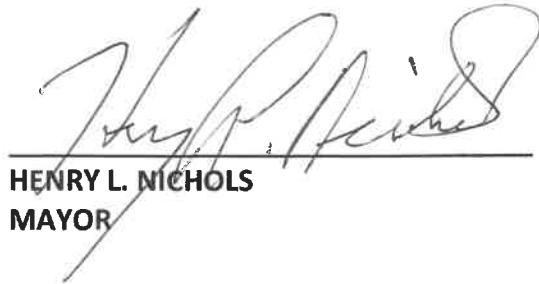
ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilman Hardee to adjourn. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



KENYA WRIGHT
CLERK



HENRY L. NICHOLS
MAYOR

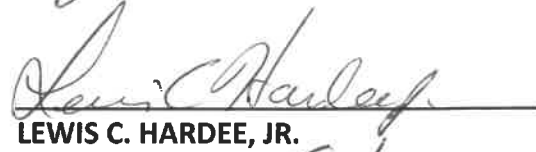
LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS



MICHAEL C. DOZIER



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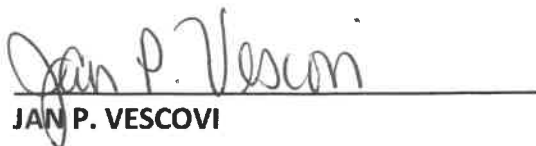
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.



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