

**MINUTES OF
CITY OF LORIS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
3909 WALNUT STREET
LORIS, SC 29569
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.**

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

NEWS MEDIA present were Mrs. Joyce Graham, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune, and Mrs. 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.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. William Hucks.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. William Brown.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Clerk Kenya Wright.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 14, 2016 special council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Dozier, seconded by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 as presented. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

COMMUNICATIONS:

MAYOR'S REPORT

- 1. Thanked the Loris Chamber of Commerce, citizens and city employees for all the hard work that was done to make the Christmas season activities the best they could be. The new parade route was a success and enjoyed by all.**
- 2. The South Carolina Municipal Training was very informative and enjoyed by all Council Members who were able to attend.**
- 3. Mayor Nichols thanked Horry County Councilman Paul Price for the funding from the County to be used toward upgrades to the city parks.**
- 4. Mayor Nichols reported that the 2016-2017 budgets would be sent to department heads for review.**
- 5. Reminded everyone of the special election for the vacant council seat that will be held on January 31, 2017 and recognized the candidates. The candidates are Todd Harrelson and Scotty Jacobs. Mayor requested that the Women's Coalition organize a question and answer forum before the election date.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- 1. The golf cart for the Public Works department to mainly be used by the meter readers has been purchased and should be delivered within the next few weeks.**
- 2. The volunteer participation agreement was signed with FEMA last Thursday in regards to debris removal within the city due to hurricane Matthew. FEMA will reimburse the city 85% for the first 30 days, 80% for the next 60 days and 75% and for the next 90 days.**
- 3. McLeod Loris Seacoast Hospital had damage to a storage building during hurricane Matthew and are currently storing approximately 150 banker boxes at Watson Park. They are interested in leasing office storage space up to 5,000 sq. ft. if the city moves forward with the Spring Street school purchase.**
- 4. Landfill property on South Bend will be researched by Mike Haggie and brought back before council for further discussion.**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

The department head reports were received as information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Shepherd along with Councilman Dozier will be researching longevity and incentives to be offered in order to retain police officers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- 1. In regards to the Consent Decree with DHEC the City is not in violation. The Grant for the Bayboro Pump Station has been submitted and Hanna Engineering is moving forward with the grant process.**
- 2. The City will be contacting County Councilman Paul Prince in regards to Grants available to the city to help with the funding of fixing drainage issues throughout the town.**
- 3. Mr. Elisha Hinson along with Mr. Bobby Capps spoke about the December 1st Public Works Committee meeting sharing ideas in regards to fixing the drainage issues within the city. The city will be working with Hanna Engineering to update the drainage system in several areas. Some residents will be asked to sign an Easement allowing the City access to clean and update the system. Hanna Engineering can also perform a study on the water system and provide the city a comprehensive evaluation of future revenues and expenses required to operate and maintain the system.**

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- 1. The Municipal Association in Georgetown will assist the city with a temporary Clerk/Treasurer until the position can be filled.**
- 2. Job descriptions for the open Clerk/Treasure and Accounts Payable positions are being updated so that these positions can be advertised at the beginning of the year.**
- 3. Annual Employee evaluations will begin in the upcoming months.**

4. **City Administrator Kempski will begin meeting with Department Heads to begin the process of preparing the upcoming budget.**

PLANNING & COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. **The committee plans to continuing the Economic Development plan and will provide a presentation at a future upcoming council meeting.**
2. **The City is currently on hold with the purchase of the old Loris Elementary School Annex due to miscommunication.**
3. **The Property on Railroad Avenue is in violation of ordinance 18-126, 127 & 128. The ordinance will be enforced and the owner will be required to follow through with maintaining the property.**
4. **The committee along with citizens would like to commend Council and City Employees for working on bringing the property up to code on Monroe Street.**
5. **The Garden Club will hold a meeting on January 4th and is requesting the presence of City Administration to discuss the removal of trees within the city.**

BUSINESS:

- A. **Second Reading of Ordinance 04-16. Re. Adoption Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Loris and Horry County relating to the Loris Commerce Center and consent to create A Multi-Park.**

Ordinance Number 04-16 was presented for second reading. Clerk Kenya Wright read Ordinance Number 04-16. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to approve Ordinance 04-16 on second reading. Mayor and all Members voted favorably.

- B. **Second Reading of Ordinance 05-16 Re. An Ordinance to authorize and approve the return of certain property given to the city of Loris by Nathan E. Hardwick III Family Limited Partnership, by quitclaim deed.**

Ordinance Number 05-16 was presented for second reading. Clerk Kenya Wright read Ordinance Number 05-16. A motion was made by Councilman Dozier, seconded by

Councilman Hardee to approve Ordinance 05-16 on second reading. Mayor and all Members voted favorably.

- C. The employee Christmas Dinner would be held on December 8th at the Public Safety Building on Walnut Street.**
- D. The Employee Christmas Holidays are December 23, 26 and 27.**
- E. Administration will be in touch with The George Agency to research the possibility of increasing employee life insurance coverage. Coverage is currently set at \$3,000 per employee.**
- F. There has been an inquiry to Purchase the Landfill on South Bend. Council will discuss at a future date.**
- G. A motion was made Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilman Dozier to begin seeking bids for Recreation Concessions and Uniforms. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.**

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

A member of audience expressed concerns with the beautification of the city. She feels that Council should research the Adopt a Highway Program to help with the beautification within our city.

Mrs. Samantha Norris, executive secretary of the Chamber, expressed concerns about the 18-wheeler trucks driving down Main Street. The trucks are damaging city signs down Main Street and causing traffic issues at the main Street red light. She also inquired about the city requiring business owners on Main Street to maintain business and keep the store front to a certain standard.

Mr. Davis Trussell with the volunteer Fire Department would like for his termination to be investigated.

Mr. Scotty Jacobs inquired about the cost of the surveys being completed on the city water system. He also inquired about a report on the water system completed several years ago by another company. Mr. Jacobs asked about volunteers needed in regards to obtaining easements from the property owners needed to begin the clearing and updating of the drainage system. He also questioned the length of Acting City Administrator Damon Kempiski's position and why he was still in an acting position for such an extended length of time.

Mrs. Joyce Graham, writer for the Tabor-Loris Tribune, inquired about checks written to previous acting Clerk/ Treasure and questioned Council about the approval of the funds dispersed to Mrs. Fowler.

Mayor Nichols explained that he will take full responsibility. He states that the package was negotiated and included overtime owed and two months advance. An agreement was written by City Attorney Battle and signed by Mrs. Fowler along with Mayor Nichols.

Mrs. Graham requested a copy of the signed agreement along with the consultant agreement for Martha Dorman. Mrs. Graham also inquired about salary employees receiving overtime. Mrs. Graham also questioned who approved the \$52,000 salary for Mrs. Fowler.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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


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

Mayor Nichols announced that contractual and personnel issues were discussed and that no action and no votes were taken.

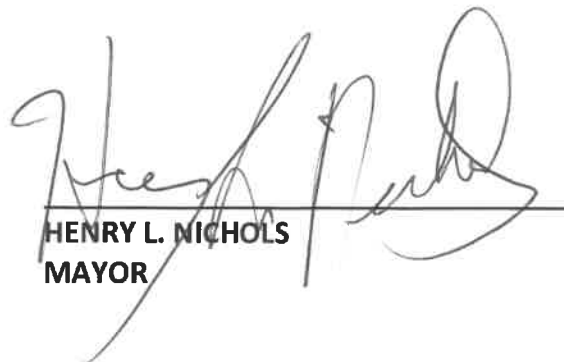
ADJOURNMENT:

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 10:11 P.M.

ATTEST:



KENYA WRIGHT
CLERK



HENRY L. NICHOLS
MAYOR

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS




MICHAEL DOZIER

JOAN S. GAUSE



LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.



MICHAEL E. SUGGS



JAN P. VESCOVI