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|  | **MINUTES OF**  **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  **CITY HALL**  **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022 – 6:00 PM** |  |
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| **PRESENT** | **MAYOR** | **TODD M. HARRELSON** |
|  | **COUNCIL** | **JOAN GAUSE**  **LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.**  **ANDREA L. COLEMAN**  **CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.**  **MICHAEL E. SUGGS**  **JAN P. VESCOVI** |
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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson at 6:00 pm on Monday, November 7, 2022.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Mayor Harrelson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harrelson.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by City Clerk Williams.

**FOIA:**

Notice of the meeting with an agenda was publicly posted, published, and forwarded to the media no less than 24 hours prior to commencement.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS:**

Mr. Jones stated that he would like answers to the water bill issue. His water bill was increased by $50 in one month. He called city hall on several occasions but did not receive a return call. Mayor Harrelson stated that we will be addressing the issue later in the meeting.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

1. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-** Samantha Norris said that the Bog-Off was the biggest one we have had. She announced that the Christmas parade @ 7pm and tree lighting will be held on December 2nd at 6:30pm. On December 3rd, Breakfast with the Grinch and Santa will be held at the State Theater. The State Theater should be completed this week, the museum is still under construction. Six high school students attended this council meeting as part of Leadership Loris. They have helped with volunteering around Loris.
2. **MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT-** Mayor Harrelson stated that things are quiet and normal. A few flus case have been seen. Coach at “Reel Fix” and his church are holding a fundraiser for Thanksgiving and would encourage everyone to donate. More information to follow.
3. **COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR-** Mayor Harrelson stated that Coffee with the Mayor would beThursday, November 10th at 9am in the community room.

**MINUTES:**

1. **MARCH 25, 2022 - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** **-** Councilman Padgett made a motion to pass and sign minutes. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
2. **APRIL 4, 2022 - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-** Councilman Padgett made a motion to pass and sign minutes. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. **MAY 10, 2022 - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING -** Councilman Padgett made motion to pass and sign minutes. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
4. **MAY 16, 2022 - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING -** Councilman Padgett made a motion to pass and sign minutes. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
5. **JUNE 6, 2022 - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING -** Councilman Padgett stated that council members did not receive these minutes to review so they will not be signed at this meeting.
6. **JUNE 20, 2022 - SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING-** Councilman Padgett made a motion to pass and sign minutes. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

1. **HORRY COUNTY- AMERICAN RESCUE GRANT PROPOSAL-** Administrator Young stated that the city received a grant from Horry County through the ARP proposal for $500,000 to replace the water lines from Walnut Street to Hwy 9 Business. The city will match the grant with $103,795 of ARP funds. This grant will also fund a lead and copper study. Councilman Padgett asked what would be done with the copper.
2. **ECONOMIC AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN STUDY – BID PROPOSAL-**Administrator Young will be submitting the proposal on SCIIBO this week. He is not confident in receiving the $25,000 grant from MASC. The submittal deadline will be December 12th.
3. **FY 2022-2023 BUDGET REPORT - UPDATE** - Administrator Young spoke about funds 10, 20 and 40. The general ledger was restructured by department. Administrator Young explained the issue with the water billing. In-city residents were charged the out-of-city rate of $20. This is a $10 dollar difference. Changes will be made to the upcoming bill to clarify monthly charges. Mayor Harrelson apologized for the lack of communication on the changes of the rates. Councilwoman Vescovi asked how we will rectify this issue in the future. Clerk Williams explained that citizens that are in-city residents that were charged the out-of-city rate would see an adjustment to their upcoming bill. Rates will be fixed by January 2023. Councilman Hardee explained that the rates have been increased because Grand Strand Water and Sewer and Jordan Waste have increased their prices. Mayor Harrelson spoke about adding important notices on the water bill to make residents aware in the future.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** No meeting was held.
2. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE-** Councilwoman Vescovi said that they met, and Council will review later in the meeting two ordinances that were discussed. Those ordinances are Drug Paraphernalia and Noise Control.
3. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE-** No meeting was held.
4. **RECREATION COMMITTEE-** No meeting was held.
5. **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE-** No meeting was held.
6. **PLANNING, ANNEXATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE-** No meeting was held.

**ORDINANCES:**

1. **1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 10-22, DRUG PARAPHERNALIA – CITY OF LORIS-** Attorney Moss stated that there are State laws that address Drug Paraphernalia. The SC Attorney General states that municipalities can pass an ordinance of their own that is consistent with State law.Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to approve Ordinance 10-22. Councilwoman Coleman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Passed.
2. **1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 11-22, NOISE CONTROL – CITY OF LORIS-** Councilman Suggs stated that this ordinance is a portion of the Horry County ordinance. In addition, the section numbers are not correct. Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to approve the Noise Ordinance with the needed changes to the numbers. Councilman Suggs asked to clarify if only the numbers would change or if the additional subsections of the Horry County ordinance would be included. Attorney Moss stated that the additional subsections had not been reviewed by the committee. City Clerk Williamson took a vote on the motion to approve with changes to the numbers only. All in favor except for Councilman Michael Suggs. Motion passed.
3. **1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 08-22, ANNEXATION FOR A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED ON HWY 701 WITH PIN# 177-00-00-0031-** Councilman Suggs made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 08-22. Councilwoman Gause seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
4. **1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 09-22, ANNEXATION FOR A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED ON AIRPORT RD WITH PIN# 152-16-01-0008-** Administrator Young explained that this is an additional piece of property for Tractor Supply. Councilman Hardee made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 09-22. Councilwoman Coleman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**BUSINESS:**

1. **CITY OF LORIS – CHRISTMAS BONUSES – NOVEMEBER 2022-** Administrator Young said the employees receive a $200 Christmas bonus in their next checks and a $100 safety bonus is also available for those who qualify. Bonuses were approved with budget. Councilman Hardee made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
2. **SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT – AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF HORRY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND THE CITY OF LORIS FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING - $500,000-**Administrator Young explained that the grant will help replace all the pipes for Walnut and Main Street. This will also survey how much lead and copper we have in the city. Councilman Padgett made a motion for the Interim City Administrator to sign the agreement. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. **WATSON PARK – ROOF PROPOSAL BID-** Administrator Young explained that we have a $21,000 grant to help improve Watson Park. We received a bid for $16,000 to fix the roof. We will fix additional roof on the shed if there are remaining funds. Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to move forward with the repairs. Councilwoman Gause seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
4. **COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS A PETITION OF ANNEXATION FOR PARCELS OF LANDS LOCATED ON COX ROAD WITH PIN # 176-08-03-0050, PIN # 176-08-03-0051, PIN # 176-08-03-0052, AND PIN # 176-08-03-0044-** Councilman Padgett shared his concerns about the contractor not having Articles of Incorporation in South Carolina. Attorney Moss explained that the contractor does not need to have the authority to transact business in South Carolina to own or rezone the property. He would need to have authority to develop the property. The owner does business as Suncoast Investments LLC in North Carolina, but that name is used by a different entity in South Carolina. He would have to be authorized to do business in South Carolina under a DBA. Attorney Moss stated that this issue does not affect the annexation but may affect the subsequent use of the property. Councilman Suggs makes a motion to accept the annexation petition. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
5. **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA AND SAFEBUILT CAROLINAS, LLC-** Administrator Young asked to discuss this topic in Executive Session.
6. **LEASE AGREEMENT - TMS # 0481009020, TMS # 0481009014 AND TMS # 0481009015-** Mayor Harrelson asked to discuss this topic in Executive Session.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

1. **PUBLIC WORKS-** Jordan Phillips spoke about the successful Bog-Off. He said that the Public Works staff have already begun putting up Christmas decorations.
2. **CODE ENFORCEMENT-** Treasurer Massey stated that we received thirty-four applications for permits. Twenty-five have been processed. Nine are still under review. Fourteen permits have been issued. Nine are pending.
3. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT-** Councilwoman Vescovi spoke about the football team that played this past weekend. Fall softball will wrap up next week with games against Green Sea. Basketball registration was posted today and runs through December 12th. It will be co-ed unless more girls sign up. Watson Park is getting a lot of attention from the Recreation department working toward the program we just discussed and to explore options for use of the space. Updates are up on the Recreation’s Facebook as well.
4. **POLICE DEPARTMENT-** Chief Buley stated that with the holiday season approaching and the time change remember to be aware of your surroundings and lock your car and house doors.
5. **FIRE DEPARTMENT-** No report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

1. **DISCUSSION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS – CODE ENFORCEMENT AND INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR**
2. **DISCUSSION ON CONTRACTUAL MATTERS – CODE ENFORCEMENT, LEASE AGREEMENT AND HORRY COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICE AGREEMENT**
3. **DISCUSSION ON LITIGATION FOR RUDELITCH CASE AND OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS**

Motion made by Councilman Gause to enter Executive Session; Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All members voted in favor to enter Executive Session at 7:09 pm.

Motion made by Councilman Hardee to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All members voted in favor of exiting Executive Session at 8:11 pm.

Mayor Harrelson stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to allow Administrator Young to serve as the City Treasurer until further notice and to be able to make appropriate staff changes. Councilman Padgett Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to allow Administrator Young to sign the Safebuilt contract regarding code enforcement duties and responsibilities for the city. Councilman Hardee seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Gause made a motion that the lease agreement between Suggs, Padgett and the city of Loris be terminated as of December 31st, 2022. Councilman Hardee seconded the motion. All in favor except Councilmen Padgett and Suggs. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**  
Motion made by councilwoman Gause for adjournment; Seconded by councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

**ATTEST:**

**BRANDY GRAHAM TODD M. HARRELSON**

**CITY CLERK** **MAYOR**

**LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**JOAN S. GAUSE**

**LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.**

**ANDREA L. COLEMAN**

**CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.**

**MICHAEL E. SUGGS**

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