



**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023 –
6:00 PM**

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**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson at 6:00pm on Monday, July 10, 2023.

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 Graham.

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 HEARING: No one requested to speak.

- A. ORDINANCE 08-23, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, ENDING JUNE 30, 2024
- B. ORDINANCE 09-23, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

PUBLIC AND PRESS:

Lynn Grecko – Ms. Grecko addressed the Council to implore them to keep updating the laws on Animal Welfare for the City of Loris. Her husband is a realtor, and he received an email concerning animal welfare from a potential client. She believes that adopting the Horry County policy would be a great first step. Mayor Harrelson agreed with the need to address this issue.

Veda Nichols (Church Street) – She invited the Council and citizens to the State Theater on November 11, 2023, at 10AM for the 7th Annual Salute to Loris American Heroes. This is a day to salute local veterans. There will be a catered meal, musical entertainment from the LHS chorus, and the LHS ROTC will be present. She is looking for volunteers for ad-hoc committees. Sponsors are needed for the event. Mayor Harrelson stated that this is a great event.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- A. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-** Samantha Norris stated that KidsFest was great. Twenty-nine youth participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Fair on June 17, 2023, from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. The Bog-Off Bowl is August 18th, 2023, when Loris travels to Green Sea Floyds for the annual competition. July 26th is Loris's birthday and there will be a celebration downtown. There
- B. **MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT-** Mayor Harrelson stated the new operating room has been completed. The hospital is purchasing a new MRI machine.
- C. **COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR-** Coffee with the Mayor will be held Thursday, July 13th at 9 A.M. in the Community Room.
- D. **CITY WATER AND SEWER** – Mayor Harrelson stated that he would like a spreadsheet that shows exactly what the Water and Sewer System is doing.
- E. **CITY PARKING ISSUES-** Mayor Harrelson stated that he has been asked about the two-hour parking limit. He has discussed the issue with Chief Buley. The issue will be addressed. Councilman Hardee stated that there is not a parking space in front of the Wing Zone door. He has seen cars park in this area. Mayor Harrelson suggested that the parking signage in the area be updated.
- F. **RECREATION-** Mayor Harrelson stated that he is very proud of the work being done at the Recreation Department. The teams, coaches and staff are all doing a great job.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- A. **PROPOSED BUDGET SCHEDULE FY 2023-2024-** Administrator Young stated that the First Reading has been done for the budget. A final reading needs to be done. There are changes that need to be made to balance Water and Sewer.
- B. **GRANT – SC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SCIIP) \$5,038,667.00-** Administrator Young attended a statewide meeting in May and met with Abby Linden, the city's grants program manager, to discuss requirements. A single audit is required and has been discussed with the auditor. The process is going fast. WCOG will help us manage the grant if approved tonight. The first step will be to bid out the engineering portion. We are required to advertise through SCIIBO. We will also need to bid out the additional water meters.
- C. **CITY MASTER PLAN STUDY-** Administrator Young stated the names of the committee members have been shared. The first meeting will be held in the next month. The committee will provide information and feedback will be obtained from other stakeholders in the community.
- D. **CITY AUDITS-** Administrator Young stated the outside auditors have been working diligently to complete the prior year audits. This has been a challenging process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** Councilwoman Gause stated the committee met today, July 10th at 4P.M. The committee discussed the employee handbook revisions and personnel matters. No decisions were made. The committee will meet again on Wednesday the 12th @ 4PM.
- B. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE –** Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the committee met on June 21st. The animal control ordinance was discussed. The committee would like feedback from the council on the Horry County Animal Control Policy that was provided to council members. The committee also discussed the Special Event Permit. They would like to have this reviewed and ready for the next meeting. The Loris Police Department budget and the possibility of a lease program with Enterprise were also discussed.
- C. **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE –** Did not meet.
- D. **RECREATION COMMITTEE –** Did not meet.
- E. **PLANNING, ANNEXATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –** Did not meet. Councilman Padgett stated that the WCOG is working with them to complete evaluations.
- F. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE –** Did not meet. The committee will meet on Wednesday July 12th.

ORDINANCES:

- C. 2ND READING – ORDINANCE 08-23, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, ENDING JUNE 30, 2024 – **DEFERRED**- Need to provide millage information to the county by July 24, 2023.
- D. 2ND READING – ORDINANCE 09-23, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024, ENDING JUNE 30, 2024 – **DEFERRED**

RESOLUTIONS:

- A. **RES. 01-22- Amendment 8– AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN** – Councilman Carroll Padgett made a motion to approve Amendment 8. Councilwoman Vescovi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **RES. 04-23 – EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK POLICY REVISIONS – DEFERRED**- Administrator Young would like to review the Employee Leave policy. Councilwoman Vescovi would like to review the recognized holidays and have council review the document for any additional changes.
- C. **RES. 05-23 – PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – DEFERRED**- Administrator Young stated that the policy has been reviewed by the state and the city auditors. He would like the council to review it before passing. The Policy should be ready for a vote next month.

BUSINESS:

- A. **CITY PARKING ORDINANCE**- Attorney Moss stated that he received information from Chief Buley regarding the City Parking Ordinance. He will pull additional information from other municipalities to review. Mayor Harrelson stated that the issue needed to be addressed to help with the downtown parking issues.
- B. **MARC WOOD, CPA- FY18 and FY21-22 AUDIT**- Auditor Marc Wood stated that his firm is close to completing the FY 2018 Audit. The report will be written this week and should be finalized in the next couple of weeks. He has received the trial balance for FY 2021-2022. He hopes to have this completed by the end of the month. The FY 2018 audit was a challenge due to employee turnover, but he believes they are past all of that. He hopes that the FY 2021-2022 audit will be a smoother process. The FY 2021-2022 audit will allow the city to meet all state requirements once complete.
- C. **STORM WATER POLICY** – Administrator stated that he and Wayne Fox met with the county regarding storm water management. The county provided a document for review. There is a need to have a storm water ordinance. Council should review the document provided and determine if they would like to adopt this policy or create a policy for the city.
- D. **WCOG CONTRACT (SCIIP)** – The WCOG submitted a contract to assist the City of Loris with the administration of the SCIIP grant. RIA requires all SCIIP grant recipients to have this assistance. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to allow Clay Young to sign the contract from WCOG. Councilman Hardee seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

- E. **WCOG CONTRACT (PLANNING AND ZONING)**- Administrator Young stated this is a continuation of the agreement in place regarding Planning and Zoning. Councilman Hardee made a motion to move forward with the contract and allow the City Administrator to sign the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- F. **CORNER PARCEL WALNUT AND RAILROAD**- Mayor Harrelson stated that the city owns the parcel on the corner of Walnut and Railroad. He asked the council to discuss plans for this lot. Councilwoman Vescovi stated that she would like to see a mural, fountain, and seating. She also suggested the park be in honor of Paul Prince.
- G. **RIDE 4**- City Administrator Young received a letter from Steve Gosnell County Administrator of Horry County requesting the city to submit three names to be considered for the RIDE 4 board.
- H. **PROPERTY LEASE DISCUSSION**- Discussed in executive session.

APPOINTMENTS:

- A. **CITY OF LORIS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS – 2 OUT OF 5 VACANCIES**
- B. **CITY OF LORIS PLANNING COMMISSION – 1 OUT OF 7 VACANCIES**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- A. **PUBLIC WORKS**- Jordan stated that the Ride Three project is moving as fast as possible. There have been a few manholes set ins and a few valves installed. The radio meters are in the ground. The software is up with minor issues. Adan from Water Works came and helped train on the software. Meadow Walk Development has all permits. Administrator Young added that the Walnut Street project is under way. The Horry County grant includes a lead and copper study.
- B. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**- Documentation included in Council packet.
- C. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**- Tim stated that the spring season is wrapping-up. The 13/14 baseball tournament is going on right now. Two girls' teams won the district. The 15U girls won the state tournament. Fall registration will begin July 24th. There will be limited space for football. Top Gun will hold a softball tournament this weekend. The tournament will begin Thursday.
- D. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**- No Report
- E. **FIRE DEPARTMENT**- No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **DISCUSSION ON CONTRACTUAL MATTERS AND PROPERTY MATTERS**
- B. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to enter Executive Session; Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted in favor of entering Executive Session.

Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor of exiting Executive Session.

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

Councilman Padgett made a motion to purchase a side cutter through the State purchasing program in the amount of \$13,200 plus tax for the Public Works department and that the administrator has the authority to make this purchase and dispose of the existing cutter. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Councilman Hardee for adjournment; Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

**BRANDY GRAHAM
CITY CLERK**

**TODD M. HARRELSON
MAYOR**

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

JOAN S. GAUSE

LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.

ANDREA L. COLEMAN

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