



**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 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, August 7, 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 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. She stated that this was her third time speaking to the Council about this important issue. She asked that the Council make a motion to move forward with updating the current laws.

Julie Hartman- Doctor Julie Hartman stated that she is the owner of the Meadowlawn Animal Hospital. She would like to see changes made to the Animal Welfare Laws. Many changes have been made to the care of animals since the Loris Ordinance was passed. The current ordinance lacks specifics for food, shelter, and water. It also lacks specifics for punishment for breaking the law. Councilman Padgett asked if Dr. Hartman has read the Horry County Ordinance. She stated that she has and that it is better than the Loris ordinance. Council Padgett asked that she review the ordinance and provide suggested changes.

Annie Rigby – Ms. Rigby asked if it would be possible to ask questions after Executive Session.

MINUTES:

- A. July 11, 2022- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING- Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. August 1, 2022- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING- Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. June 5, 2023- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING- Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- A. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**- Samantha Norris stated that Market in the Yard was a success. Sixteen vendors participated. There was a good bit of foot traffic in town. The City of Loris video has been posted on Facebook. The Miss Loris Bog-off Pageant preparation is underway. The Bog-Off Festival is October 21st, 2023. The Community Pep Rally is August 17th, 2023. The Bog-Off Bowl (Loris vs. Green Sea Floyds) is August 18th. Councilwoman Vescovi asked if there are flags available to display on Fridays. Samantha stated that she had a few left and would investigate possibly displaying these again.
- B. **MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT**- Mayor Harrelson stated there are two new Surgeons coming in September. They are going to expand the dialysis access program. They hope that the Cancer Center will be open in December of 2024.
- C. **COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR**- Coffee with the Mayor will be held Thursday, August 10th, at 9 A.M. in the Community Room.
- D. **AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION** – Mayor Harrelson stated that he has joined the Coalition. The City of Loris is also a member. The city has flood problems, and they can help with grants and resources to help with the city issues.
- E. **WATSON PARK**- Mayor Harrelson stated that the roof has been completed. There are live cameras in the area through YouTube. There is work being done to prepare the inside.

- F. **CHRISTMAS-** Mayor Harrelson stated that there were new stars hung last year. These stars were refurbished. There will be around 50 stars in total around town this Christmas season.
- G. **MASC ANNUAL METING-** Mayor Harrelson stated that he attended the MASC Annual Meeting. It started July 26th and ended on July 29th. He attended 15 classes and toured downtown Greenville with the city's Mayor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- A. **GRANT – SC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SCIIP) \$5,339,636.00-** Administrator Young stated that the RQF has been submitted and advertised for engineering. There will be a Public Works Committee meeting on August 28th to open bids. This project is on a tight schedule. The meters that are also part of the project will be bid separately.
- B. **SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF RESILIENCE- CDBG MITIGATION- INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT-** Administrator Young stated that he has not heard back on this grant. He hoped to hear something by the middle of August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** Councilwoman Gause stated the committee did not meet.
- B. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE –** Councilwoman Vescovi stated they did not meet.
- C. **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE –** Councilwoman Coleman stated they did not meet.
- D. **RECREATION COMMITTEE –** Did not meet. They will meet before the September council meeting.
- E. **PLANNING, ANNEXATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –** Did not meet. Councilman Padgett stated that the WCOG was at the Master Plan Meeting.
- F. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE –** Did not meet. They will meet on August 28th,

ORDINANCES:

- A. **1st READING-ORDINANCE 11-23, AN ORDINANCE OF ANNEXATION WITH PIN # 176-08-03-0043 AS SET FORTH ON Horry COUNTY GIS MAPPING SYSTEM, INCLUDING ANY AND ALL HIGHWAY RIGHT-AWAYS –** Attorney Ken Moss stated that the zoning should be listed. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to adopt with the recommended changes indicated. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **1st READING-ORDINANCE 12-23, AN ORDINANCE OF REZONING THAT PORTION OF THE PROPERTY OWNED BY VERN'S INVESTMENTS, LLC AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN: 185-06-01-0011, LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF LORIS LIONS ROAD, PRESENTLY ZONED MIXED-USE ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO BE CHANGED TO GENERAL BUSINESS ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP- DEFERRED-** Councilman Hardee stated that Council has an obligation to hold a Public Hearing on Rezoning requests.

RESOLUTIONS:

- A. **RES. 04-23 – EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK POLICY REVISIONS** –Administrator Young stated that Labor Attorney Vance Bettis is reviewing the Handbook. Councilwoman Vescovi asked if the Personnel and Finance Committee could review before the September meeting.
- B. **RES. 05-23 – PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES** – Administrator Young stated that changes have not been made since June. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the Procurement Policies and Procedures. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.

BUSINESS:

- A. **MASTER PLAN STUDY-** Administrator Young stated that the committee met last week. The outline for the project was shared. The next meeting is September 5th.
- B. **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE DETENTION OF JUVENILES-** Administrator Young stated that this is an annual agreement that states the city will pay \$50 a day if they use their facility to house a juvenile. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to allow Administrator Young to sign the agreement on behalf of the city. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **CHRISTMAS DECORATION PURCHASE** – Mayor Harrelson stated that every year there is money spent on Christmas decorations. He would like to order for this year, in time to receive for this Christmas season. He asked the council to consider making a purchase for this Christmas season. Councilwoman Vescovi stated that we would need to follow the Procurement Policy that just passed. Mayor Harrelson stated that he would like Administrator Young to get a list together of needed lights and possible items to purchase.
- D. **202307-002: Request to annex 16.42 acres into the corporate limits of the City of Loris as R-2 (Medium-Density Residential) located on the northeast corner of Main Street & North Cox Road [PIN: 176-00-00-0030 & 176-09-02-0013]**– Motion made by Councilman Hardee to accept the petition. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. Councilman Suggs stated that he would recuse himself from the vote due to a personal relationship. All others in favor. Motion passes.
- E. **202307-003: Request to annex 0.3 acres into the corporate limits of the City of Loris as MU (Mixed-Use) located on the southern side of Highway 9 Business East [PIN: 185-02-03-0028]**- Councilwoman Vescovi stated that an edit was made to the petition and there is no indication of who made the edit. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to table the petition until the edits are signed. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.

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**
- C. **CLERK OF COURT-POSITION**
- D. **ELECTION COMMISSION- 1 OUT OF 3**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- A. **PUBLIC WORKS-** Jordan Phillips stated that the 701 project is going well. Several water and sewer taps have been completed. The staff has been busy with everyday maintenance. Administrator Young stated that the Lead and Copper study is almost complete. All meters have been located.
- B. **CODE ENFORCEMENT-** Documentation included in Council packet.
- C. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT-** Councilwoman Vescovi stated that recreation football practice started today. Registration is still open for fall softball, cheerleading, and volleyball. There will be a softball tournament on our fields every weekend in August. The Dixie Boys 13-14 team finished third in the state.
- D. **POLICE DEPARTMENT-** Documentation included in Council packet.
- E. **FIRE DEPARTMENT-** No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. DISCUSSION ON CONTRACTUAL MATTERS AND PROPERTY MATTERS

B. PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

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

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

Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to appoint Aundrea Washington as the Clerk of Court for the City of Loris. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. 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**

**Michael E. Suggs
MAYOR**

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

JOAN S. GAUSE

LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.

ANDREA L. COLEMAN

CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.

TONYA F. SYKES
