



**MINUTES OF  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024  
– 6:00 PM**

**PRESENT**

**MAYOR**

**MICHAEL E. SUGGS**

**COUNCIL**

**ANDREA COLEMAN  
KELLI GERALD  
LEWIS C. HARDEE  
TONYA F. SYKES**

**ABSENT**

**JOAN GAUSE  
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00pm on Monday, May 6, 2024.

**INVOCATION:**

The Invocation was given by Councilman Hardee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by City Clerk Graham.

1. **MINUTES:**

- A. **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING—JANUARY 8, 2024-** Motion made by Councilwoman Sykes to approve the minutes on the Regular Council meeting on January 8, 2024. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING- FEBRUARY 5, 2024-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 5, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING- FEBRUARY 27, 2024-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting on February 27, 2024. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.

**2. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. **MAYORS’S REPORT-** Mayor Suggs stated that he attended many events over the last month, many hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. He attended the Small Town, Big Car Show and selected the Mayor’s Choice winner. On April 24-25, the City of Loris participated in the Loris Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip. The students toured downtown Loris including City of Loris facilities. Mayor Suggs, Councilwoman Gerald, and Administrator Young represented Loris at the Santee Cooper annual meeting on April 30, 2024. Mayor Suggs and Administrator Young attended the Santee Cooper reception in Myrtle Beach on May 2, 2024. Santee Cooper officials discussed plans to meet energy needs. Santee Cooper celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mayor Suggs and Administrator Young have been meeting with Department Heads and citizens to address concerns. The leaf and limb operator took another job. The opening has been posted and we hope to get back to the schedule soon.

Samantha Norris stated in addition to the events mentioned by Mayor Suggs, the Chamber of Commerce hosted a Job Fair. There were 25 employers present to accept applications. Several hundred people attended. It was a huge success. The Field Trip was a huge success. Samantha presented social media posts about the field trip and the maps the students created. Administrator Young thanked Samantha for her work on the Field Trip. Bog-off queens will be competing at the State competition in June.

Mayor Suggs introduced Scott Montgomery and Ronald Fowler of McLeod Health. Mr. Fowler, Chair of the Board, thanked Mayor Suggs for the invitation to speak. He was pleased to share the history of the Loris Hospital. In 1947 a group of citizens, the Loris Civitan's, decided to build a hospital and contacted Duke Endowment. After many years of service, the Loris Community Hospital merged with McLeod Health. McLeod has provided great service to the community since the merger. Mr. Fowler stated that they are committed to providing quality healthcare to the area. You can see this through the construction and expansion. Mr. Fowler stated that our area is well represented on the McLeod Board. Frank Boulineau is the Chair of Finance. Scott Montgomery, CEO, stated that 20 million dollars has been invested in the last few years. Goals include 1. Invest in

Providers, 2. Increase Care, and 3. Facilities. McLeod Loris has the highest patient satisfaction in the entire system.

#### **A. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**1.SC DHEC VCC APPLICATION-** Administrator Young stated that progress is moving ahead. Barricades are in place and a 30-Day notice has been posted.

**2.HOSPITALITY TAX AUDIT UPDATE-** Administrator Young stated that he will be meeting with auditor Marc Wood to review the final report.

**3.FY-2024-2025 BUDGET AND WORKSHOP – MAY 14, 2024 @ 6PM-** Administrator Young stated that the Budget Workshop would be held on May 14, 2024, in the Conference Room.

**4. WATSON PARK REPAIRS UPDATE-** Administrator Young stated repairs were being made to the Community Center. Deep cleaning will happen after repairs are complete. He hopes to have the project complete by June.

**5. CITY PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS-** Administrator Young stated that city-owned property is being reviewed for needed improvements and repairs.

**6. ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE DRAFT-** Attorney Zilinsky has reviewed the ordinance. A draft was sent to the council for review. Administrator Young asked for the draft to be submitted to the Public Safety committee for final review and recommendation.

**7. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2040-** Administrator Young stated that the Planning and Zoning Committee will review for final recommendation.

**8. MASTER PLAN 2024-** Administrator Young stated that the Planning and Zoning Committee will review for final recommendation.

#### **B. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS-** Reports from Department Heads in Council packet.

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT-** Meredith Holmes stated she had nothing to add to the report. The department has been busy.

2. **FIRE-** No representative present.

3. **POLICE-** Department report in the packet.

4. **PUBLIC WORKS -** Department report in the packet.

5. **RECREATION-** Department report in the packet.

### **3. BUSINESS**

**A. DISCUSSION OF CITY PROPERTY TO DEEMED SURPLUS-** A current list of property to be deemed surplus was included in the Council packet. Mayor Suggs wanted the council to be aware that a list was being compiled to advertise Gov.deals. Department heads are going to meet to compile a Master List before advertising.

- B. **DISCUSSION OF PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLE EQUIPMENT-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 01-24. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **2<sup>nd</sup> READING- ORDINANCE 02-24- AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 45. OWNED BY HARTLAND PROPERTIES, LLC AND IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL NO(s): 175-00-0046, 175-00-00-0047 FROM R1.4 TO R1.5-** Mayor Suggs stated that this Ordinance of Rezoning was the subject of the Public Hearing held prior to the Regular Council Meeting. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 02-24. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- D. **RES. 01-22, AMENDMENT\_9– AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN RESOLUTION-** Mayor Suggs stated that this resolution is an amendment of the original resolution. It outlines all expenditures of the funds. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve Resolution 01-22, Amendment 9. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.
- E. **APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to appoint John Zilinsky as the City Attorney. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.

#### **PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS-**

1. **Wende Boyd-** Mrs. Boyd said she was there to address concerns about the Loris Fire Department. She came to the council meeting in February and March. Her concerns have not been addressed. Only some questions were answered. She feels entitled for her concerns to be addressed. She received a letter mandating her property be demolished. She had 10 business days to comply. There are houses that previously burned and are still in disrepair. She feels she is being harassed because she complained.
2. **Wendell Boyd-** Mr. Boyd stated that nothing has been resolved with the fire. The house has been demolished. They felt pressured to demo the property and were told they had to contact DHEC about asbestos. The issues need to be taken care of. Mayor Suggs stated that at the last meeting he gave Mr. Boyd his cell number and had not been contacted.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to enter executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes.

Motion made by Councilman Hardee to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes.

Mayor Suggs stated that no action was taken in the Executive Session.

Attorney Zilinsky stated that a contractual matter discussed required no action. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to proceed as discussed in a personnel matter. Seconded by Councilwoman Gerald. All in favor. Motion passes.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**BRANDY GRAHAM  
CITY CLERK**

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**MICHAEL E. SUGGS  
MAYOR**

**LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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**JOAN S. GAUSE**

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**LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.**

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**ANDREA L. COLEMAN**

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**TONYA SYKES**