

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY DECEMBER 01, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	MAYOR	MICHAEL E. SUGGS
	COUNCIL	ANDREA L. COLEMAN
		JOAN S. GAUSE
		KELLI D. GERALD
		LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
		CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
		TONYA F. SYKES
PRESENT:	INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR	ANGEL R NEIGHBOURS
	CITY CLERK	MELINDA T. PRICE
	ATTORNEY	JOHN C. ZILINSKY

CALL TO ORDER:

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 01, 2025.

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 Price.

Attorney Brad Smith attended the meeting to update council on a legal and contractual matter.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. NOVEMBER 3, 2025 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of November 3, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATION:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Suggs reported the following:

The Horry Georgetown Technical College Community Forum was held on Thursday, November 20th. The event appeared was a success with over 100 in attendance. The possibility of a technical college campus or learning center in the Loris area would be a great asset to our community. The TEC representatives appeared to be very pleased with the attendance and comments as well as the information collected.

The Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will take place tomorrow night, December 2nd at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Loris Christmas parade is scheduled for Friday night, December 5th. Samantha Norris, Executive Director of the Loris Chamber of Commerce, will give more details tonight in her chamber report.

On December 31st at 10:00 am we will hold a swearing-in ceremony for our newly re-elected council members. The ceremony will be held here in council chambers.

The Loris Recreation Department's 12-U football team were defeated by Latta in the championship game. The team, however, finished the season as runner-up in the district.

The Loris Lions 2025 will be remembered as the greatest team ever at Loris High School. The Lions finished the season with 13 wins and 1 loss, playing for the South Carolina Lower State Championship which resulted in their only loss and ending the season. The coach and players have had a tremendous year in setting records in wins and overall performances. We are extremely proud of our Loris Lions and their record setting season. Congratulations on an exceptional season.

Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris was present and acknowledged the passing of Barry Suggs. Mr. Suggs was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and owner and operator of Crescent Moon Land Surveying. She gave condolences to his family and friends. Samantha reminded council that the tree lighting is tomorrow December 2nd and should take place as scheduled. The Christmas parade is scheduled for Friday December 5th at 6:00 pm however the weather forecast is currently being monitored due to rain being predicted to occur all day on Friday. She will make an announcement prior to Friday of any cancellation. Several other events will be coming up this month sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Downtown Tuesday events include "The Grinch Stole Downtown Tuesday" scheduled for December 9th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. "Small Town Christmas" will be held December 16th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Samantha informed council that the Chamber of Commerce offices have been relocated and are now in the newly remodeled building at 3940 Railroad Avenue.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Interim Administrator Neighbours reported that brick work had been completed at the corner of Railroad Avenue and Duncan Street where a large truck collided with the brick wall while making a turn. Also, there are a few sidewalk repair projects that are currently in progress. Mrs. Neighbours reported that the city was recently notified by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) that projects approved for FEMA assistance following Hurricane Florence in 2018 and were scheduled to begin in 2019 had not yet been reported as completed. There was a total of eight projects requested throughout the city. It appears that 2018, 2019, and 2020 records may not have been properly retained and may not be available to provide to FEMA to support their funding requirements and thus monies could be owed to FEMA. Mrs. Neighbours reported that there is one project that never began and that funds will need to be reimbursed to FEMA for that project, possibly by January. Budget amendments will need to be made for reimbursement of funds. Councilman Padgett inquired about the funding amount of the one project which was never started. Mrs. Neighbours stated that it is estimated to be approximately \$48,000.00 to \$49,000.00. Mrs. Neighbours stated that she is continuing to research each project one by one and will update council on her findings.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There have been no committee meetings since our last City Council Meeting.

D. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS:

1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes presented her October and November statistical reports to council. Mrs. Holmes reported that there was a correction to the November report. There are two vacancies to report on the Board

of Zoning Appeals instead of one and that will be discussed later in the meeting. Mrs. Holmes reported she had talked with someone from Horry County Emergency Management to check the status of Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan. It is a 5-year update and there had to be some corrections made to the plan. It has now been submitted to FEMA for approval. Once approved by FEMA, council will need a Resolution adopting the updated plan. Mrs. Holmes presented her 2026 schedule of Planning Commission Meetings, and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings which includes two annual training dates of March 17, 2026, and September 1, 2026, to be held in the city hall conference room.

2. FIRE – City Fire Marshall Robert Rudelitch reported a total of 112 calls for the month. There has been a total of 1,349 for the year. On December 9, 2025, the new Horry County dispatch will be going live. Mr. Rudelitch states he is expecting a smooth transition with all the planning over the last 12 months.

3. POLICE –Police Chief Gary Bulley reported having a pretty good month. Accidents have been down since last year thanks to the traffic grant and having the officers running traffic patrol. There has been a rise in juvenile crime which is basically related to vapes. Chief Bulley's department is focusing on the vape shops and selling products to minors. He also suggested that everyone be cautious and please lock their cars, homes, etc. due to this being the holiday season.

4. PUBLIC WORKS – No written reports presented. No representative present.

5. RECREATION – Recreation Director Woody Hinson presented a written report but was not present at the meeting. Mayor Suggs read the report in his absence.

BUSINESS:

A. DISCUSS AND APPROVE 2026 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Mayor Suggs stated that the city is required by state statute to give public notice at the beginning of each calendar year of the meeting place, dates and times of Regular Council Meetings. Mayor Suggs stated that the meetings, by Ordinance, are always on the first Monday of the month and begin at 6:00 pm. If the first Monday falls on a Holiday, then the meeting will be held the following Monday at 6:00 pm. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to approve the 2026 Regular Council Meeting Schedule. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

B. BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS VACANCY

Mayor Suggs reported that in the month of November two letters of resignation had been received from Board of Zoning Appeals. One individual was moving outside the city limits and

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the other had personal reasons for resigning. Mayor Suggs stated that two positions would need to be filled. Anyone interested, or if anyone knows anyone interested, please have them fill out a volunteer application.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

No one from the public requested to speak and no one was present from the press.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Suggs stated that one personnel matter and a legal and contractual matter needed to be discussed in executive session. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes, to enter executive session to discuss the personnel matter and a legal and contractual matter. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 6:26 pm.

Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council reconvened in open session at 7:13 pm.

Mayor Suggs announced that in executive session Council got an update on legal and contractual matter as well as briefing on a personnel matter, however no action or votes were taken in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

ATTEST:



MELINDA T. PRICE
CITY CLERK



MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR



ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL

Joan S. Gause
JOAN S. GAUSE, COUNCIL

Kelli D. Gerald
KELLI D. GERALD, COUNCIL

Lewis C. Hardee, Jr.
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR., COUNCIL

Carroll D. Padgett, Jr.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR., COUNCIL

Tonya F. Sykes
TONYA F. SYKES, COUNCIL