



MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3,
2025
6:00 PM

PRESENT

MAYOR

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

COUNCIL

ANDREA COLEMAN
JOAN S. GAUSE
KELLI GERALD
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
TONYA SYKES

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00pm on Monday, February 3, 2025.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Councilman Padgett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Clerk Graham.

1. **MINUTES:**

- A. **DECEMBER 2, 2024- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-** Motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2024, made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **DECEMBER 12, 2024- SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING-** Motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2024, made by Councilwoman Gerald. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **JANUARY 6, 2025- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-** Motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2024, made by Councilwoman Gerald. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. **MAYORS'S REPORT-** Mayor Suggs said that the city had a rare snowstorm, and he hoped that everyone enjoyed it. He thanked employees in all departments that were on call and ready to assist. The Loris Police Department and the Loris Fire Department were working all week to ensure the safety of our citizens. Mayor Suggs thanked Meredith Holmes and Roy Cox for assisting with clearing the sidewalks and entryways around city hall. The demolition at the old Loris High School began. Mayor Suggs attended the Myrtle Beach Economic Development Corporation's Annual Meeting at the Briarcliffe Conference Center. There was a large crowd from all over Horry County. The MBEDC had an industry awareness class in Loris last week. There were first time visitors to Loris in the group. McLeod Loris provided lunch for the event. The Valentines Decoration should be in soon. Mayor Suggs reminded the council members that their Annual Economic Interest Surveys are due in March.

Samantha Norris, Executive Director of the Loris Chamber of Commerce, said that the Loris Chamber of Commerce is currently preparing for the Small Town, Big Show Car Show on April 19, 2025. The Loris Bog-off Festival will be on October 18, 2025. On February 21, 2025, there will be a Grand Opening Ceremony at the new DR Horton Development. The Loris Chamber of Commerce is planning to bring back the annual awards ceremony this year. They are also working on completing the new relocation guide and ask the city to submit any information that they would like to have included.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- 1. **JANUARY MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT-** Administrator Young said that the January monthly report was in the Council packet. Work on the budget for the next fiscal year will begin soon. He plans to distribute information to department heads this month.

C. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS-** Reports from Department Heads in Council packet. Reports were accepted by the council.

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

2. **FIRE-** Chief Hardee said it had been a busy month for the department. They worked a structure fire on Maple Street during the winter storm. They also responded to another structure fire in the county during the winter weather. Smoke Detectors were installed in seven homes. The department currently has three grants pending. A grant from the state would be used for portable radios. Two federal grants would be used to replace an engine and turnout gear.

3. **POLICE**

4. **PUBLIC WORKS**

5. **RECREATION**

D. BUSINESS

A. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE FEMA SAFER GRANT APPLICATION –**

Administrator Young said that the Loris Fire Department would like to apply for the FEMA SAFER GRANT. The grant would help fund full-time staff for the Loris Fire Department. The grant application is not open but should open soon. Administrator Young asked the council to endorse the application for the FEMA SAFER GRANT. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to endorse the application. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.

B. **UPDATE ON THE OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL DEMOLITION PROJECT-** Administrator Young said that the project had begun and will take several months to complete. The city is being provided with weekly progress updates. Dawn Schoolcraft said that Rhino Demolition is working on the asbestos abatement in the gym and then will move to the other buildings.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS-

1. **Sandra Boggs (Longs, SC)-** Ms. Boggs stated that she was with the North Myrtle Beach Lions Club. She is actively working to start a chapter in Loris. She is working with the Loris Chamber of Commerce to gain members. Twelve people attended the first interest meeting they held. Twenty members are needed to start a chapter in Loris. The Lions Club would be beneficial to the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to enter executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Gerald. All in favor. Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilman Padgett to exit executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.

Mayor Suggs said that no action was taken. The Council received a briefing on a contractual matter from Attorney Zilinsky.

Attorney Zilinsky said that he presented the council with a letter of engagement from Driscoll Sheedy Attorneys at Law for the purposes of legal services regarding selling utility services. Mr Zilinsky requested the council make a motion to approve the letter of engagement. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to obtain the services of an attorney for the purpose of selling utility services. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Councilwoman Gause for adjournment; Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:03PM.

ATTEST:

Brandy Graham

BRANDY GRAHAM
CITY CLERK

Michael E. Suggs

MICHAEL E. SUGGS
MAYOR

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joan S. Gause

JOAN S. GAUSE

Lewis C. Hardee, Jr.

LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.

Andrea L. Coleman

ANDREA L. COLEMAN

Carroll D. Padgett, Jr.

CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.

Kelli Gerald

KELLI GERALD

Tonya F. Sykes

TONYA SYKES