

MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 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, January 6, 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 Clerk Graham.

1. **MINUTES:**

- A. **SEPTEMBER 9, 2024- PUBLIC HEARING-** Motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on September 9, 2024, made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **SEPTEMBER 9, 2024- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-** Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on September 9, 2024, made by Councilwoman Gerald. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **OCTOBER 7, 2024- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-** Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on October 7, 2024, made by Councilman Padgett. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
- D. **NOVEMBER 4, 2024- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-** Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on November 4, 2024, made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. **MAYORS'S REPORT-** Mayor Suggs said that December was a busy month. He hoped everyone had a good Christmas. The Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade went well. The Loris Garden Club recognized the public Works Department with Christmas lunch. Mayor Suggs thanked the Garden Club for recognizing our staff. Congratulations to the loris High School football team for a great season. There was software issue when printing water bills. Because of this issue, no late fees will be assessed. Water bills will be in the post card format moving forward. We hope this will eliminate some printing issues and save the city some money on postage. On December 11th, the Mayor attended the McLeod Health Legislative Luncheon. A presentation was made about the expansion of services. This was a nice event with a lot of discussion. McLeod gave a generous donation to the Loris Fire Department. The equipment needed for medical calls was presented by Director of McLeod Health Loris, Scott Montgomery. Mayor Suggs, Administrator Young, and Attorney Zilinsky met with Santee Cooper on December 16th about franchise fees. They also provided information on the new rate structure. Canfor Southern Pine Inc. donated to the Loris Fire Department. The annual fire extinguisher inspections will be conducted on January 14th.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- 1. **DECEMBER MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT-** Administrator Young said that the monthly report was in the Council packet. Work on the budget for the next fiscal year will begin in January.
- 2. **LORIS RECREATION CONCESSIONS AND BASKETBALL FACILITIES-** Administrator Young said there are a few items that need to be discussed with the Recreation

Committee. A meeting will be scheduled for January. A meeting of the Public Safety will also need to be scheduled.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE- DECEMBER 18, 2024-** The Building and Grounds met to review the bids submitted for the Asbestos Abatement and demolition of the Old Loris High School. The committee had more questions and scheduled a second meeting for December 30 to make a recommendation. Dawn Schoolcraft agreed to contact the vendors to get further clarification.

2. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE- DECEMBER 18, 2024-** The Public Works Committee met to review bids and make a recommendation on the SCIIP project Phase 1. The committee was presented with information from Hanna Engineering recommending the Hinterland Group. The Hinterland Group was the lowest bid. The committee agreed to recommend the Hinterland Group to the council for approval.

3. **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE- DECEMBER 30, 2024-** Dawn Schoolcraft provided the committee with further information on the bids that were presented. Based on the information provided, the committee agreed to recommend JMEC Construction to the council for approval. JMEC Construction was the lowest bid.

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

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

2. **FIRE-** Chief Hardee thanked McLeod Health for their donation to the department. He also discussed the grants that they have applied for and the equipment the grants would provide.

3. **POLICE-** Chief Buley stated that the Loris Police Department currently is in a good place regarding staffing.

4. **PUBLIC WORKS**

5. **RECREATION**

3. **BUSINESS**

A. **RESOLUTION 01-25- A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING LORIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH GREG MANCE AND THE 2024 LORIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM** -Mayor Suggs said that the Loris High School football team had a great season, playing for the Lower State Championship and defeating the Dillon Wildcats to become Region Champions. Clerk Graham read the resolution in its entirety. Mayor Suggs presented Coch Mance with a framed resolution. Coach Mance thanked the

City of Loris for its support of the Loris Lions. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee to adopt Resolution 01-25 recognizing the Loris High School football team. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.

- B. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE SCIIP GRANT BID AWARD-** Administrator Young said that the Public Works committee recommended the Hinterland Group as the contractor for the sewer rehabilitation project. The Hinterland Group had the lowest total bid of \$2,275,915.00. Motion to approve the contract with the Hinterland Group made by Councilman Padgett. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL DEMILITION BID AWARD-** The Building and Grounds committee recommended JMEC Construction as the contractor for the demolition project. JMEC had the lowest total bid of \$745,000.00. Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to approve the contract with JMEC Construction. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor except for Councilwoman Sykes who voted no. The motion passed with a vote of 6-1.
- D. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE WATSON PARK MEETING ROOM RENTAL AGREEMENT-** Council was presented with the amended agreement. Motion made by Councilwoman Gerald to approve the agreement. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS-

1. **Lynn Greco-** Mrs. Greco said that based on the recent reports about Keith Massey, she felt that it would be prudent to perform an audit. The audit would assure citizens that no wrongdoing occurred when he held positions for the City of Loris.

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

Motion made by Councilman Hardee 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 legal briefing from Attorney Zilinsky.


ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Councilman Hardee for adjournment; Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All

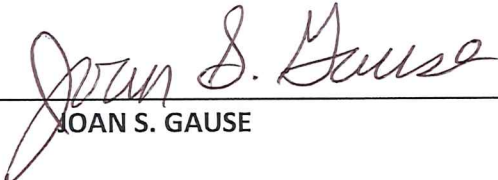
members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:03PM.

ATTEST:


BRANDY GRAHAM
CITY CLERK



MICHAEL E. SUGGS
MAYOR


LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

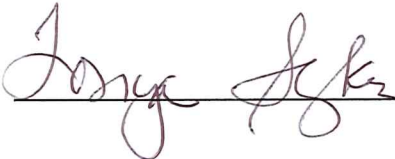

JOAN S. GAUSE


LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.


ANDREA L. COLEMAN


CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.


KELLI GERALD



TONYA SYKES