

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL - ZOOM
JUNE 7, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

**MAYOR
COUNCIL**

**TODD M. HARDEE
LEWIS C. HARDEE, Jr.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, Jr.
MICHAEL E. SUGGS
TERRENCE T. HARDEE
JAN P. VESCOVI**

ABSENT

JOAN S. GAUSE

NEWS MEDIA present were Mrs. Jen Boyd Causey, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune, and Ms. Annie Rigby, writer for The Loris Times.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Todd Harrelson.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Lewis C. Hardee, Jr.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Todd Harrelson.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Interim City Clerk Todd K. Massey II.

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.

MAYORS REPORT:

A. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: SAMANTHA NORRIS

Thanked everyone who came out for the Memorial Day service and golf cart parade. It was a big success and looking forward to making it an annual event. Former Mayor Stoudenmire gave a shout to everyone involved in making the City look good and festive. The "Big City Sale" returns July 17th and will continue for several more months.

B. MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL: MAYOR TODD HARRELSON

No new Covid-19 cases in the past two weeks. The hospital is currenting working on expanding services and hiring new primary health care physicians. The hospital like to do as good as they possibly can for our citizens, our community, and surrounding communities. I have also spoken with Mrs. Christina Jackson who is the McLeod Foundation Development Manager. In July Mrs. Jackson would like to have a partner luncheon for business owners and leaders throughout the community. If you would like to reach out to Mrs. Jackson to be a part of the luncheon you may do so at 843-390-8338.

C. WATSON PARK: MAYOR HARRELSON:

There have been several issues near the park and in our community. We have cameras at our other recreation facility and would like to suggest that we add cameras at Watson Park.

A motion was made to enter executive session for contractual matters by Councilman Carroll D. Padgett, Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Jan P. Vescovi. All voted in favor to come out of executive session.

Business:

A. ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AND RETOACTIVELY CONSENT TO CERTAIN HORRY COUNTY ORDINANCES INVOLVING HOSPITALITY TAX AND THE SETTLEMENT.

Resolution 02-21 was read by Interim City Clerk Todd Keith Massey II, in its entirety a motion was made by Councilman Carroll D. Padgett, Jr., to adopt resolution 02-21, seconded Councilwoman Jan P. Vescovi. All voted in favor to adopt Resolution 02-21.

- B. First reading for Ordinance 02-21. An ordinance to adopt the budget for the City of Loris, for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Councilman Padgett inquired about the budget workshop and when it would be held. Councilman Carroll D Padgett, Jr., made a motion and a second from Lewis C. Hardee, Jr. The first reading passed, and all voted favorably for budget workshop on June 10, 2021.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS: RICKY BELLAMY

We are currently working on different projects. Everything is about the same on I&I issues. The crew is still working hard on any issues found, to get the problems repaired quickly and efficiently.

Mayor Harrelson stated he had several calls about the excellent job that the water and sewer crew is doing.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Mayor Todd Harrelson

Mayor Harrelson stated, Andy is not here, he has been out all week. He is working with Public Works and Business License.

Councilman Padgett inquired, if the business licenses being done the new way yet.

Interim City Clerk Keith Massey II replied, no not yet.

Councilman Padgett asked, do we have a copy of the model ordinance?

Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago replied there are several things we must do before MASC releases the model ordinance.

Councilman Padgett asked, have we not done this yet? We need to get this going because everything will start April 30th.

Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago, no, I just had a phone meeting with a lady from MASC. She is helping me to get all of this set up and running. MASC wants to take it step by step to make sure we are on the right track to compliance.

Councilman Suggs asked how will we meet that roll back deadline? I have several licenses of my own I must renew for 2021-2022 but I will be paying for an entire year, how will the city comply with the new adjustment?

Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago stated, we can send out the second notice. It is only next year that will be short. We will have to adjust the start day of the new business

license will be May 1st from here on out. Now that businesses are already paying for a full 12-month license year, we will have to go through a recalculation process, and MASC has not gone through that with me yet. We still must switch all our codes to new codes.

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II said, there should be a credit or prorate for the extra months paid ahead.

Councilwoman Jan P. Vescovi asked Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago, what is the projected timeline to get those five steps completed?

Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago stated, once the budget is finished, we will have more time to devote to getting all of this set up and rolling.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: MAYOR HARRELSON

We have no Recreation Director to date. We had a tournament Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was great but, Sunday was rained out.

Councilman Terrene T. Hardee and Councilwoman Jan P. Vescovi, have played a significant role in getting Field 5 ready to play on. They have had clay, rock, and drainage put down, and now Field 5 is looking like the other fields.

Councilwoman Vescovi stated she would like to thank the Loris High School Athletic Department for working with us while we got this work completed and giving us access and use of their field. We have also met with a group of individuals who are interested in reestablishing the Loris Recreation Booster Club. An executive board has been established and look forward to working with them as we move forward and rejuvenate that program.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: CHIEF BULEY

Stated in regards to the shooting near Watson Park, an officer was on the next street and was able to see the vehicle and the suspect has been arrested. Chief Buley went out the next day and spoke to citizens and listened to their concerns about the safety of the children that use the park. Chief Buley said the biggest problem out there is no one wants to cooperate. Chief Buley indicated that no one wants to talk about the incident. We are trying to get some games (like a kick ball tournament) scheduled between our officers and the public to help with public relations.

Councilman Padgett, do you have any idea of the cost of getting the cameras set up and to run with our other system?

Chief Buley, I do not, I was not a part of the recreation department when they had those installed.

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II stated cameras are through Brinks. Each camera is around \$250-\$300 and goes right along with our server we have now if we use the same kind of camera and data. We would just have to buy the cameras. I will reach out to the company and see what they recommend.

Councilwoman Vescovi, I would like to say that the SRO Greg Lee at Loris High School had a great write up in the paper.

Chief Buley said, one last thing we sent four officers down to bike week in Myrtle Beach and everything was a success.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF JERRY HARDEE OR ASSISTANT CHIEF KENT WRIGHT:

BOTH WERE ABSENT

PUBLIC AND PRESS:

HEATHER MURRAY- Recreational Department issues.

She and her family are new residents of Loris. Her 7-year-old son was chosen to play ALL STARS for Loris by Head Coach LaShay Miller, along with 10 other boys. On May 28th she received a text message from Coach Miller saying that Mayor Harrelson had gone by the Rec Dept and had a casual conversation with some people about herself (Heather Murray). They recommended and urged Coach Miller to release her husband and herself from our coaching positions with the 8U Dixie Youth Boys Baseball team. We do not know what their complaints were about and have never been given the chance to defend ourselves. We do not understand why our son was punished and taken off the team that he worked so hard to become a part of. I would like to know what right the mayor must take personal interest in such complaints. Why did he suggest the removal of the coaches based on complaints? Why did he take time to go to the rec dept himself to suggest that we be removed as coaches and not contact me or my husband? Heather's son was not allowed to play because other parents said if he played, they would pull their kids off the team and would not allow them to play. This is NOT in the Dixie Youth Baseball Tournament book. The book states that no child should be dismissed unless moved, sick, injury, disciplinary measures, or missed practice, and had to be in writing to league officials. We received this information through a text message not even a phone call. The only phone call was when Mayor Harrelson called us back. He stated that he would speak with

Councilman Terrence T. Hardee and Councilwoman Jan P. Vescovi to see what could be done about this situation.

Mrs. Murray also stated they spoke with the Dixie Youth Baseball officials on state and National levels and quote them as saying "There is no reason for him to be pulled off an ALL-STAR team even if he is not a talented player. We have never heard of such. When a decision is made to have a child, you have to suck it up."

Mayor Harrelson stated, I was made aware of some of the things that went on at the rec field. At NO time did I as Mayor take action to have anyone removed from anywhere. The only thing I said to anyone in this situation that as head coach on all-star's head coach chooses their assistant coach and that is what we have done. That is the only recommendation I made at any time during this situation. I think this situation does warrant the committee of the recreation department to check into it to see if recreation staff involved. I coached for 18 years, and I love children. I am all about the children. I assure you this will be investigated. Councilman Terrence T. Hardee and Councilwoman Vescovi let's reach into this and see what we can find out.

Sherry Watkins the grandmother stated, we believe in fairness and justice. We are terribly upset that this has happened, and we appreciate you approaching it in the manner that you have. I would like to know how this is going to be settled, as a concerned future citizen of Loris.

Mayor Harrelson stated my job is not to run the recreation department. We are going to investigate this, and I had no part in this child being taken off the team.

Mrs. Watkins, asked if the family would be notified of the progress and be involved to help understand how this all come about?

Mayor Harrelson, said all parties will be notified, because we want justice! He also stated that it would be made clear I had no part in this.

Kimberly Rudelitch Loris resident, stated the agenda and zoom link were not posted for this meeting on the website. I have been told by press members that it has been stated you do not have to do it.

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II stated, I try and put it up everywhere I can. I always try to meet the legal requirements. We have it posted outside on Facebook, on Instagram. It is posted right outside of council chambers doors 24 hours prior to each meeting.

Kimberly Rudelitch stated, in the digital age we are in, I am not sure that is suffice as it once was in my opinion. I will get legal feedback on that as well. There have been no committee meetings since august 2020 and that was a Public Safety meeting. Will these meetings start back up soon? Can the public attend the public safety committee meeting?

Mayor Harrelson stated, Councilman Suggs mentioned having a committee meeting with all committees soon and yes, the public will be able to attend.

Kimberly Rudelitch stated, she was told that the City Attorney had new ordinances from 2018 for review and make changes and would be put up for council to vote on. Does the Attorney still have these? Were they looked at and changes made?

Councilwoman Vescovi stated, were those the nuisance ordinances?

Kimberly Rudelitch stated, yes.

Kimberly Rudelitch stated, when will you post the notice of the public hearing on the budget?

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II stated, we must give a 15-day notice.

Kimberly Rudelitch asked if the City Administrator position been posted? Where are we on the Clerk of Court? Are interviews going to be soon?

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II replied, I am still the acting clerk of court and the administrator position has not been posted yet. When I get the approval to post it, it will be posted.

Jennifer Rerick, Can the public know about the outcome of the recreation department incident?

Mayor Harrelson stated, yes. We all are concerned and want fairness for our children. We will try to find the underlying cause of this.

Mrs. Jen Boyd Causey, writer with the Tabor-Loris Tribune, inquired is the meeting this Thursday private or can the public attend?

Mayor Harrelson stated, it is a public meeting, budget workshop in the community room.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, with A first by Councilman Lewis C. Hardee, Jr. followed by a second from Councilman Michael E. Suggs. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

ATTEST:



Todd K. Massey II
INTERIM CITY CLERK

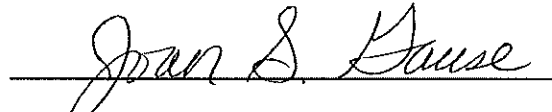


TODD M. HARRELSON
MAYOR

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

___ABSENT___

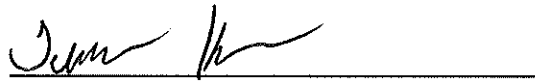
LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan S. Gause", written over a horizontal line.

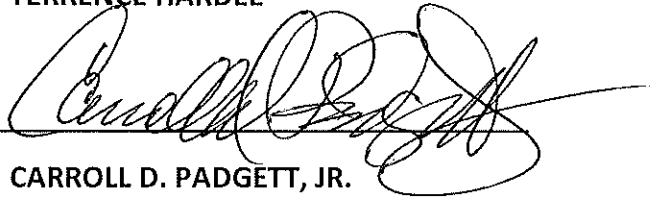
JOAN S. GAUSE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lewis C. Hardee Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

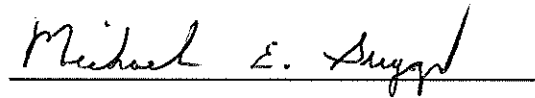
LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Terrence Hardee", written over a horizontal line.

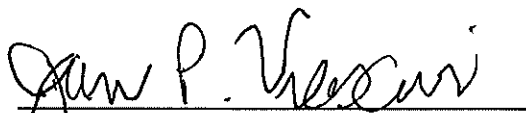
TERRENCE HARDEE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carroll D. Padgett, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael E. Suggs", written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jan P. Vescovi", written over a horizontal line.

JAN P. VESCOVI