

**MINUTES OF  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, November 03, 2025.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Gause.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by City Clerk Price.

Attorney John Zilinsky was unable to attend due to medical reasons. Attorney Brad Smith attended the meeting in Attorney John Zilinsky's absence.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

##### **A. OCTOBER 6, 2025 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of October 6, 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 October 6, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

##### **B. OCTOBER 21, 2025 - SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of October 21, 2025, Special City Council Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Gause, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2025, Special City Council Meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

##### **A. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Suggs reported the following:

Mayor Suggs thanked the city of Conway for assisting us with leaf and limb pickup over the past couple of weeks. Our truck that was involved in an accident has now been repaired. We should now be able to get back on a regular schedule.

Loris Lions finished the regular season undefeated. Congratulations on a perfect record 10-0. They will play Battery Creek this Friday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at home to begin play off action. Congratulations to B team for winning the Horry County Championship. All our Loris football teams, from recreation leagues to varsity, have had an outstanding year.

Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10:00 am, the Loris Women's Coalition will hold its annual veteran's day program. The event will take place at Loris High School, and everyone is invited to attend.

McLeod Health Loris will hold a celebration to commemorate their diamond anniversary. The event will be held November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:00 am. This year is the 75th anniversary of the founding of our local hospital and Mr. Ronald Fowler and Mr. Scott Montgomery are here to tell us a little more about it later in the meeting.

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Horry-Georgetown Technical College will have a community forum at the State Theater Building. The event will be held November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 beginning at 5:00 pm. The purpose of the event is to seek input from the community regarding a local campus or learning center for Loris and the surrounding area. A local HGTC would be a major asset to Loris and Northern Horry County.

We all have so much to be thankful for and we hope everyone enjoys their Thanksgiving coming up. In observance of Thanksgiving, City Hall will be closed Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Election Day is November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please remember to vote.

I would like to thank the city of Loris employees for helping make the Bog- Off a success. We appreciate each member from each department that were willing to work overtime to help. We would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for putting the event together. The lighted animated marquee was a nice addition to the Bog-Off and received many comments.

Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris was present and stated that she appreciated all the help with the Bog-off. Samantha announced that there would not be a downtown Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup> because of it being Election Day. Downtown Tuesday will be held November 11<sup>th</sup> as scheduled Veteran's Day- A NIGHT FOR HEROS from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

#### **B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Interim Administrator Neighbours reported that she didn't have anything to report, however she did have a personnel matter to discuss in executive session.

#### **C. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no committee meetings during the month of September.

#### **D. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS:**

Mayor Suggs advised that written reports were prepared by each department and provided in the council meeting packet.

**1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING** – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes stated that she did not have any reports, however she would present them at next council meeting. She reported a complaint about political signs, as well as other signs, being improperly placed around town. The signs have been collected. Councilman Padgett asked if the elections signs

could be returned to the candidates. Mayor Suggs stated that he would like arrangements to be made for pick up as soon as possible.

**2. FIRE** – City Fire Marshall Robert Rudelitch reported a total of 126 calls for the month. They have had 13 calls for November so far, so they are starting off busy. A Fall Fire Safety Event and a project with Mcleod Health are in process they are excited about. Mayor Suggs confirmed that the grant was still in process for Slip-On Skid Unit for the brush truck. Equipment has been ordered, and funds have been received. The Fire Department is working towards its 2<sup>nd</sup> award for Fire Safe Community Designation which will be announced in the spring.

**3. POLICE** –Police Chief Gary Bulley reported that Bog-off weekend was overall a successful weekend with only one incident with some kids. Councilman Padgett inquired about the twenty-four alarms listed on the written report. Police Chief Gary Bulley confirmed that it was correct and most of them were false alarms, however each were responded to as a precaution.

**4. PUBLIC WORKS** – No written reports presented.

**5. RECREATION** – Recreation Director Woody Hinson presented to council a bracket for the Youth Football State Tournament and went over the schedule and location of the games. Basketball Sign up is in progress with schedules in process. Travel Ball tournament schedule will be submitted in December. Drain tile needs to be installed on field number one, and plans are to do that in January.

## **BUSINESS:**

### **A. MCLEOD LORIS PRESENTATION: MR. RONALD FOWLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF MCLEOD HEALTH AND MR. SCOTT MONTGOMERY, CEO OF MCLEOD HEALTH LORIS**

Ronald Fowler, Chairman of the Board of McLeod Health thanked the mayor, council, and the citizens for their support of the hospital system. He then gave a brief presentation on how Loris Community Hospital was started in 1949. It began when the Civitan Club got together and decided a hospital was needed in Loris. The citizens agreeing to be taxed to build the hospital is where it all started. Years later, when the merger with Mcleod came up, citizens were included in the decision, a referendum was held, and 86% of the voters in the referendum agreed that Loris Healthcare System should become a part of McLeod Health. The citizens again supported the hospital, and it is very much appreciated today. Scott Montgomery introduced himself. He gave updates on how Mcleod has grown and the struggles the hospital faces such as shortages of providers. Mr. Montgomery went over some stats as well as some new additions made to McLeod. A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony will be held at the hospital on November 11, 2025 at 11:00am to celebrate this special honor. Mr. Montgomery invited all to attend. Mayor Suggs congratulated both men on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and expressed how blessed Loris is to have the hospital.

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**B. RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MCLEOD HEALTH LORIS**

Mayor Suggs read **RESOLUTION 05-25 Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of McLeod Health Loris** in its entirety. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to adopt **RESOLUTION 05-25 Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of McLeod Health Loris**. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. The Resolution will be presented to McLeod Health Loris Hospital on November 11, 2025, at the anniversary ceremony.

**C. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 10-25: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LORIS TO UPDATE THE CLASS SCHEDULE AS REQUIRED BY ACT 176 OF 2020.**

Mayor Suggs read Ordinance 10-25 by title only and reminded Council that this ordinance is required by state law and must be enacted by the end of the year. Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details of the process of updating the Business License. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to approve second reading Ordinance 10-25. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

**D. RECEIVE PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: (A-202508-002) ZONING RECOMMENDATION FOR PETITION REQUESTING ANNEXATION OF 54.88 TOTAL ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS FOR PARCEL NO. 176-00-00-0026 [DIAMOND SHORES, AGENT]**

Mayor Suggs indicated that this item is to receive the formal report from the Planning Commission and no vote will be required. As mandated by the city zoning ordinance, the Planning Commission is required to submit a report to council regarding its recommended zoning of property being considered for annexation. The written report was provided in the council packet prior to tonight's meeting. Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details on where the property is located and the plans for the property. After receiving the report from Mrs. Holmes, Mayor Suggs moved on to Item E, which is the subject of the Planning Commission's report.

**E. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 11-25 (A-202508-002) AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX 54.88 TOTAL ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS WITH "PARCEL A" CONSISTING OF 31.73 ACRES ZONED AS R-2 (RESIDENTIAL, *MEDIUM DENSITY*), AND "PARCEL B" CONSISTING OF 23.15 ACRES ZONED AS IND (INDUSTRIAL) LOCATED ALONG THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST SIDES OF CANNON ROAD (COUNTY ROAD), SOUTH OF RALPH ELLIS BOULEVARD, AND NORTH OF CEDAR STREET (S-26-337)  
(PIN: 176-00-00-0026 / TMS: 048-00-01-036) (DIAMOND SHORES, AGENT)**

City Clerk Melinda Price read Ordinance 11-25 by title only. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes to approve first reading of Ordinance 11-25. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

**F. DISCUSS AND APPROVE 15<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT.**

Police Chief Gary Bulley explained that this is required every two years and discussed what the 15th Judicial Circuit Traffic Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement is about and how mutual aid works. Mayor Suggs stated that this is something that has been done for several years. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to approve and authorize Chief Gary Bulley to sign the agreement on behalf of the city. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

**G. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BONUS FOR FULLTIME CITY OF LORIS STAFF**

Administrator Neighbours stated that \$10,000.00 had been budgeted for Christmas bonuses for thirty-three staff members. Bonuses for staff members that have been employed for only a portion of calendar year 2025 will be prorated based on months of service. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to approve and authorize Administrator Neighbours to distribute the holiday bonuses at the appropriate time. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

Councilman Padgett suggested to have a Christmas dinner for council and staff to meet and get to know each other. Mayor Suggs agreed with the idea and asked Administrator Neighbours if she thought this was something we could think about doing this year. Administrator Neighbours stated absolutely we could think about it.

**H. DISCUSS COPY MACHINE & PRINTER LEASE**

Mayor Suggs and Administrator Neighbours informed council that the present lease agreement on the city's copy machines and printers had expired and that the city is in a month-to-month extension. Administrator Neighbours sought proposals from companies regarding copy machine and printer services for the city. Integrity Business Machines, based in Conway, proposed replacing all the city's copiers and printers with new machines plus some additional equipment. The proposal from Integrity Business Machines also saves the city approximately \$8,000.00 per year, plus the company has a service technician residing in the Loris area. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to approve the contract with Integrity Business Machines and to authorize Administrator Neighbours to sign the contract on behalf of the city. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:**

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**Dave Smith** of 3523 Casey Street Loris addressed council regarding construction behind his house. He was concerned about the soil grade being raised and the flooding that could possibly follow. Building Inspector Wayne Fox is to meet with Mr. Smith on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:00pm to examine the property and offer any assistance that may be available.

**Candice Grella** of 3208 Main Street Loris signed up to speak, however, waived her right to speak.

**Mark Allen** of 4491 Stevens Street Loris addressed council About flooding and drainage problems around Stevens and Franklin Street. Mr. Allen expressed concern about ditches needing cleaned out. Mr. Allen was referred to SCDOT to file a complaint since the roads are state roads. Mayor Suggs did ask Building Inspector Wayne Fox to check and see if we could help with this situation.

**Victoria Stevens** of 4311 Bryant Street Loris addressed council about a past legal matter that had taken place in 2020. Lieutenant Larry Williams responded that they had followed all possible procedures; however, the judge ruled there was no probable cause to proceed in the matter. Mayor Suggs added that he had known Ms. Stevens for many years and would be available if she would like to discuss the matter.

#### **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 Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes, to enter executive session at 7:02 PM to discuss the personnel and legal and contractual matters. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilman Hardee at 7:47 PM to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

Mayor Suggs announced that in executive session Council got an update on a legal and contractual matter as well as briefed 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 7:48 P.M.

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ATTEST:



MELINDA T. PRICE  
CITY CLERK



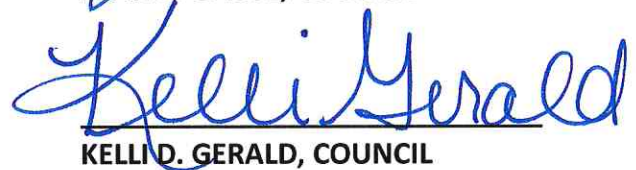
MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR



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