

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL - ZOOM
OCTOBER 5, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

MAYOR

TODD M. HARRELSON

COUNCIL

**LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
MICHAEL E. SUGGS
JAN P. VESCOVI**

ABSENT

**JOAN S. GAUSE
TERRENCE T. HARDEE, JR.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Lewis Hardee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harrelson.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Clerk Amanda F. Causey.

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.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Harrelson stated that Scott Montgomery of McLeod advised the Loris facility is under normal operations and the COVID cases continue to decrease.

Advised that the playground at Watson Park has been installed.

Mayor Harrelson read a statement pertaining to the post card that was anonymously mailed to the citizens of Loris pertaining to the intent to defund the police department. – attached

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Recreation:

Mr. Ford Stater advised that football and cheer practice have started. Advised that there are 51 cheerleaders and just over 100 football players signed up. Advised that all home games will be played on the Loris High School field.

Advised that the PARD Grants have been used to install the playgrounds at Watson Park and Heniford.

Advised that the department received the 2020 SCRPA Programming Excellence Award.

Public Works:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised the RIA Grant application has been submitted. Advised that the department has done an excellent job. Advised that during the most recent rain the alarms did not go off at the pump station.

Code Enforcement:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that single family permits were continuing to be issued. Mr. Harrelson provided confirmation that tax revenues from the new construction would not be impacting the general fund budget until the following year.

Administration:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that the financial reports were not attached due to some of the previous year's budgetary items carrying over. Advised that Nicholson has been contacted to attempt to correct the issues.

Advised that set off debt letters have gone out. Advised the water sewer setoff debt recoveries will be much less because most of the social security numbers did not transfer during the Nicholson conversion.

Police Department:

Chief Gary Buley addressed the post card pertaining to the defunding of the police department by stating that there is an open-door policy and there are many ways to constructively make a difference. Also provided condolences to the Myrtle Beach Police Department for the loss of an officer.

Fire Department:

Chief Jerry Hardee advised the new apparatus was on track for a November or December completion date. Advised new fire hose has been ordered.

BUSINESS:

- A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE CRIMINAL ORDINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Padgett advised that the Public Safety Committee was awaiting additional information and could not provide any recommendations at this time.

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 10-20, AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO MANUFACTURED HOMES

Attorney Moss advised that a copy of the proposed ordinance was attached. Advised an amendment has been made to sections 3-2 and 3-4 to incorporate a mobile home park. Advised that if Council decides to go forward the tables would have to be rewritten to include the mobile home parks.

Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that the tables had been created.

Councilman Suggs asked if the draft that was included in the packet was the same as what was being proposed. Attorney Moss advised it was the same and had been modified to ordinance form. Also added that an amendment to Section 1-1 to include mobile home park and section 1-2 to include the definition of mobile home park.

Councilman Padgett advised that he agreed to first reading with some changes to be made in section 3-4 that reference setbacks prior to the second reading.

Attorney Moss advised that existing mobile home parks would be exempt to the new requirements as they were grandfathered.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to approve Ordinance 10-20, AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO MANUFACTURED HOMES, seconded by Councilman Lewis Hardee. All members voted favorably.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

Ashley Holligan asked when the citizens of Loris could expect the vacant police positions advertised to be filled. Attorney Moss advised that two officers had already been hired and were in the academy.

Tara Salvator asked why less than a year ago there were three officers on duty but now only one. Councilman Lewis Hardee advised this was previously discussed.

Tammy Sims advised that from her understanding there are 10 officers that include the SRO, Lieutenant, Chief, and Detective. That leaves only 6 officers available to patrol. Mayor Harrelson advised that she was correct. Also advised that there are two trainees that are currently in the academy. Ms. Sims requested clarification as to the budget allowing for 12 officers. She asked if two additional would be hired. Ms. Sims stated that the budget allowed for 8 patrol and we have 6.

Mr. Brandon Harrelson reviewed all the comments and summarized that citizens wanted to know when the two positions that recently became vacant would be filled.

Mayor Harrelson advised the two positions were in the budget. Also advised that based on his conversations with the chief the job could be done sufficiently but it is always nice to have more officers. Councilman Padgett advised that the city must have money to pay them. Mayor Harrelson advised that the city would have to get the tax base up before hiring more officers. Ms. Sims agreed and advised that she agreed to do whatever necessary to get more police officers. An unknown citizen advised that he was not in agreement with the increasing of taxes.

Jen Boyd, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune requested to meet with Brandon Harrelson, Mayor Harrelson, and Chief Buley.

Ian with My Horry News asked what was added to Watson Park and the associated cost. Mr. Slater advised that the PARD Grant totaling \$21,000 was used to purchase the equipment. Advised the playground was a large model consisting of two slides, climbing poles, and sound making attachments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Padgett made a motion to enter executive session for personnel and contractual matters, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi at 6:47 PM.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vescovi to return from executive session, seconded by Councilman Padgett at 9:05 PM.

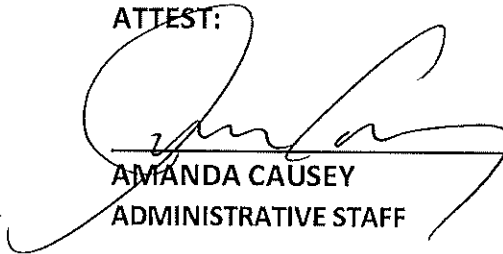
Mayor Harrelson advised that no action was taken.

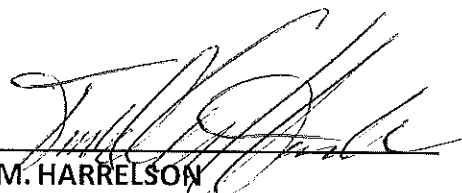
Mr. Brandon Harrelson announced that he provided Mayor Harrelson his resignation on September 28, 2020. Advised that it was a difficult decision, but he had to do what was best for his family. Advised that he was grateful for the City of Loris.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis Hardee, seconded by Councilman Suggs to adjourn. All Members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 P.M.

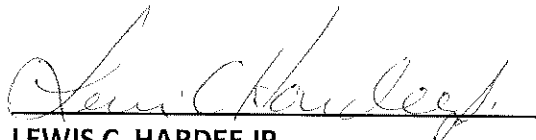
ATTEST:


AMANDA CAUSEY
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

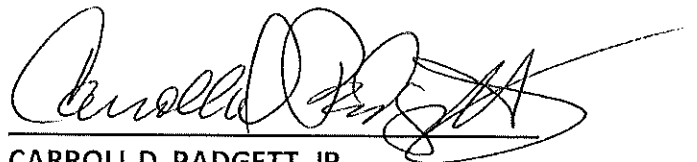

TODD M. HARRELSON
MAYOR

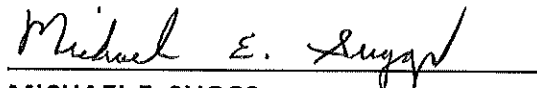
LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS


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