

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
RESCHEDULED FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2026
DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 9, 2026.

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 City Clerk Price.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. JANUARY 5, 2026 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of January 5, 2026, regular city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilman Padgett, to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026, regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Suggs reported the following:

Mayor Suggs began his report by thanking the Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments for keeping services running and keeping everyone safe during last week's snowstorm. The city survived the bitter cold without any major issues.

Mayor Suggs represented the city at the annual meeting of the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation on January 8th. The meeting was held in North Myrtle Beach with Chuck Sexton, CEO of Strategic Location Services, giving the Keynote address. The topics of his address were factors industries and businesses look for when choosing locations. Sandy Davis, CEO and President of Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation also gave a year-end review of 2025.

Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation's Industry Awareness class visited the Loris area on January 28th and toured several local industries. Mayor Suggs welcomed the class to Loris and McLeod Loris Hospital provided lunch for them.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College, the Horry County School District, our local schools and McLeod Health held a meeting at the hospital on January 28th to further discuss a possible learning center or campus in the Loris area. Horry County Council members Danny Hardee and Mark Causey along with Mayor Suggs were in attendance. The college is still seeking community input and Mayor Suggs encouraged citizens to complete any future surveys that may be received from Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

The City of North Myrtle Beach will be hosting the Horry County League of Cities Meeting on February 19th at 6:00 pm. Any council member interested in attending please contact city clerk, Melinda Price or Mayor Suggs by Thursday, February 12th.

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Thursday, February 19th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Administrator Neighbours and Mayor Suggs will be meeting with citizens here at city hall. Citizens are invited to stop by with any questions, input, or just to say hello.

Councilman Padgett will be participating in a community worship and musical program. This event will be presented by Reclaim Ministries and Mayor Suggs asked Councilman Padgett to provide us more details about the program.

Councilman Padgett gave details on the Evening of Worship Event coming up that will highlight events from the life of Jesus Christ. There will be two presentations, one being at the Tabor City Baptist Church on February 22nd at 6:30 pm with the other presentation being held on March 1, 2026 at Loris Presbyterian Church at 6:30 pm. Councilman Padgett encouraged everyone to attend at least one of the events. The events will be also be broadcast on YouTube.

Mayor Suggs congratulated the city's planning and zoning director, Meredith Holmes, on being chosen as one of B2B Grand Strand's 50 Most Influential People of 2025. Ms. Holmes was recently recognized at an awards ceremony for her contributions to the Greater Grand Strand community.

Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris apologized that she was unable to attend the last meeting. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and informed everyone that the Chamber of Commerce had to reschedule their annual board of directors planning meeting from January 31, 2025, due to inclement weather. Samantha stated that she is excited about the coming year and hopes to be able to inform everyone at the next meeting of some new events as well as traditional events coming in 2026.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Neighbours reported that the sewer line manhole replacement project is in Phase 3 and should be completed by June 30th. The auditor has been here working on the 2025 audit, and upon completion, the city will be current on our audits. Administrator Neighbours gave an update on the final two Hurricane Florence FEMA projects that she is working to close out. Administrator Neighbours stated one of the projects had been funded but never started, however, another project had been completed but receipts were never submitted for payment. The difference between the two projects will be \$12,968.00. A check will be submitted to FEMA in that amount, and all projects will then be completed and closed out. All the FEMA projects were during 2019 -2021 which fell under the previous administration.

C. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS:

1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes presented her statistical report which was not included in the packet. Ms. Holmes stated that

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the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting which was scheduled for February 10, 2026 has been cancelled as there were no pending agenda items.

2. FIRE – Fire Marshall Robert Rudelitch was not present at the meeting, however he did have a written report included in the agenda packet for council.

3. POLICE –Lt. Larry Williams reported that he did not have a written report due to the cities merging with the Horry County reporting system and some technical issues relating to the new system. These technical issues have now been resolved, and reports should be available next month. Lt. Williams reported that jury trials have been scheduled and the case load backlog has been reduced with the docket going from 26 pages to 15 pages. A lot of training has taken place in the last three months from FBI supervisor training to basic drug training and basic detective training. The police department received two new trucks at the beginning of February and are expecting three police interceptor utility vehicles by the end of March or beginning of April. Lt. Williams did request a Public Safety Committee meeting to go over some ordinances for clarification and possible updates.

4. PUBLIC WORKS – Administrator Neighbours reported the Public Works in her administrator's report earlier in the meeting.

5. RECREATION – Recreation Director Woody Hinson presented his report. The last home recreation league basketball game will be held on Saturday. They will begin getting the fields ready for t-ball, baseball and softball. Mr. Hinson reported that they did need more players interested in softball and urged everyone to ask potential players to sign up. The recreation department hosted an umpire and referee clinic and hope to recruit new people interested in these positions.

BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION 01-26 A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING LORIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH GREG MANCE AND THE 2025 LORIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM.

Mayor Suggs read Resolution 01-26 in its entirety. The Resolution congratulated the 2025 Loris Lions football team for their outstanding undefeated regular football season and its second consecutive appearance in the Lower State 3-A Championship game. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to approve the resolution. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed. The Resolution was presented to Head Coach Greg Mance by Mayor Suggs. Coach Mance was accompanied by Principal Jimmy McCullough, Assistant Principal Eric Caputo and Athletic Director Brandon Day. Coach Mance, Principal McCullough and Athletic Director Day spoke after accepting the resolution honoring the 2025 Loris Lions team. Principal McCullough thanked the teachers and staff of Loris High School for all their support as well as the community.

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B. DISCUSSION OF MINOR AMENDMENTS TO WATSON PARK MEETING ROOM RENTAL AGREEMENT.

There were two changes made to the Watson Park Meeting Room Rental Agreement. Attorney Zilinsky went over the two changes to the agreement. The hours that events may be held at the park were changed to 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. The original hours were from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. The City Administrator was added to the agreement as an additional city official to have the right to shut down an event if any rules and/or regulations are not adhered to. Attorney Zilinsky brought this to council as information as an administrative change to the rental agreement which did not require a vote of council.

C. UPDATE REGARDING SC FORESTRY COMMISSION/US FORESTRY SERVICE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT

Mayor Suggs stated that the city's fire department had been awarded a SC Forestry Commission/US Forestry Service Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. He gave details on the grant including that it is a 50/50 matching grant which requires the city to contribute an amount equal to the grant funding. The grant amount is approximately \$9,000.00, and the city's share will be a little less than \$4,500.00. The grant will assist in purchasing new personal protective gear for the firemen and other items.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

Neil Johnson 333 Bush Drive Myrtle Beach SC addressed council. Mr. Johnson is a developer for Silver Oak Cottages a proposed subdivision located along North Cox Road. Mr. Johnson expressed his dissatisfaction with the length of time it is taking for him to get his housing development started and believes the delays are within the city's planning department. Mr. Johnson requested a meeting to work out a solution to the issues he brought before council. Mayor Suggs stated that, until Mr. Johnson's public comments, he was unaware of any issues regarding the project. Mr. Johnson acknowledged that he had not contacted the Mayor prior to his comments. Mayor Suggs requested that Administrator Neighbours and Attorney Zilinsky arrange a meeting as soon as possible with Mr. Johnson to discuss the issues. Administrator Neighbours, and Mr. Johnson exchanged contact information and agreed to meet regarding the matter.

Candice Grella, of 3208 Main Street Loris S.C., presented a proposal requesting a 10 foot x 10 foot area in downtown to locate a native plant garden for the residents of Loris to enjoy. Ms. Grella stated that she would plant and maintain the area herself at no cost to the city. Ms. Grella also requested that more parking spaces be designated downtown for parking. Ms. Grella stated that the area is there, however the lines are not painted for clarity. Ms. Grella stated that it would be minimal cost to have lines added in areas for parking.

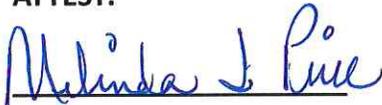
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no matters to discuss in executive session.

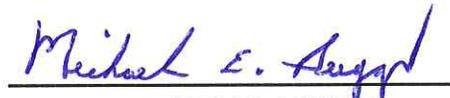
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to adjourn the regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

ATTEST:



MELINDA T. PRICE
CITY CLERK



MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR



ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL



JOAN S. GAUSE, COUNCIL



KELLI D. GERALD, COUNCIL



LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR., COUNCIL



CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR., COUNCIL



TONYA F. SYKES, COUNCIL