

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY MARCH 2, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

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, March 2, 2026.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. FEBRUARY 9, 2026 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the February 9, 2026, regular city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 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 met with the President, Jeff Bonnema, and other officials of Revitalize Mixers on Wednesday, February 11th. Revitalize Mixers is a new industry located on Highway 701 S which restores cement mixer trucks. Mayor Suggs was given a tour of the Loris facility on his visit. Revitalize Mixers also has a facility in Hobart, Indiana.

Charles Richburg of Jordan Waste LLC stopped by on Tuesday, February 18th to present their annual contribution to assist the recreation department. Mayor Suggs accepted the check and thanked Jordan Waste for their support.

Morning with the Mayor & City Administrator was held Thursday, February 19th here at city hall. Several residents stopped by to visit us and our department heads.

Anna Strickland from Santee Cooper met with Mayor Suggs and Administrator Neighbours Thursday, February 19th to discuss ways to assist the city in future projects. Ms. Strickland also presented the city with its annual franchise check on her visit.

Mayor Suggs and Councilman Hardee represented the city at Horry County League of Cities on February 19th at the North Myrtle Beach Museum. Several presentations were given by the Family Justice Center's Domestic Violence Shelter and the Horry County Solid Waste Authority.

Mayor Suggs attended The Loris Chamber of Commerce quarterly members meeting on Tuesday February 24th. The event was held in the new Chambers location. Chamber Executive Director Samantha Norris informed all in attendance of the chamber sponsored events coming up this year.

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Reclaim Ministries presented an evening of worship at Loris Presbyterian Church. The event was held on Sunday, March 1st with many in attendance.

Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris announced that the chamber held their annual meeting last week. She reported that the chamber office is officially in its new location and would like to invite everyone to stop by and see the new office. The Chamber of Commerce has numerous events scheduled this year, and Samantha provided a list of those events. Samantha specifically mentioned two events coming up, which are a tour of local industries and Christmas in July which will be a brand-new event this year including a parade downtown. It is scheduled for July 25th.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Neighbours requested that a public safety committee meeting and recreation committee meeting be held to discuss some follow-up items from previous meetings.

C. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS:

1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes stated that she did not have a statistical report for this month, and her other items would be discussed later in the meeting.

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 –Chief Bulley reported that there are still issues with getting monthly reports due to the new computer reporting system now being used by all county and municipal agencies within Horry County. Chief Buley hopes the technical issues will be corrected soon. He was proud to report that Loris Police Department had a case clearance rate of 81.71% for 2025. Officer Kary Showers was recognized as officer of the month by the 15th Judicial Circuit Community Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee which was an honor for the department. The department is also expecting much-needed new vehicles between March 18th and March 20th.

4. PUBLIC WORKS – No written or verbal report.

5. RECREATION – Recreation Director Woody Hinson reported that Loris 12U basketball team won the District championship and will be competing for the State championship Saturday March 7th. Baseball, T-ball and softball registration will wrap up this week. Mr. Hinson also announced that they are looking for sponsorships for 2026 anyone interested or knows of anyone interested please contact him at the recreation department.

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BUSINESS:

A. PRESENTATION BY EDWIN H. MARR ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY REGARDING PROPOSED LANDFILL EXPANSION PROJECT.

Mr. Edwin H. Marr, Assistant Executive Director of the Horry County Solid Waste Authority, presented a proposal for a landfill expansion project. Mr. Marr is hoping to get council's support for this needed expansion. Mr. Marr reported that the current landfill will reach capacity by 2029 and 2051. If the proposed expansion is approved, it could mean that Horry County will be covered by available landfill capacity through 2068. If the proposal does not pass, waste may have to be hauled 150 to 200 miles to be disposed of at other landfills, meaning citizens would have to pay more in garbage fees. Councilman Hardee urged everyone to go out to see what all goes on at the landfill and to observe the lengths they go to make sure everything is disposed of correctly.

B. RESOLUTION 02-26 A RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR THE HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY TO EXPAND LANDFILL CAPACITY FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF LORIS.

Mayor Suggs stated that the next item was the Resolution 02-26 recognizing the need for the expansion of the Horry County landfill. He stated that action on the Resolution was up to council. If council felt comfortable with the presentation from the Solid Waste Authority regarding the needed expansion, that a vote could be taken to approve the Resolution. However, if council felt additional information was needed or additional time was needed to review the documents referenced in the presentation, then the proper action would be to defer the resolution to a future meeting. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to defer the Resolution until a later date. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably except Councilman Hardee who opposed. Motion Passed.

C. RECEIVE PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: RE: REZONING REQUEST FOR 0.56 LEGAL ACRES LOCATED ON THE NORTHEASTERN SIDE OF SANDERSON STREET (S26-61). [PIN: 176-15-03-0038] (MISHOE J R ETAL, OWNERS)

Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes described the details to council regarding the property being requested to be rezoned. The request is to go from R-1.4 to R-1.5. The next step will be a public hearing. Council received the report as information, and no action was taken on the item by council.

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D. DISCUSS UPDATING AND RE-CODIFICATION OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF LORIS.

Mayor Suggs and Attorney Zilinsky explained that re-codification of the code of ordinances for the city of Loris had not been done since 1995. Attorney Zilinsky expressed that it was vital to have an updated code of ordinances so that they are easily available to city staff and citizens. After discussion, it was decided that bids would be taken to have the re-codification of the city ordinances done and upon evaluating the proposals, established a time-line for the next re-codification to take place.

E. CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ON THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION.

There is one vacancy on the Planning Commission due to the passing of Ruth Ann Jones. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to appoint Antonio Boyd to replace Ruth Ann Jones for the remainder of a term expiring June 30, 2027, on the Planning Commission. Mr. Boyd currently serves on the Board of Zoning Appeals and earlier expressed a desire to serve on the Planning Commission. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

F. CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERMS ON THE CITY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.

Due to Antonio Boyd being moved over to the Planning Commission three vacancies needed to be filled on the Board of Zoning Appeals. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman, to appoint Frances Dimaggio to fill Antonio Boyd's unexpired term on the Board of Zoning Appeals which ends June 30, 2027. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Coleman, seconded by Councilman Hardee, to appoint Kevin Braswell to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Zoning Appeals ending June 30, 2027. This vacancy was created due to the resignation of Charles "Cobi" Williams. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilman Hardee, to appoint Robert Greco to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Zoning Appeals ending June 30, 2028. This vacancy was created due to the resignation of William Youmans, Jr. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

Pamela Gilbert 1327 Clearview Court, Loris SC. Ms. Gilbert wanted to ask for support from council on approaching the state legislature regarding high electric bills. Ms. Gilbert stated that she was representing about 600 individuals in hopes of getting suggestions on how to get some relief from what are viewed by some as outrageously high bills. Ms. Gilbert said she had already reached out to Horry Electric and Santee Cooper and any suggestions from council would be appreciated. Ms. Gilbert stated that Administrator Neighbours spoke with her before the meeting and had given her some options to explore. Ms. Gilbert was provided with Ms. Neighbours email for future discussion.

Candice Grella 3208 Main Street, Loris SC. Ms. Grella had proposed for a 10x10 area to plant a native plant & carnivorous garden for the residents of Loris to enjoy at the last meeting. Ms. Grella stated that she had not heard back on the proposal and wanted to follow up. Mayor Suggs expressed that he thought the idea of a garden was not a bad idea but more discussion and planning would be necessary. Ms. Grella verified that she would plant and maintain the area herself at no cost to the city. Councilman Padgett stated that the area originally proposed by Ms. Grella was not owned by the city. Ms. Grella also wanted to follow up regarding her idea about marking more parking spaces downtown. Mayor Suggs stated that a more in-depth discussion would have to take place regarding the parking space issue because SCDOT would be involved. Ms. Grella also thanked council for asking questions about the SWA expansion and urged them to research it before supporting it.

Todd Harrelson PO Box 365, Loris SC. Mr. Harrelson wanted to voice his frustration with the damage that had been done to his and other owners' property during the city's sewer project. Mr. Harrelson had already spoken to Administrator Neighbours, and she had assured him that all damage would be fixed and all property would be as it was before the project began. Mr. Harrelson said that he would like the repairs to be done sooner rather than later.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Suggs stated that one contractual matter needed to be discussed in executive session. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to enter executive session to discuss the contractual matter. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 7:09 pm.

Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman Hardee to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council reconvened in open session at 7:40 pm.

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Mayor Suggs announced that in executive session Council got an update on a contractual matter, however no action or votes were taken in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilman Hardee, to adjourn the regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.

ATTEST:



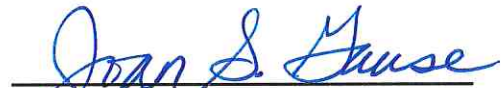
**MELINDA T. PRICE
CITY CLERK**



MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR



ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL



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