

**MINUTES OF  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY APRIL 06, 2026 – 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>LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.</b>
		<b>CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.</b>
		<b>TONYA F. SKYES</b>
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>ANGEL R NEIGHBOURS</b>
	<b>CLERK</b>	<b>MELINDA T. PRICE</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 pm on Monday, April 06, 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 Clerk Price.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

### **A. MARCH 2, 2026 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of March 2, 2026, regular city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2026, regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

### **B. MARCH 19, 2026 – SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The minutes of March 19, 2026, special city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026, special city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Mayor Suggs reported the following:

Lions International is a worldwide service club whose motto is "We Serve" and they are committed to helping local communities. We have a newly organized Loris Regional Lions Club which had their presentation ceremony on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to having them in our community.

A community forum will be held Tuesday , April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm at Santino's Pizza. Santee Cooper and Horry Electric will be in attendance to explain the peak hour rate adjustment, why it is implemented, and the strategies to reduce energy usage to lower power bills. Everyone is invited to attend.

Mayor Suggs and Fire Chief Hardee attended a meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the county emergency room preparedness center with Horry County Officials. The main topic was about the advancing radio technology and how departments are addressing the constant need to upgrade communication equipment. The city should be able to remain technologically current for the future by working with the county as they upgrade equipment.

During our March council meeting city code updating was discussed. We have had two companies' express interest in the project, Civic Plus and International Code Council Innovation.

April 06, 2026

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

A video meeting was scheduled with Civic Plus, however, because of a personal conflict the meeting has been rescheduled by Mr. Marcy representing Civic Plus. International Code Council Innovation has requested to review our current code and number of ordinances added since our last codification before making a proposal on the project according to Mr. Strickland, ICC's representative. Both companies have worked with cities within Horry County.

Loris Volunteer Fire Department received the 2025 Fire Safe South Community Designation. This designation displays the department's powerful fire safety and risk reduction programs. Our community is safer because of these programs. The official award presentation will be held in June. Robert Rudelitch, our City Fire Marshal, will give more details on this later in the meeting.

Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris was not in attendance.

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

Administrator Neighbours reported that the Oak Trees have been trimmed and the buildings downtown are more visible now. A plan is in place for the Elm Trees and Crepe Myrtles to be trimmed in the fall. Ms. Neighbours informed council that a pard grant for Watson Park has been approved and quotes are being taken to replace basketball goals and playground equipment, we should have all quotes in by the end of April. The project will be approximately \$40,000.00. Also, the flags that were discussed at the last meeting have been ordered and should be displayed soon.

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

**1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING** – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes stated that she has statistical reports for February and March which has been given to council. One significant item is that we received comments back from FEMA on our Multi-Jurisdictional Hazzard Mitigation Plan that we have been working on with the county. There are a few revisions to be made through several jurisdictions which are underway. Ms. Neighbours and Ms. Holmes briefed council on a Flood Mitigation Grant Application that would implement drainage improvements in the upper Pleasant Meadow Branches. Engineers did studies back in 1991 and 1999 on what drainage work would need to be done to improve the flooding. This project would be completed in three phases if the grant is approved. Mayor Suggs questioned rather engineering costs would be included in the grant. Ms. Neighbours stated that it could be used as our match for the grant and let the grant pay for materials and construction.

**2. FIRE** – Fire Marshall Robert Rudelitch presented some highlights of his written report to council. Mr. Rudelitch stated that the award presentation for the 2025 Fire Safe South Carolina Community Designation will be held in June at the City's Firefighters Associations Annual Conference. This is the second year in which the Loris Volunteer Fire Department has received this designation. Mr. Rudelitch thanked the partnership of the Chamber of Commerce, The City,

April 06, 2026

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

American Red Cross and the County Retrodiction Team in receiving this honor. We are pleased that we have received our new US Department of Interior funded skid unit for Brush 425 which was delivered on March 31, 2026.

**3. POLICE** – No written or verbal report.

**4. PUBLIC WORKS** – Administrator Neighbours reported that the public works department have been doing hydrant and value testing. Ms. Neighbours also stated that they have been cleaning out the public works building and the surrounding grounds for possible storage. Pipe upgrading research is also underway for future work.

**5. RECREATION** – No written or verbal report.

**BUSINESS:**

**A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 01-26: AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT TO SELL AND PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LORIS, SO AS TO CONVEY 5.75 ACRES ± OWNED BY THE CITY OF LORIS TO HORRY COUNTY, A BODY POLITIC, SAID PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 186-00-00-0024 (PORTION), AND THE PURCHASE PRICE BEING THREE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$315,000.00)**

Clerk Price read Ordinance 01-26 by title only. Attorney Zilinsky added that Horry County pays for the survey after the contract is signed and they will not extend any money until then, however the city has approval authority over the plat. There is going to be approximately 5.75 acres. There will be a contract addendum that incorporates that plat as exhibit "A" into the contract and before that addendum can be signed council will have to pass it by resolution. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to approve second reading on Ordinance 01-26. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

**B. DISCUSS POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF NEW KNUCKLEBOOM LOADER TRUCK FOR STREET DEPARTMENT LEAF AND LIMB PICK UP.**

Mayor Suggs explained that we have had several issues with the knuckle boom loader truck that is used to pick up leaf and limb debris over the last several months. It has become time to think about buying a replacement truck. City Administrator, Ms. Neighbours, has been researching available truck options, however Attorney Zilinsky suggested that a notice also be placed on the city's website for proposals of any other options over a 15-day period. After the 15-day notice, then the proposals will be brought back before council for consideration. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to authorize Ms. Neighbours and Attorney Zilinsky to move forward with request for proposals on a new knuckle boom loader truck for leaf and limb debris pick up. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

April 06, 2026

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

**PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:**

No one from the public signed up to speak and no one was in attendance from the press.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Suggs stated that one contractual matter needed to be discussed in executive session. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes, to enter executive session to discuss the contractual matter. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 6:23 pm.

Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council reconvened in open session at 6:35 pm.

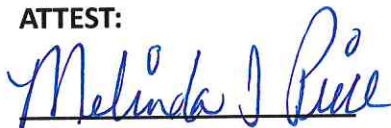
Mayor Suggs announced that in executive session Council got an update on a contractual matter, however no action or votes were taken in executive session.

Councilman Padgett had two informational items to share before adjournment. The first item being that the state is trying to increase the property homestead tax exemption for people over 65 up to \$150,000.00. The second item being the State House considers modernizing the SCDOT, shifting responsibility for some roads to local governments however the City does not have any roads to which they would be responsible.

**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 6:37 pm.

ATTEST:



MELINDA T. PRICE  
CITY CLERK



MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR



ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL

April 06, 2026

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

  
JOAN S. GAUSE, COUNCIL

  
KELLI D. GERALD, COUNCIL

  
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR., COUNCIL

  
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR., COUNCIL

  
TONYA F. SYKES, COUNCIL