

**MINUTES OF
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY MARCH 19, 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 Thursday, March 19, 2026.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Padgett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Clerk Price

BUSINESS:

A. 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 gave a brief description of the property that is proposed to be sold to Horry County and how the process regarding the sale would be handled. The property is a portion of the old Loris High School Campus and is approximately 5.75 acres with road frontage on McQueen Street and Bryant Street. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to accept Ordinance 01-26 on first reading. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

B. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF EXPENDITURE OF HOSPITALITY TAX FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEASONAL DECORATIONS FOR DOWNTOWN.

Administrator Neighbours presented to council her ideas on making downtown brighter and more appealing by purchasing several new holiday/seasonal decorations. Ms. Neighbours requested \$35,000.00 dollars from the hospitality fund to cover the cost. Council was informed that it had been confirmed by the city's outside auditor that this purchase could be funded by hospitality funds. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to appropriate the funds from the hospitality account in the amount of \$35,000.00 to purchase holiday/seasonal decorations to be placed downtown. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

C. REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR DOWNTOWN TREE TRIMMING.

Administrator Neighbours briefed Council on the facts that tree trimming and care of the trees in the downtown area has not been done properly in a number of years. Ms. Neighbours specified the types and number of trees in need of trimming. Ms. Neighbours had solicited bids/proposals regarding the tree trimming and recommended that council accept the bid received from Mr. D's Tree & Landscaping Service LLC in the amount of \$13,500.00. The owner of Mr. D's Tree Service is a certified arborist and will trim and shape the trees to allow them to grow properly, will remove the old Christmas lights that are still hanging in some of the trees and clean up and haul all debris away from the city. A portion of the tree trimming expense may be an allowable hospitality fund expenditure. Administrator Neighbours stated that she would double-check with auditor on the funding sources; however, the City has sufficient funds available for this project if it is determined that hospitality funds cannot be used. A motion was made by Councilman Pagett, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to accept the bid from Mr.

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D's Tree Service & Landscaping LLC for the tree trimming project. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

No one from the Public signed up to speak at this meeting. Annie Rigby was in attendance representing The Loris Times but had no questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Suggs stated that a personnel matter and a contractual matter needed to be discussed in executive session. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to enter executive session to discuss the personnel matter and contractual matter. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 6:22 pm.


Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilman Padgett to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Council reconvened in open session at 6:54 pm.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to adjourn the special city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

ATTEST:



MELINDA T. PRICE
CITY CLERK



MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR

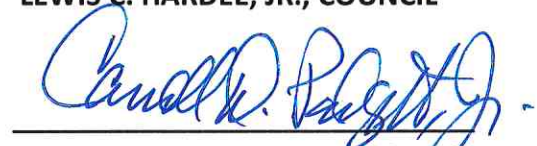


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