

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025
6:00 PM**

PRESENT

MAYOR

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

COUNCIL

**ANDREA L. COLEMAN
JOAN S. GAUSE
KELLI GERALD
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
TONYA F. SYKES**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, March 3, 2025.

INVOCATION:

Councilwoman Gause gave the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

ROLL CALL:

Clerk Graham called the roll.

MINUTES:

- A. FEBRUARY 3, 2025, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:** The minutes of the February 3, 2025 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 February 3, 2025, regular council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. MAYORS'S REPORT:

Mayor Suggs said that the League of Cities meeting was held on February 12, 2025, in Atlantic Beach. He thanked the council members that attended. He was unable to be there. Demolition continues at the old Loris High School. The RIDE III projects on Highway 9 and Highway 701 should be completed by the end of the year. Mayor Suggs reminded council members that Statements of Economic Interest are due by the end of the month. Habitat for Humanity will hold a groundbreaking on March 5, 2025, for the new house they are building on Harrelson Avenue. Mayor Suggs congratulated the Loris High School men's basketball team for their appearance in the 3-A Lower State Championship game. The Lions fell to Keenan High School by three points. The Loris 10U basketball team qualified for the State Championship tournament. They will be playing in Beaufort beginning March 8, 2025. The city has provided financial support for the team's travel.

Samantha Norris, Executive Director of the Loris Chamber of Commerce, was not present at the meeting, but she asked Mayor Suggs to remind everyone of the Lion's Roar Block Party on March 15, 2025, from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. The success of athletic teams from Loris High School and Loris Recreation will be recognized at the event.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- 1. FEBRUARY MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT:** Administrator Young said that the February monthly report was in the Council packet. Work on the budget for the next fiscal year will begin soon. Administrator Young provided an outline of the budget process in council packets. He plans to schedule a budget workshop in the next couple of weeks. He also stated that he has applied for three grants.
- 2. OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:** Administrator Young said that the gym was being taken down. The demolition of the main building would start in a couple of weeks.

C. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS: Written reports from each Department Head were provided in the Council packet. Additional information was provided as follows:

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Meredith Holmes said that the Code Enforcement Department has been busy. Sixty-eight inspections were completed in February. They have several projects that they are working on currently. The Hazard Mitigation project will be a year long project.
2. **FIRE:** Chief Hardee said that all area departments assisted with the Carolina Forest fires. The LFD continues the smoke detector program. They will be adding carbon monoxide detectors as a service provided by the department. The State Fire Marshall will provide carbon monoxide detectors, and the LFD will install them for Loris residents upon request.
3. **POLICE**
4. **PUBLIC WORKS**
5. **RECREATION**

BUSINESS

1. **RESOLUTION 02-25: A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING W. PAUL PRINCE FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LORIS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Mayor Suggs stated that W. Paul Prince has served the Loris Fire Department for 60 years as a volunteer firefighter and chaplain. He thanked Mr. Prince for years of service to the citizens of Loris and Horry County and asked council to approve the resolution of congratulations for firefighter Prince. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilman Hardee to approve the resolution. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed. Mayor Suggs said that the resolution would be presented to W. Paul Prince at a fire department meeting later in the month.
2. **AUTHORIZATION OF THE FINAL PAYMENT FOR THE OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY, PER THE AGREEMENT:** Mayor Suggs stated that per the purchase agreement, it was time to make the final payment for the old Loris High School property. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes to authorize the final payment for the old Loris High School property. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

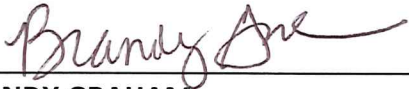
PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

1. **Carletta Melvin (Dewitt Street)**- Ms. Melvin stated that she has lived on Dewitt Street for 60 years. Water and Sewer has caused a problem with how she pays her bills. There are problems with the system and recent bills have been higher than a single senior citizen should use. She has many concerns and has made many observations. She asked how many meter readers the city has on staff and how many are certified. She said that the sewage pipes on Dewitt Street are too small. There has been an issue with the pipes since the snow.
2. **Lori Suggs (Buck Creek Foundation)**- Mrs. Suggs stated that she wanted to address two issues. She has lived in Loris her entire life. She has issues due to the alleged embezzlement of funds from Buck Creek Foundation. In four months, the organization has been crippled. Buck Creek Foundation and Giving hope Gardens provides a place for young adults with special needs to work and interact. The alleged embezzlement affected them more than the bank account, it affected their lives. A jury trial was requested by the defendant for the single charge filed in the City of Loris. She has asked repeatedly for an update on the trial and has had no response.

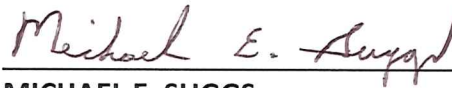
ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to adjourn. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

ATTEST:



BRANDY GRAHAM
CLERK



MICHAEL E. SUGGS
MAYOR



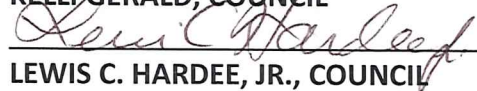
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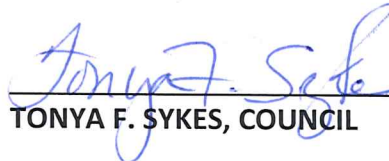
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