

**MINUTES OF  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
MAY 10, 2022 – 6:00 PM**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>TODD M. HARRELSON</b>
	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>JOAN GAUSE LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR. ANDREA L. COLEMAN CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR. MICHAEL E. SUGGS</b>
<b>ABSENT</b>		<b>JAN P. VESCOVI</b>

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Councilman Hardee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harrelson.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by Clerk Massey.

**FOIA:**

Notice of the meeting with an agenda was publicly posted, published, and forwarded to the media no less than 24 hours prior to commencement.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

### **A. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Mrs. Samantha Norris thanked the City for assistance in the Small-Town Big Show car show event on April 23, 2022, hosted by the Chamber. She stated that there was a total of 141 participants. Gause commented that a car show was held in Tabor City on the same day. Mrs. Norris responded that the Tabor City Chamber of Commerce held its Spring Has Sprung festival and added that the Loris Chamber of Commerce apologized for the overlap. She stated that subsequent communications with the Tabor City Chamber of Commerce yielded that next year Loris will host its car show on the third Saturday of April, while Tabor City's will be held on the fourth Saturday. Mrs. Norris advised Council that the Chamber's upcoming event will be on May 21, 2022, in observance of Memorial Day, and will include a golf cart parade at 10:00 am followed by a ceremony at the Courtyard on Main. She added that the Chamber has erected a banner at the Courtyard on Main and will be providing a garden box for the public to place artificial poppies in remembrance of lost loved ones; the public may visit various local businesses to obtain the poppies. Mrs. Norris relayed that Providing Hope VA has offered prize contributions for the best golf cart decoration.

### **B. MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT**

Mayor Harrelson relayed that McLeod advised no change since the previous meeting. He advised that he spoke with Ms. Christina Jackson regarding the McLeod's Jockeys for Juleps fundraiser that raised over \$100,000 for Seacoast Hospital.

### **C. COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR**

Mayor Harrelson advised that Coffee with the Mayor will be in the Community Room at City Hall beginning at 9:00 am on Thursday, May 12, 2022. He added that Loris High School Student Council is expected to attend, and District 10 Coffee has offered to provide coffee for this event.

### **D. EVENTS ATTENDED**

Mayor Harrelson stated that he attended the above-mentioned car show and relayed praises for its success. He added that he was delighted to attend the ribbon cutting for Hot Mama on May 6, 2022 and wished the new business much success. Mayor Harrelson advised that he attended a peer-mentor luncheon at the Academy for Technology and Academics in Conway, where the participants were recognized for their work at the school. He stated that the recently attended McLeod Fellows class was now finished. Mayor Harrelson stated that Loris High School held a peer-mentor scholarship meeting with school board members to award scholarships. He noted that Loris High School hosted a palooza event on the evening of Friday, May 6, 2022, with participation from the City and an alumni ball the following day. Mayor Harrelson was appreciative of the Loris High School principal's recognition of the Recreation Department regarding collaborative efforts concerning young sports programs. He advised that Mr. Ryan Hayes met to discuss ongoing grants for the City.

## **E. UPDATES FROM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Clerk Massey advised Council that he received a copy of the recent audit PowerPoint provided to Council and will forward it to Council along with the auditor's notes. For additional information, see the Administrator's Report below.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Administrator Young praised the success of the Chamber's recent car show. He advised Council that Ms. Carol Coleman from the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments met with him to provide information regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Master Plan studies, and of his meeting with various individuals to gather information regarding the detailed process for anticipated bid proposals. Administrator Young commented on the productivity of the recent Planning Commission Meeting. He relayed that Administration is diligently working on the completion of the pending audits and have made vast improvements. Administrator Young informed Council of recent discussions to converse with the Council of Governments on various topics, including matters needing to be addressed with the Zoning Board of Appeals; Attorney Moss added that this will allow for the opportunity for the City to address long-awaited matters. Administrator Young updated Council on the City's industrial park agreement.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **A. FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Administrator Young advised Council that the Committee met to discuss the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Councilwoman Gause added that Administration provided an abundance of information concerning the progression of drafting the proposed budget.

#### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Administrator Young stated that a meeting was not held since the previous council meeting.

#### **C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Administrator Young stated that a meeting was not held since the previous council meeting.

#### **D. RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Administrator Young stated that a meeting was not held since the previous council meeting.

#### **E. BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Administrator Young stated that a meeting was not held since the previous council meeting.

## **F. PLANNING, ANNEXATION, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Details of the Committee's meeting are included in the Administrator's Report. Councilman Padgett relayed that he was impressed with the presentation by Ms. Carol Coleman of the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and foresaw positive results from the organization concerning the future of the City of Loris. He added that he was eager to receive Ms. Coleman's presentation for further review in comparison to the City's current plan.

## **BUSINESS:**

### **A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 01-22, AN ORDINANCE OF ANNEXATION**

Motion made by Councilman Hardee to annex parcel(s) identified as 185-07-03-0002 and 185-10-01-0004 into the City of Loris with a zoning designation of R-1.4; Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All members voted in favor of the annexation; the Motion passed.

### **B. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 02-22, AN ORDINANCE OF ANNEXATION**

Motion made by Councilman Padgett to annex parcel(s) identified as 186-08-02-0002 and 186-08-02-0008 into the City of Loris with a zoning designation of C-2; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor of the annexation; the Motion passed.

### **C. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 03-22, AN ORDINANCE OF ANNEXATION**

Motion made by Councilman Suggs to annex parcel(s) identified as 185-06-04-0002 into the City of Loris with a zoning designation of R-1.4; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor of the annexation; the Motion passed.

### **D. COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION**

Clerk Massey advised Council regarding the receipt of a landowner's request for annexation, with a zoning designation of R-1.7 for the purposes of residential development; and that the subject property is located along U.S. 701, being situated in the vicinity of the present Loris Motel. He added that the subject parcel is adjacent and contiguous to the present city limits of Loris. Clerk Massey noted that the requested zoning designation would be sufficient for the landowner's intended plans; however, he emphasized that no plans have been submitted and/or viewed by the City.

### **E. FY BUDGET 2022-2023 INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION**

Administrator Young provided Council with updated General Fund information for the current budget and advised that the proposed budget reflected an increase, primarily due to rate increases the City will incur to continue providing current city services [i.e., garbage/sanitation, water, sewer, etc.]. He added that most areas are aligned with the previously passed budget; however, inflation had created minor increases across the board. Administrator Young further discussed rate increases for services noted in the information provided. Councilman Padgett questioned whether the stated increases were based directly on costs the City will incur to

provide; Clerk Massey responded that the City will not receive an increase in marginal revenue and the stated increases only offset the costs incurred by the City. Clerk Massey added that the proposed increase to the water/sewer rates was calculated with the intention of maintaining fairness across the board.

Administrator Young advised Council that it appeared that Horry County's road fee tax would pass the South Carolina House and Senate; Clerk Massey added that would mean more than \$60,000 payable to the City. Administrator Young added that state legislators' approval of the local government funding indicates the City should receive the same amount of funding as the previous fiscal year, if not more. He noted that hospitality was faring well, as well as the projected surplus. Administrator Young advised that he placed Debt Service into its own fund to maintain separately. He stated that the proposed budget being discussed recommended allowing a portion of ARP funds to payoff leases for water/sewer, noting that the City is scheduled to receive the next installment of the ARP funds in September 2022. Administrator Young advised that he wishes to meet with Council to discuss overall planning. Councilman Hardee questioned what happens to the equipment being leased once the lease is satisfied; Administrator Young responded that the City would then own the equipment. Clerk Massey added that three of the machines in question had been in the City's possession for most of the life of the machine and would continue to be maintained in the same manner as prior to the payoff. Administrator Young noted that the proposed budget also allowed for a full-time position in the Planning & Zoning Department, as well as a vehicle; Clerk Massey added that was the largest budget increase with the exception of the Police Department.

Clerk Massey advised Council that the revenue portion of the proposed budget was separated to reflect the individual funds (i.e., the American Rescue Plan Fund, Hospitality Fund, etc.) and will improve various important accounting tasks when preparing for future audits. He further advised that Council would receive monthly reports for revenue and expenditure during the new fiscal year, which will provide the City's current standing within the budget. Councilman Suggs inquired about adding a line item to the budget for budget reserve funds; Administrator Young responded that they discussed the various methods of documenting the cash flow. Clerk Massey added that the cash fund balance was an expenditure and would carry over into the next fiscal year and further discussed methods for tracking the City's cash flow balance throughout the fiscal year. Administrator Young noted that Administration would have a better understanding of the cash flow balance once the prior-year audits were completed.

Councilman Suggs stated that in previous years Council received supplemental information for the budget (i.e., actual salaries, benefits, equipment, etc.) and inquired whether that information would be provided forthwith; Clerk Massey affirmed. Attorney Moss questioned whether the new software would allow the creation of users for Council to view the budget; Clerk Massey replied that would be possible.

**F. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 04-22, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023, ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

Administrator Young noted that he added a portion to the ordinance regarding tax anticipation to address future concerns and emphasized that Council would still be required to pass resolutions but would omit the need for two readings and a public hearing. Councilman Hardee inquired about a budget workshop; Clerk Massey responded that a workshop would be scheduled. Councilman Padgett added that he would like the department supervisors included in the workshop. This matter was tabled.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A. DISCUSSION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to enter Executive Session for discussion of personnel matters; Seconded by Councilman Padgett. All members voted in favor to enter Executive Session at 7:09 pm.

Motion made by Councilman Hardee to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All members voted in favor to exit Executive Session at 7:51 pm.

Mayor Harrelson stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**A. PUBLIC WORKS**

Clerk Massey advised that the relocation of utilities was currently underway and new fiber cable lines were being installed as part of the widening of U.S. 701.

**B. CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Clerk Massey advised Council that the department has been steadily busy within the city and indicated that the volume of work did not appear to be decreasing in the near future. He informed Council that Tractor Supply Company has been issued a permit for the construction of the new store. Mayor Harrelson inquired regarding Tractor Supply Company's plans for an announcement and/or a groundbreaking ceremony; Clerk Massey replied that the company had indicated that would be dependent upon the construction progress of the new store in Little River but was optimistic about providing an announcement in Fall 2022.

**C. RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Massey relayed a memorandum from Recreation Director Tim Zeltwanger to Council. He stated that the department's regular baseball and softball programs are currently ongoing, and Mr. Zeltwanger has been actively maintaining the concession stand and will continue to do so through the end of May. Clerk Massey relayed that the department has begun the process of

fulfilling the vacant full-time position and will relieve some of the department's heavy burden. He stated that the last tournament hosted was successful and each subsequent tournament continues to grow. He stated that students from Loris High School have been helpful in assisting with the concession stand. Clerk Massey noted that the next scheduled tournament will be Saturday, May 14, with approximately 19 teams. He stated that Coastal Carolina presented the Needs Assessment findings with Mr. Zeltwanger and Dr. Rocky has offered to also present the same to Council if desired. Clerk Massey emphasized that the PARD grant must be completed by May 31, 2022. Councilman Padgett stated that he would prefer the findings be presented before Council.

Clerk Massey relayed that Mr. Zeltwanger is currently in discussions with the Carolina Panthers for sponsoring a youth clinic. He advised that the fields would need to be standardized for this event. Mayor Harrelson commented on an athletic program sponsored by Major League Baseball that was arranged by a Coastal Carolina University intern the prior year and questioned whether Mr. Zeltwanger was aware; Clerk Massey affirmed and was optimistic that the department would again have interns from Coastal Carolina University.

**D. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Massey advised that Police Chief Gary Buley did not have any additional information to provide except the monthly statistics provided to Council.

**E. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Massey advised that Fire Chief Jerry Hardee did not have any additional information to provide except the monthly statistics provided to Council.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Councilman Hardee for adjournment; Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

**ATTEST:**

---

**TODD K. MASSEY, II**  
**CITY CLERK**

---

**TODD M. HARRELSON**  
**MAYOR**

**LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

---

**JOAN S. GAUSE**

---

**LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.**

---

**ANDREA L. COLEMAN**

---

**CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.**

---

**MICHAEL E. SUGGS**

---

**ABSENT**  
**JAN P. VESCOVI**