

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

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson at 6:00 pm on Monday, June 6, 2022.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Padgett.

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

In Mrs. Samantha Norris's absence, Mayor Harrelson relayed that the Chamber had a successful Memorial Day celebration and indicated that the Chamber had plans for improvement to next year's event.

B. MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT

Mayor Harrelson relayed that Scott Montgomery from McLeod Loris Hospital advised that the hospital had one admission for COVID and had seen an increase in the administration of infusions for multiple positive test results received. He noted that the grand total for money raised by the Jockeys and Juleps fundraiser was \$135,000.

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, June 9, 2022. He added that the event is an informal, open discussion and an open invitation to anyone interested in attending.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:

Mayor Harrelson commented on a proclamation by the City declaring June the National Gun Violence Awareness Month and presented the 2022 proclamation to Moms Against Gun Violence, with Clerk Massey reading the proclamation aloud. Mayor Harrelson stated that while not everyone had personally lost someone to gun violence, everyone knew someone who did.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Young informed Council that the auditors will be at City Hall this week and are still working with Robin to finalize the completed audit. He advised that he had received information from Horry County Government regarding grants that he was confident the City would qualify for and noted that applications for these grants are being accepted during June, July, and August. Administrator Young stated that he met with Ms. Marsha Whitaker from the South Carolina Department of Commerce and was informed of possible grants the City may qualify for in the upcoming fall season. He emphasized that the committees will be active in the coming months for these projects.

MINUTES:

A. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 3, 2022

Minutes for the City of Loris Regular Council Meeting held on January 3, 2022 were presented to Council for approval. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the minutes of January 3, 2022 as amended; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

B. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2022

Minutes for the City of Loris Special Council Meeting held on January 10, 2022 were presented to Council for approval. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the minutes of January 10, 2022 as presented; Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

C. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Minutes for the City of Loris Regular Council Meeting held on February 7, 2022 were presented to Council for approval. Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to approve the minutes of February 7, 2022 as amended; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

D. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2022

Minutes for the City of Loris Regular Council Meeting held on March 14, 2022 were presented to Council for approval. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the minutes of March 14, 2022 as presented; Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. FINANCE / ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Committee did not have a meeting since the previous Council Meeting.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Committee did not have a meeting since the previous Council Meeting.

C. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Committee did not have a meeting since the previous Council Meeting.

D. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the Committee met with Dr. Rocky from Coastal Carolina University to present the Needs Assessment survey concerning the City of Loris. She advised that the findings were provided to Council earlier in the Council Meeting by Clerk Massey. Councilwoman Vescovi reiterated that the information confirmed the Committee's opinions and recommendations moving forward. She relayed the Committee's appreciation for the services provided by Dr. Rocky and his students.

BUSINESS:

A. BUDGET UPDATE (CURRENT BUDGET / PROPOSED BUDGET)

Administrator Young advised Council that there were no changes since the previous discussion and reiterated that revenue for the majority [the month of] May was unavailable as of this meeting. He stated that the departmental budgets appear to be aligned with the proposed budget, with the exception of extra expenses associated with sanitation (i.e., leaf/limb truck repair(s), cost increases from Jordan Waste, etc.). Administrator Young stated that the Water & Sewer budget for FY 2021-2022 was projected to be \$2.2 million but will close at approximately \$2 million; therefore, the proposed budget for 2022-2023 for this department will be approximately \$1.86 million. He noted that Water & Sewer expenditures were down and therefore should be under budget.

B. COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS A MASTER PLAN PROPOSAL

Administrator Young advised Council that the draft provided was a work-in-progress. He stated that it directed the City would receive proposals applications through the statewide publication and the proposal qualifications being 0%-25% for post content, experience with projects, past performance, timetable, cost of services, price, premiums, expenditures, etc. Administrator Young added that the scope of the project is a bit broad; however, the aforementioned covers the steps proposed by the South Carolina Municipal Association. He advised Council that he will be attending the Downtown Development Association conference in Greenwood, SC next week and hopes to collaborate with the Municipal Association prior to the City producing a proposal. Administrator Young further explained that the proposal works in that the Municipal Association has a grant program that is implemented annually following their mid-July conference in Charleston, with the final guidelines for the \$25,000 grant being provided at that time. He added that the guidelines should be similar to that of the previous year, but Council will need to pass a resolution. Administrator Young stated that he anticipates seeking input from the Planning Commission regarding the Planning & Zoning portion of this matter. He advised that at the August meeting Council should expect a resolution and a final proposal of the Municipal Association's guidelines. Administrator Young reiterated that he will be in Greenwood, Spartanburg, and Rock Hill for upcoming meetings and will relay any information he receives.

Councilwoman Vescovi thanked Administrator Young for undertaking this task and for being forward-thinking in assuring that the City of Loris is moving forward to look at the picture as a whole. She stated that the City had endured much growth in the community with numerous people moving into the city and surrounding areas and the possibility of expanding the recreation program; she conveyed her appreciation for Administrator Young's willingness to travel to various locations and provide Council with feedback for what other cities are doing around the state and seeking these types of grants to assist the City with meeting these goals.

C. COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS THE RENEWAL OF AXON TASER CONTRACT

Administrator Young advised Council that the aforementioned contract was up for a five-year renewal. Police Chief Buley stated that, as of June 1, 2022, the Police Department's tasers are not covered under liability insurance. Chief Buley provided Council with a scenario illustrating the benefits received by the renewal of this contract. He added that the department is budgeted for the renewal but wished for Council to review the renewal due to inflation resulting in rising costs for the renewal. Councilman Suggs questioned whether this was new or replacing equipment for the tasers; Chief Buley clarified that the contract provides that Axon will supply the Department with new tasers with updated software and will buy back the current ones; this will slightly reduce the costs for the first year of the contract. He noted that the contract includes that Axon will supply the department with training cartridges for annual in-service.

Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the renewal of the contract; Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Padgett for the authorization of Administrator Young to execute the aforementioned contract; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

D. COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS SC REVENUE & FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE INFORMATION

Administrator Young advised that each year a report is received from the Revenue Fiscal Affairs Office which outlines how much could go up on millage, if needed, based on population and growth within the state. He stated that the amount was 8.74% with the maximum being just over 9 mills and opined that it was beneficial information for Council to have for future needs.

E. AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 01-22, A RESOLUTION TO STATE THE PRIMARY INTENDED USES OF A PORTION OF THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA, ALLOTMENT OF LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Administrator Young stated that the proposed resolution dealt with the application of American Rescue Funds to current city leases. Clerk Massey advised that the amendment was for Section 3, Item 5 of Resolution 01-22 regarding heavy equipment leases and stated the total payoff of those leases.

Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to approve Resolution 01-22 with the annotation to note it as Amendment 2; Seconded by Councilman Suggs. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

F. PRESENTATION OF THE SEALED BIDS FOR PUMP STATION UPGRADES

Administrator Young advised that only one bid was received for the pump station upgrades. Mr. Ricky Bellamy stated that the pump stations had to be evaluated individually to itemize the specific needs of each. He advised that Mr. Jordan Phillips escorted several potential bidders to

the stations, but the provided bid was the only one submitted. Mr. Bellamy stated that the City would furnish the high-density legs that go into the wet well and measurements have already been obtained; however, the vendor for this item had not responded to state whether the legs were available as of this meeting. He noted that the legs are not included in the sealed bid presented to Council and cost approximately \$2,000 per lift station. Mr. Bellamy added that the proposed bid indicates replacing the old parts, installing new valves and checks outside covered by boxes, installing a bypass on each station outside, and redoing the rock around the stations. He advised that all the plumbing at that point from the base elbows [in the wet well] to where it ties in will be brand new. Mr. Bellamy stated that, per the bid, each station is the same price of \$27,800 and the contractor has to furnish all the parts outside the station plus the labor. He further stated that each station requires four valves and two checks. Attorney Moss recalled that discussions from the previous Council Meetings included some generator connections for these pump stations and questioned whether the proposed bids included the installation of a generator connection; Mr. Bellamy replied that upgrading the electrical panels would be required to accommodate a generator connection. Councilman Padgett questioned the source of the funds for these upgrades; Clerk Massey responded that this is covered under the American Rescue Plan fund. Bellamy advised that any panel upgrades would require a bid proposal for the electrical component of the pump stations. He informed Council that he would compile information regarding the electrical upgrades to accommodate generator connections and provide it to Council at the next meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Padgett to accept the single bid as presented to Council for the pump station upgrades; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to amend this resolution to identify the source of funding as the American Rescue Plan funds; Seconded by Councilman Padgett. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

G. COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS BIDS FOR WATSON PARK'S ROOF DAMAGE

Administrator Young advised that there was extensive damage to the structures at Watson Park and recommended requesting sealed bids to see what the costs to repair will be. Councilman Suggs questioned whether any storm damage or insurance funds were available; Clerk Massey responded that there were not.

H. COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS NOVEMBER ELECTION PROCESS

Administrator Young advised Council that Horry County would like to do early voting and request the City allow operation out of the Public Safety Building, with early voting being from October 24 through November 5, 2022. He noted that Horry County would provide its own staffing and equipment.

Motion made by Councilman Hardee to allow Horry County to utilize the City's Public Safety Building for early voting in the 2022 election; Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted in favor; the Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to enter Executive Session; Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All members voted in favor of entering Executive Session at 6:53 pm.

Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All members voted in favor of exiting Executive Session at 7:16 pm.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A. PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Bellamy advised Council of the exact price of the legs and panels but stated that the department would need to verify the validity of the price provided for the panels. Mayor Harrelson requested to also inquire about the availability of the panels.

Mr. Bellamy advised Council that, with regard to the discussion of grants, the City will need to perform a lead and copper study on the entire water-sewer system by 2023 and will include a plan of action, an inventory within the city, and a subsequent plan of action. He stated that there are potential funding options to assist with the completion of this task, but the City needs to be in a position where it can receive that funding and move forward with the project. Administrator Young added that the guidelines for those grants should be available in July.

Mr. Bellamy stated that the department recently began hydrant maintenance, in which hydrants in the rural areas will be painted red while hydrants along major streets will be painted blue and safety yellow. He added that, once this is completed, the department will then undertake valve maintenance. Mr. Bellamy informed Council that SCDOT is performing stormwater maintenance along Allen Street. He added that the Water Quality Report was complete, and a copy had been furnished for the public's viewing. Mayor Harrelson inquired about whether SCDOT will assist the City with repairs to the utility lines underneath the street in that area; Mr. Bellamy replied that clarification would be needed from SCDOT regarding this matter. Councilman Padgett questioned whether SCDOT was the entity clearing land along the roadways near Loris Elementary School as part of the pending construction; Mr. Bellamy advised that he was unaware of who was responsible for the logging or if it was related to the widening project. Mr. Bellamy added that part of the Ride III Project included widening Highway 9 Business beginning where Main Street was reduced back to a two-lane road and continuing east past Highway 66. He stated

that the area closest to the city limits will most likely be the area completed first as utility providers have completed the relocation of their respective utilities. Mr. Bellamy advised that the Ride III Project included the installation of new utility lines within the City's jurisdiction as opposed to the relocation of existing utility lines located within this area. Bidding is currently underway for this project.

B. CODE ENFORCEMENT

Clerk Massey relayed to Council that the Department's building permit requests had not decreased as of this meeting and Tractor Supply recently officialized the civil plans and construction work will begin in the coming weeks. He added that Tractor Supply is awaiting comments from DHEC regarding the runoff. Mayor Harrelson also advised Council that the Department had also been working to follow up with owners concerning various building structures in need of serious attention within the City.

C. RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Councilwoman Vescovi advised Council that Recreation Director Tim Zeltwanger was unavailable for this meeting and relayed that the baseball/softball/tee-ball season ended in May with the Department grossing \$4,753 in concession sales.

Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the USSSA and Top Gun organizations are continuing to hold tournaments at Heniford Field. She relayed feedback from numerous spectators regarding their enjoyment of the Department's concession stand and that the variety of menu options offered surpassed that of others where these organizations have participated. Councilwoman Vescovi advised that the four latest tournaments held included 10-20 teams and concession sales are doing well. She stated that USSSA has requested to reserve four showcase tournament dates for the upcoming year in which college scouts will be in attendance.

Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the Benji Blanton Tournament was recently held in which the Loris 8U Baseball team finished in second place and the Loris 8U Softball team won their division. She relayed that Mr. Zeltwanger indicated his desire to offer a preseason All-Star tournament prep in Loris for the upcoming year, which would be similar to the annual Benji Blanton Tournament held in Green Sea. Councilwoman Vescovi advised that the 10U and 12U All-Star Baseball teams will be competing in another tournament this coming weekend in Green Sea. She added that three All-Star Softball teams will have their district tournaments as well; 8U will play Pee Dee on Friday at Pee Dee, 10U will play Lake View on Friday at Lake View, and 12U will face the winner of the Johnsonville vs. Pamplico game on Saturday at North Myrtle Beach. Councilwoman Vescovi advised that Loris will host the Dixie Youth Ozone 12-Year Baseball Tournament beginning June 20, 2022.

Councilwoman Vescovi relayed that the Department had announced that it will have its first-ever mascot and Mr. Zeltwanger has requested the public's input for naming the mascot. She advised Council that the Department has filled the vacant full-time labor position and the new hire is expected to begin in the upcoming week. Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the Department

has been working with Loris High School on the upcoming football camp and added that this is a collaboration that also included the Carolina Panthers and Coastal Carolina's quarterback Grayson McCall.

D. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Buley informed Council that the Department recently assisted Horry County Police Department in the recovery of several vehicles that had been stolen from various parts of the county. He added that, through Horry County's technologies and mutual databases, the Department was able to apprehend individuals with outstanding warrants throughout the County. Chief Buley advised that the City may benefit from the acquisition and utilization of these technologies.

E. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Clerk Massey advised that the Department has had a steady increase in Calls for Service. He added that the increases to the budget each year have proven needed as the year progresses. Clerk Massey stated that, in his meeting with Fire Chief Hardee, there were discussions on the Department's need for additional pagers due to recent unforeseen equipment failures.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:

Attorney Moss relayed his concerns to Council [via telephone] concerning the upcoming Fiscal Year budget and advised that the proposed water-sewer increases may not be enough to cover the anticipated increases to maintain the system. He strongly encouraged Council to closely review this prior to the next budget meeting. Clerk Massey added that to cover \$20,000 would require an approximate \$1.05 surcharge per service account.

PUBLIC AND PRESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Councilman Hardee for adjournment; Seconded by Councilman Padgett. All members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

ATTEST:

TODD K. MASSEY, II
CITY CLERK

TODD M. HARRELSON
MAYOR

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

ABSENT
JOAN S. GAUSE

LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.

ANDREA L. COLEMAN

CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

JAN P. VESCOVI