



**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023,
6:00 PM**

PRESENT

MAYOR

TODD M. HARRELSON

COUNCIL

**JOAN GAUSE
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
ANDREA L. COLEMAN
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
MICHAEL E. SUGGS
JAN P. VESCOVI**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson at 6:01pm on Monday, January 9, 2023.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Gause.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harrelson.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by City Attorney Moss.

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.

PUBLIC AND PRESS:

Lillian- Small Business Administration – Lillian stated that the Small Business Administration is here to assist with the disaster. She explained loans that are available and the help they can provide when applying. The deadline is approaching for loans from the Small Business Administration and FEMA. There is up to \$2 million in loans available.

Stacy Lane – Ms. Lane stated that she has been charged city taxes on her property tax bill. She does not live in the city limits. She has not lived in the city at any time. The county requires a letter from the city that states she has not been a citizen for 10 years. She is requesting this documentation to be reimbursed.

Lana Brooks- Ms. Brooks stated that she moved here in April. She stated that she sent an email to the city suggesting that there be a group of volunteers to help improve the abandoned buildings.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- A. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**- Samantha Norris stated that the new Chamber President, Timothy Suggs, is present at the meeting tonight. Mr. Suggs stated that the Chamber had a retreat on Saturday to discuss the needs for the upcoming year. He said that the Chamber hopes to continue to work closely with City. Ms. Norris said that increased advertising is planned for the upcoming year.
- B. **MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT**- Mayor Harrelson stated they are finishing the new operating room. The new Electronic Medical Records system is live.
- C. **EUGENE MILLS**- Mayor Harrelson stated that Gene Mills passed away last night. He contributed a great deal to the city and its youth. Mayor Harrelson requested prayers for the family.
- D. **COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR**- Coffee with the Mayor will be held Thursday, January 12th at 9 A.M. in the Community Room.

MINUTES: All minutes were tabled until corrections are made. Councilman Padgett made a motion to table the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- A. **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN- CITY PLANNING COMMISSION- WCOG**- The WCOG has hired Leigh Kane. She provided some information on the Comprehensive Plan. She is going to assist with getting the Planning Commission p-to-date with all training. WCOG agreed to help us with the updated Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Kane is coming to Loris on January 25th to look around.
- B. **FY 2022-2023 BUDGET**- Administrator Young stated that they are close to completing the Audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** Councilwoman Gause stated the committee met on Wednesday, January 4th at 4 P.M. The committee discussed the City Treasurer position, the Employee Manual, the Procurement Policy, and received updates from Administrator Young on other topics. Councilwoman Vescovi added that the committee would like to request the Chamber of Commerce to attend the next committee meeting to review their plans for the year and determine what fiscal impact it will have for the City. She also stated that the committee would like to request that all Hospitality Fund purchases be reviewed by the committee and forwarded to the Council for approval. Attorney Moss said this request would need to be policy. Mayor Harrelson asked that there be a \$5000 minimum for this process. He felt that small purchases could be approved by the Administrator. Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the committee received the proposals for the Master Plan Study, and they will review before the next Council meeting. She also stated that the committee will review the Handbook and Procurement policy before the next meeting for Council's approval.
- B. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.
- C. **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.
- D. **RECREATION COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.
- E. **PLANNING, ANNEXATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.
- F. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.

ORDINANCES: NONE

RESOLUTIONS: NONE

BUSINESS:

- A. **ARP GRANT- HORRY COUNTY- SEAL BIDS—** Administrator Young stated that the City received 4 proposals. The proposals were unsealed. Administrator Young will send all proposals to all Council members to review.
- B. **OLD STATE THEATER-** Mayor Harrelson stated that there have been Christmas events held in the theater and they were very nice. The building has been rented for other events. Mayor Harrelson stated he would like the City to help with funding to finish the project. The theater needs insulation added to the ceiling before it passes the final inspection. Samantha Norris was asked to discuss the needs. The Historical Society is getting quotes for the insulation. They also need equipment and tables. The Society is working on a museum in this space as well. Councilman Padgett stated he felt the Council needs to have hard figures before they can consider the request.

APPOINTMENTS:

- A. **CITY OF LORIS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS** – 1 OUT OF 5 VACANCIES
- B. **CITY OF LORIS PLANNING COMMISSION** – 2 OUT OF 7 VACANCIES
- C. **INTERIM CITY TREASURER** – Administrator stated the position would be discussed in Executive Session.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- A. **PUBLIC WORKS**- Jordan reflected on 2022. There has been a lot of construction and installations. This year will also be very busy. Mayor Harrelson stated that Jordan and his team did a great job with Christmas decorations. He appreciates the extra work that Jordan and his team put in.
- B. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**- Report included in the Council packet.
- C. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**- Tim stated that basketball started. Last season we had 55 players and this season there are 100. He is working on practice to accommodate the increase. He is looking forward to having Opening Day on March 25th. The Recreation Department was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the MLB youth program to use for baseball and softball. Loris High School is having a Business and Marketing education program that he is going to attend. The roof is complete at Watson Park. Tim is working on improving the interior of the community building. The 2023 PARD grant was awarded in the amount of \$20,000.
- D. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**- Report included in the Council packet. Chief Buley stated that the department is very busy. He is currently looking for two SROs.
- E. **FIRE DEPARTMENT**- No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. **DISCUSSION ON CONTRACTUAL MATTERS AND PROPERTY MATTERS**
- B. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to enter Executive Session; Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted in favor of entering Executive Session @ 7:04PM.

Motion made by Councilman Hardee to exit Executive Session; Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted in favor of exiting Executive Session @ 8PM.

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

Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to allow the City Administrator to enter a contract contingent on counter terms to change a due diligence time period, provide that the sum of \$500, and to modify the closing date to February 28th. She stated that gratuitous funds received from

Paul Prince in the amount of \$20,000 will be used in addition to ARP funds. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. Councilwoman Gause, Councilman Hardee, Councilwoman Coleman, Mayor Harrelson, and Councilwoman Vescovi voted in favor. Councilman Padgett and Councilman Suggs voted no. Motion passes.

Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to give Attorney Moss the authority to obtain an appraisal on real property discussed in Executive Session. Councilwoman Gause seconded. Councilwoman Gause, Councilwoman Coleman, Mayor Harrelson, and Councilwoman Vescovi voted in favor. Councilman Hardee, Councilman Padgett, and Councilman Suggs voted no. Motion passes.

Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to appoint Tara Coe as Interim City Treasurer. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Councilman Padgett for adjournment; Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

**BRANDY GRAHAM
CITY CLERK**

**TODD M. HARRELSON
MAYOR**

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

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