



**MINUTES OF  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
AND PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY HALL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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 6:00pm on Monday, October 2, 2023.

**INVOCATION:**

The Invocation was given by Mayor Harrelson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harrelson.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by City Clerk Graham.

**PUBLIC HEARING- ORDINANCE 14-43:**

No one signed up to speak. Motion to adjourn the Public Hearing made by Councilman Padgett. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes. The Regular Council Meeting resumed.

## **PUBLIC AND PRESS:**

**Lynn Grecko (Russ Road)** – Ms. Grecko provided a brief review of where things stand with the Animal Welfare ordinance. She provided Dr. Hartman with the current Horry County Laws. Dr. Hartman revised these and provided the revisions to Councilman Padgett. He forwarded them to Attorney Moss to review. Ms. Grecko suggested that the Loris Police Department be included in the process because they will be tasked with enforcing the laws.

**Veda Nichols (Church Street)**- Ms. Nichols stated that she would be speaking as the President of the Loris Women’s Coalition. She asked for the Council member’s support of the Veteran’s Day Tribute on November 11, 2023, at 10AM. The event will be at the State Theater. The LHS chorus and ROTC will participate. She requested a platinum sponsorship from the City of Loris. She stated this will be the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual event.

**Jennifer Causey (Tabor Loris Tribune)**– Ms. Causey stated that several people have enquired about meetings held at the Loris Methodist Church on Thursday nights. She said that council members are present and asked if these meetings were open to the public. She said the group was called the Loris Mafia. There was no comment from the council.

## **MINUTES:**

- A. **OCTOBER 3, 2022- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**- Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **NOVEMBER 7, 2022- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**- Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.

## **MAYOR’S REPORT:**

- A. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**- Samantha Norris stated the Loris Chamber of Commerce will hold a Luau on October 17<sup>th</sup>. This event will be the first of the Downtown Tuesday events. The Monster Mash will be October 31<sup>st</sup> and the tree lighting will be on November 28<sup>th</sup>, The Chamber is working to fill in the other weeks of the Downtown schedule. In addition to these new events, the Market in the Yard will be October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Loris Bog-off Festival will be October 21<sup>st</sup> and the Christmas Parade will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. **MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT**- Mayor Harrelson stated that things are going smoothly at McLeod.
- C. **COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR**- Coffee with the Mayor will be held Thursday, October 12th, at 9 A.M. in the Community Room.
- D. **CHRISTMAS UPDATE** – Mayor Harrelson stated that the Public Works staff is working on Christmas Decorations. The new decoration approved by the council has been ordered.
- E. **AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION**- Mayor Harrelson stated that he and Jordan Phillips met with the American Flood Coalition on current needs of the City of Loris.
- F. **OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY**- Mayor Harrelson stated the City is still working on the purchase of the high school property. The city will keep the area maintained.

- G. **RECREATION CENTER ON HERITAGE ROAD**- The Mayor stated that he hopes to see things happening at the property on Heritage Road in the next 6-8 months. The City of Loris is working with Horry County on a gym facility. Horry County Councilman Mark Causey stated the County is looking forward to working with the City in some manner.
- H. **WATSON PARK**- Mayor Harrelson stated that he was invited to a meeting at Watson Park. The Lonesome Riders grilled and met to raise money for kids in need. Mayor Harrelson presented a proposal of what he would like to see happen at Watson Park. He would like the Recreation Committee to review the proposal.

Mayor Harrelson stated that he had a few comments that he would like to bring to everyone's attention. He was excited to be elected Mayor and start his journey. As Mayor, I have worked to ensure recreation fields have been rebuilt and we brought in tournaments on the weekends. New equipment was purchased for concessions, and it was approved by resolution by the council. The city is a destination at Christmas. The Loris Police Department has the equipment they need to do a great job. Public Works does a great job but there is equipment that needs to be replaced. The city is heading in the right direction. The City of Loris and the Chamber of Commerce have worked together to make historical changes. There are people that don't want change. At the last Council meeting it was voted on to audit hospitality funds, even though it was not on the agenda. He believes it was a political ploy. The city has good leadership and that cast doubt on the city of Loris. The council was involved in everything that happened over the last 4 or 5 years. He believes that the audit should go back further than that and include more.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**- Councilwoman Gause stated the committee did not meet.
- B. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Councilwoman Vescovi stated the committee met on September 29, 2023. The committee discussed the Loris Police vehicles. The department is currently down two vehicles. The committee reviewed options to replace the vehicles. Councilwoman Vescovi suggested that the council revisit the Enterprise fleet proposal. Vescovi also stated that the committee suggests that Larry Williams be named the Global Administrator for the city.
- C. **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE** – Councilwoman Coleman stated they did not meet.
- D. **RECREATION COMMITTEE** – Councilwoman stated that the committee did not meet. They will meet soon.
- E. **PLANNING, ANNEXATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Did not meet. Administrator Young stated that the WCOG was at the Planning Commission meeting to review the Comprehensive Plan.
- F. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Councilman Hardee stated the committee did not meet.

## **ORDINANCES:**

- A. **1<sup>st</sup> READING-ORDINANCE 12-23, AN ORDINANCE OF REZONING THAT PORTION OF THE PROPERTY OWNED BY VERN'S INVESTMENTS, LLC AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN: 185-06-01-0011, LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF LORIS LIONS ROAD, PRESENTLY ZONED MIXED-USE ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO BE CHANGED TO GENERAL BUSINESS ON THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP-** Administrator stated that this ordinance was referred back to Planning Commission. They recommended that the Ordinance not move forward. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to disapprove the ordinance based on the Planning Commission recommendation. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **2<sup>nd</sup> READING-ORDINANCE 13-23, REQUEST TO ANNEX 16.42 ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS AS R-2 (MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF MAIN STREET & NORTH COX ROAD [PIN: 176-00-00-0030 & 176-09-02-0013]-** Councilman Suggs disqualified himself from voting based on a personal connection to the owners. The council asked to hear the minutes from the Planning Commission meeting to confirm the request to rezone to R-1.7 as stated on the ordinance. Councilwoman asked if a plan had been submitted by the developer to assist with flooding. The developer presented plans to the council. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett to accept the request to annex with rezoning to R-1.7. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **1<sup>st</sup> READING- ORDINANCE 14-23- AN ORDINANCE OF REZONING 0.5 ACRES FROM R-2 TO C-2 LOCATED ON THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF MAPLE STREET AND CANAL STREET AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN: 176-14-01-0021-** Councilman Hardee made a motion to approve the rezoning of .5 acres from R-2 to C-2. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. **RESOLUTION 06-23- A RESOLUTION TO CONSENT TO THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK IN CONNECTION WITH THE LORIS COMMERCE CENTER; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO-** Motion by Councilman Padgett to approve the Resolution as presented. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.

## **BUSINESS:**

- A. **202308-001: REQUEST TO ANNEX 98.85 ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS AS R-1.7 (LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) LOCATED SOUTH OF LORIS HIGH SCHOOL-** Presentation made by the developer of the plans for the 98.85 acres. He stated that they have been advised to wait for the Comprehensive Plan to be complete before moving forward with the request. He would like to answer any questions about the property. Two years of research and work have gone into the plan regarding wetlands and stormwater. The property has been surveyed. The Army Corp of Engineers has agreed. A portion of the land, 38 acres, is wetlands. They will be protected. They

completed drainage plans that include 13 acres of ponds. There will be 12 acres of common space that will not be developed. Once the Comprehensive Plan is complete, they will come back to the council with their request.

- B. **SCIIP GRANT AGREEMENT- HANNA ENGINEERING-** Administrator Young reviewed the agreement with Council. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the agreement. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT-** Administrator Young stated that the Loris Police received the mutual aid agreement. It is required to renew every two years. Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid agreement. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- D. **ENTERPRISE FLEET VEHICLES-** Administrator Young stated that he received a proposal from Enterprise for fleet services.
- E. **LORIS FILM AND ARTS COMMISSION-JERRY DALTON-** Jerry Dalton stated that he had something to read that would take five to seven minutes and would ask not to be interrupted. A video was brought to his attention of the previous council meeting. He gave the Council a list of his previous accomplishments. He stated that Councilman Padgett defamed his name. It has had serious implications. Mr. Dalton reviewed comments made by Councilman Padgett at the previous council meeting. Mr. Padgett explained that the statements that he made at the previous meeting were not about Mr. Dalton but instead about the fact that money is being spent without the knowledge of the council.
- F. **BROWNSFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING GRANT-** Administrator Young stated that WCOG brought the grant to our attention. The grant will provide environmental testing of the Old Loris High School site to ensure safe demolition. Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to approve the City Administrator to apply for the grant. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

- A. **CITY OF LORIS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS – 2 OUT OF 5 VACANCIES**
- B. **CITY OF LORIS PLANNING COMMISSION – 2 OUT OF 7 VACANCIES**

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

- A. **PUBLIC WORKS-** Ricky Bellamy stated that work continued on Highway 9.
- B. **CODE ENFORCEMENT-** Documentation included in Council packet.
- C. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT-** Councilwoman Vescovi stated that Fall sports are practicing and football games have started. Councilwoman Gause asked why cheerleading uniforms are not in for the season. Four games have been played without uniforms. Mayor Harrelson stated that they were delivered on Friday.

- D. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**- Report included in packet
- E. **FIRE DEPARTMENT**- No Report

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Executive session was not needed.

**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.

**ATTEST:**

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**BRANDY GRAHAM  
CITY CLERK**

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**TODD HARRELSON  
MAYOR**

**LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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**JOAN S. GAUSE**

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