



**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, November 6,
2023
– 6:00 PM**

PRESENT

MAYOR

TODD M. HARRELSON

COUNCIL

**LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
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, November 6, 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 AND PRESS:

Lynn Grecko (Russ Road) – Mrs. Grecko stated that she started in April asking Council for an updated Animal Welfare Ordinance. This meeting is the sixth that she has attended. Shae stated that at the last meeting she asked Attorney Moss if he had what he needed to review. Dr. Hartman believes that these laws are needed to hold people accountable. Mr. Moss stated that

he has not reviewed yet but will review before August. Councilwoman Vescovi and Mayor Harrelson stated that they had received concerns on this matter.

MINUTES: Councilman Padgett made a motion to approve all minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.

- A. DECEMBER 5, 2022- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
- B. DECEMBER 27, 2022- SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
- C. JANUARY 9, 2023- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
- D. JULY 10, 2023- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- A. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-** Samantha Norris stated that she would like to review the ordinance related to animals at festivals. The Loris Bog-off was a huge success. Downtown Tuesday has been very successful and is bringing people to our restaurants and stores. The Christmas Tree Lighting will be November 28th and the Christmas Parade will be December 2nd. Downtown Tuesday on December 5th will be a youth Christmas event and there will be local vendors on December 12th. The Monster Mash event was a huge success. There were more children than expected.
- B. **MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT-** Mayor Harrelson stated that COVID is not an issue at the hospital. The new MRI machine will be installed this month. Scott Berry, a breast surgeon, started at Seacoast.
- C. **COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR-** Coffee with the Mayor will be November 16, 2023, @ 9AM.
- D. **CHRISTMAS UPDATE-** Jordan Phillips stated that the staff is working hard on Christmas decorations. All stars have been refurbished and he is working with the Chamber of Commerce to be ready for the tree lighting.
- E. **WRCOG-** Mayor Harrelson stated he was asked to serve on the board of the WRCOG. He is excited and honored.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the committee met on October 25th, 2023. They discussed the Enterprise fleet proposal. The Loris police department is short of multiple vehicles. Administrator Young was asked to review funding options. The committee also reviewed a funding request from the Loris Chamber of Commerce. Samantha Norris met with the committee and discussed Downtown Tuesday. The committee reviewed the Employee Handbook and evaluation. The committee also reviewed open positions, the Harris computer conversion, and facilities maintenance issues.
- B. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.
- C. **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.
- D. **RECREATION COMMITTEE** – Did not meet. Began reviewing applications.

- E. **PLANNING, ANNEXATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** – Councilman Padgett stated that committee had a lengthy meeting. They are working with WRCOG to complete the Comprehensive Plan. The Master Plan Public Form will be held on November 15, 2023. The committee is excited about the Master Plan.
- F. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.

ORDINANCES:

- A. **2nd 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 Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.

RESOLUTIONS:

- A. **RESOLUTION 07-23- EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK/ EMPLOYEE EVALUATION-** The handbook was reviewed in the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting. The handbook will need to be reviewed in person with all staff. Motion by Councilman Padgett to approve the revised Employee Handbook. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **RESOLUTION 08-23- A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING Horry COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR RECEIVING THE PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-** A representative from Horry County Schools will be at the December 4, 2023, meeting.

BUSINESS:

- A. **LORIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSPITALITY FUNDS REQUEST-** The Loris Chamber of Commerce presented a request for Hospitality funds. The request included rental of the lot on Main Street for the Christmas Tree and Downtown Tuesday. Councilwoman Vescovi would like council to approve \$10,000 to continue Downtown Tuesday. Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to approve \$10,000 for the Loris Chamber of Commerce to bring people to town. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **PROPOSED TEXT CHANGES- ZONING ORDINANCE-** Administrator Young stated that the Planning Commission is requesting the indicated changes. The changes will need to be presented as an Ordinance.
- C. **GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT- SC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to allow Mayor Harrelson to sign the Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the city. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.

APPOINTMENTS: Deferred to Special Council Meeting on November 13, 2024, to review term limits.

- 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-** Jordan Phillips said that DHEC performed the Sanitary Survey in October. It was highly successful and will not need to be performed for two years. The crew has been working hard to prepare for Christmas. He thanked all the staff that have assisted in the preparation.
- B. **CODE ENFORCEMENT-** Documentation included in Council packet.
- C. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT-** Councilwoman Vescovi stated that the 10U football won the first round of play-offs. Volleyball will begin All Stars.
- D. **POLICE DEPARTMENT-** Chief Buley stated that Downtown Tuesday has been a huge success. The LPD is closing roads to accommodate the visitors.
- E. **FIRE DEPARTMENT-** No Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilwoman Vescovi. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ATTEST:

**BRANDY GRAHAM
CITY CLERK**

**TODD HARRELSON
MAYOR**

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

JOAN S. GAUSE

LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.

ANDREA L. COLEMAN

CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

JAN VESCOVI