



**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, December 4, 2023
– 6:00 PM**

PRESENT

MAYOR

TODD M. HARRELSON

COUNCIL

**JOAN S. GAUSE
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
ANDREA 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, December 4, 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: None

MINUTES:

- A. **JULY 24, 2023- SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes if July 24, 2023, Special Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Suggs. All in favor. Motion passes.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- A. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-** Samantha Norris stated that it has been a busy month. There has been a great turnout at Downtown Tuesdays.
- B. **MCLEOD LORIS HOSPITAL REPORT-** There is now major news. Things are going well.
- C. **COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR-** Coffee with the Mayor will be held on December 14th, 2023, at 9AM. There will be Downtown Tuesday events through December 19th. Santa will be there. Mayor Harrelson stated that the Chamber has been working very hard for the City of Loris.
- D. **CHRISTMAS UPDATE-** The Christmas decorations are 80% complete. There are a few things left to finish.
- E. **LORIS POLICE/FIRE-** Mayor Harrelson thanked Loris Fire.
- F. **LORIS PUBLIC WORKS-** Mayor Harrelson stated that the Public Works department does a lot of work. They work hard when people are not looking. It is amazing what they accomplish under Jordan Phillips.
- G. **LORIS RECREATION DEPARTMENT-** Mayor Harrelson stated that sports tourism and sports programs have done well. He challenged the new council to keep doing what they have been doing.
- H. **ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION, ANN HUYLER, SCFC-** Ms. Huyler stated that the Inflation Reduction Act Grant assists disadvantaged communities with tree maintenance and planting. Loris is considered a disadvantaged community. To become a Tree City there are three steps. First, pass a Public Tree Ordinance. Second, establish a tree board that consists of five people. Third, Commit \$2 per capita to tree work. Mayor Harrelson signed the Arbor Day Proclamation. The Tree City application closes December 30, 2023.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

- A. **AUDIT UPDATE-** Administrator Young stated that Marc Wood should finish the 2021-2022 audit this month. They have the information needed to complete the 2022-2023 audit. It needs to be complete in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-** Did not meet.
- 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 –** Councilman Padgett stated that the committee had a busy month. There were two meetings regarding

annexations. The Public Forum for the Master Plan has a huge turnout. Administrator Young thanked WRCOG for their assistance.

- F. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Did not meet.

ORDINANCES:

- A. **1st READING- ORDINANCE 15-23 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LORIS TO UPDATE THE CLASS SCHEDULE AS REQUIRED BY ACT 176 OF 2020-** Administrator Young stated that the State requires annual changes. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the ordinance amending the business license schedule. Seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **1st READING- ORDINANCE 16-23 – AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX 0.3 ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS AS MU (MIXED-USE) LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWESTERN SIDE OF HIGHWAY 9 BUSINESS EAST [PIN: 185-02-03-0028]-** Motion to approve the 1st reading of the ordinance to annex made by Councilman Padgett. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **1st READING– ORDINANCE 17-23- REQUEST TO ANNEX 0.34 ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS AS R-1.7 (LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) LOCATED ALONG THE WESTERN SIDE OF NORTH COX ROAD [PIN: 176-09-01-0011]-** Motion to approve the 1st reading of the ordinance to annex made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilman Suggs. All in favor. Motion passes.
- D. **1st READING- ORDINANCE 18-23- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LORIS-** Meredith Holmes explained the changes being made to the zoning ordinance and land development regulations. The changes address shared private driveways. Motion to amend the zoning ordinance made by Councilman Padgett. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.

RESOLUTIONS:

- A. **RESOLUTION 08-23- A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR RECEIVING THE PURPLE STAR DESIGNATION FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-** Horry County School Board Members Neal James and James Edwards presented the advantages of the Purple Heart Designation for students of Horry County. The designation provides the district with resources for military connected families.

BUSINESS:

- A. **STATE THEATER-** Mayor Harrelson stated that he has spoken often about the State Theater. They have received funds from the State of South Carolina and Horry County. James Edwards said hat Horry Electric, Anderson Brothers Banks, and several private donations given to the project. The marquee has not been completed. They still need

tables and chairs. Mayor Harrelson stated that he believes the City of Loris should donate to this project. He challenged the Council to give to this project. Councilman Suggs stated that Administrator Young should get a list of needs from Mr. Edwards.

- B. **DISCUSSION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ORDINANCE-** Attorney Moss stated that he looked at the Animal Welfare Ordinance. He looked at the Horry County ordinance as a starting place for the ordinance that the City of Loris will adopt. Councilman Padgett would like to have a meeting that allows the public to weigh in, after the council has had the opportunity to review the document sent to council by Attorney Moss. The City currently does not have a shelter or a budget for a shelter.
- C. **CITY OF LORIS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE-** Mayor Harrelson stated that there has not been an Organizational Chart completed in a while. There are people that do not know who to go to with questions.
- D. **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK-** Mayor Harrelson stated that the handbook was recently approved. Administrator Young stated that there is a meeting scheduled for December 7, 2023, to review the handbook changes with the Department heads. After that, the handbook will be presented to all staff in person.
- E. **HOSPITALITY AUDIT, ETC.-** Mayor Harrelson stated that under his watch there was a request for an audit of the Hospitality funds. He requested an update. He would like to request an audit of everything.
- F. **METER READER POSITION-** Mayor Harrelson stated that he does not know of a time that the city has gone without a meter reader. There currently are multiple people reading the meters. Councilman Hardee asked how many meters can be read remotely. City Administrator said that currently 25% are radio read.
- G. **GLOBAL ADMIN FOR LPD-** Chief Buley stated that the LPD is currently not compliant with SLED standards. Councilwoman Vescovi stated that Council made a recommendation to make Larry Williams the Global Administrator.
- H. **STREET DEPARTMENT POSITION-** Mayor Harrelson stated that this position is open. City Clerk Graham stated that the position had been posted and Jordan Phillips has applications to review.
- I. **REPLACEMENT OF POLICE CAR-** Mayor Harrelson stated that the Loris Police Department is down two cars. He said that it needs to be taken care of as soon as possible.
- J. **WATER AND SEWER- SPREADSHEET-** Mayor Harrelson stated that he asked for a Water and Sewer spreadsheet. There have been issues all over with water and sewer. He said that the citizens need to know the numbers and then they can vote. Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to investigate water and sewer further. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
- K. **CITY HALL PERSONNEL-** Discuss in Executive Session.

APPOINTMENTS:

- A. **CITY OF LORIS PLANNING COMMISSION – REAPPOINTMENTS-** Meredith Holmes stated that it was determined that the term of Planning Commission would be three years. Councilman Padgett made a motion to reappoint Linda Morrison, Ruth Ann Jones, and Joseph Flesch. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **CITY OF LORIS PLANNING COMMISSION** – Motion made by Councilman Padgett to appoint Chad Bennett to replace Thomas Brogdon. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **CITY OF LORIS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS** – Meredith Holmes stated that William Wagner, appointed at the Special Meeting in November, will not be able to serve. There are three open positions on the Zoning Appeals Board.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- A. **PUBLIC WORKS-** Public Works has been extremely busy. They are working on taps, reading meters, and finalizing Christmas decorations.
- B. **CODE ENFORCEMENT-** Meredith Holmes provided a summary of the activity of the Code Enforcement.
- C. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT-** The 10U football team will play for the State Championship on Saturday in Florence. They will play Pickens for the State title. Basketball sign-ups end December 22, 2023. Working on quotes for irrigation. This will be part of the PARD grant. Last Saturday was the last tournament of the year. They will resume in February. The Watson Park ceiling needs repair. Accepting quotes for this repair.
- D. **POLICE DEPARTMENT-** Report in Council packet. Chief Buley stated that the LPD received an overtime grant. This will allow additional police presence.
- 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 in favor. Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilman Hardee to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Suggs. All in favor. Motion passes.

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:

**BRANDY GRAHAM
CITY CLERK**

**TODD HARRELSON
MAYOR**

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

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LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.

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