|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **MINUTES OF****REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING****CITY HALL****MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024****– 6:00 PM** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **PRESENT** | **MAYOR** | **MICHAEL E. SUGGS** |
|  | **COUNCIL** | **JOAN S. GAUSE****LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.****CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.****TONYA F. SYKES** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00pm on Monday, February 5, 2024.

**INVOCATION:**

The Invocation was given by Councilman Padgett.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by City Clerk Graham.

1. **MINUTES:**
2. **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING—AUGUST 21, 2023-** Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the minutes of August 21, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
3. **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**- Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes of September 11, 2023. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes. The Municipal Association of South Carolina and
4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
5. **MAYORS’S REPORT-** Mayor Suggs stated that on January 18th, 2024, he attended the end of year meeting of the Waccamaw Regional Economic Development Corporation. Mayor Suggs stated he also attended the Horry County League of Cities Quarterly Meeting on the same night. There were presentations from the Municipal Association of South Carolina and the Horry County Solid Waste Authority. On January 30th, Mayor Suggs attended the Loris Chamber of Commerce Member’s Meeting. On the 31st of January he took part in the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development corporation’s tour of facilities. The event provided great connections. Mayor Suggs met with Ronald Fowler, Chairman of the Board of Directors for McLeod Loris. Mr. Fowler would like to attend an upcoming Council Meeting to present upcoming changes. Mayor Suggs stated that the council is aware of the water bill errors. Please contact City Hall with any concerns.
6. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

**1.MASTER PLAN 2024**- Administrator Young stated that the Master Plan will be submitted to the Planning Commission on Thursday February 8, 2024.

**2.OLD LHS-VCC APPLICATION-** Administrator Young stated that the VCC application is complete. He is working with the WRCOG to follow the process through DHEC. We must meet the steps to qualify. Phase one is complete. The VCC helps protect with environmental clean-up. This process will help the City qualify for EPA grants in the future.

**3.AUDIT 2021-2022-** The 2021-2022 audit is complete. There is a letter from auditor Marc Wood. He would like to present it to the council. Administrator Young would like the Council to review first.

**4.** **AUDIT 2022-2023-** Administrator Young stated that all information has been submitted to the Auditor. The city will be up to date once the audit is complete.

**5.** ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE- Administrator Young stated that he has received information from Attorney Moss, Horry County and Chief Buley. He is working to combine all the input. He hopes to have a strong draft by the next meeting.

**6.** FREE REPLACEMENT VEHICLE- LORIS POLICE- Administrator Young stated that the Loris Police Department was awarded a vehicle from the U.S. military. Chief Buley stated that the vehicle must be shipped from Kansas City. Drug Fund money can be used to pay for shipping. The decision to accept the vehicle must be made quickly.

1. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**
2. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**- Meredith Holmes stated that a meeting scheduled with the Planning Commission to present the Master Plan. Lorna will present to council on February 27, 2024.
3. **FIRE-** Chief Hardee stated that the Loris Fire Department responded to 102 calls in January. Brush fires are picking up.
4. **POLICE-** Report in Council packet. Chief Buley stated that the department has an intern from HGTC working with them.
5. **PUBLIC WORKS**- Report in Council packet.
6. **RECREATION-** Report in Council packet. Woody Hinson stated that the Loris Recreation Department will host 6U and 8U State Tournaments. The department will have more travel ball tournaments than in previous years.
7. **BUSINESS**
8. **DISCUSS PARD GRANT FUNDING AND PROPOSALS FOR IRRIGATION IMPROVMENTS AT RECREATION DEPARTMENT BASEBALL FIELDS-** Administrator Young stated that he has received quotes to install irrigation on Fields three and four at Loris Recreation. The lowest bid was provided by Brown’s Landscaping. The irrigation project will be reimbursed as part of the 2024 PARD grant. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to accept the proposal from Brown’s Landscaping. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
9. **DISCUSS LAWNMOWER REPLACEMENT FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT-** Administrator Young stated that he received a quote from John Deere for a new lawn mower for the Loris Recreation Department. The quote includes a trade valued at $4000. Motion to purchase the lawn mower made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
10. **CONSIDER PETITION FOR ANNEXATION: 1.02 ACRES LOCATED ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERN SIDE OF FOX BAY ROAD (STATE ROAD S-26-570) OWNED BY NORMA JEAN FORD AND IDENTIFIED AS PIN# 177-15-01-0013** – Meredith Holmes provided details of the information provided in the Council packet. Motion to accept the petition was made by Councilman Padgett. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
11. **CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**- Mayor Suggs stated that Scotty Jacobs applied to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion to appoint Mr. Jacobs made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause, All in favor. Motion passes.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS-**

1. **Wendee Boyd addressed the City Council about her concerns pertaining to the Loris Volunteer Fire Department. She does not feel that the department is sufficient for the City. Her home burned on December 14th, 2023, and it was only 1500 feet from the Fire Department. She believes that the station needs to be manned twenty-four hours a day.**
2. **Wendell Boyd spoke to the council about the fire on December 14th, 2023. He reviewed previous structure fires in the city. Mr. Boyd asked for information regarding the current staff at the Fire Department. He would like to know how many firefighters are certified, when they train, and how often they receive physicals.**
3. **Tammy Sims addressed the Council regarding the water bill issues. She stated that she has lived in Loris all her life. She knew that the council was aware of her Facebook post regarding the water bill issues. She believes there is an issue with the radio read meters and that billing is inconsistent. She provided the Administrator with copies of bills that have errors.**
4. **Lynn Grecko asked Administrator Young to restate the update about the Animal Control Ordinance. She hopes for more by the March meeting.**
5. **Todd Harrelson asked that his three minutes be given to Wendell Boyd to continue with his questions. Mr. Boyd stated that he would also like to know if any current members of the Loris Fire Department are disabled or partially disabled.**
6. **Tracy Hornung stated that she needed to speak to the council about a recreation coach. She believes that the coach is degrading children and putting his hands on them in a way that is aggressive. She said that her child refuses to play and that the coach has players bullying her son. She would like the coach to be refused the opportunity to coach. She suggested that background checks be performed on all coaches.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: No Executive Session needed.**

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

**ATTEST:**

 **BRANDY GRAHAM MICHAEL E. SUGGS**

**CITY CLERK** **MAYOR**

 **LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

 **JOAN S. GAUSE**

 **LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.**

 **ANDREA L. COLEMAN**

 **CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.**

 **TONYA SYKES**