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|  | **MINUTES OF**  **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  **CITY HALL**  **MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024**  **– 6:00 PM** |  |
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| **PRESENT** | **MAYOR** | **MICHAEL E. SUGGS** |
|  | **COUNCIL** | **JOAN S. GAUSE**  **LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.**  **ANDREA COLEMAN**  **CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.**  **TONYA F. SYKES** |
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**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00pm on Monday, March 4, 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. **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING—OCTOBER 2, 2023-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes if October 2, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
3. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
4. **MAYORS’S REPORT-** Mayor Suggs stated that he attended the Boy Scouts of America Dinner on February 22, 2024. The 10U basketball team was recognized for being the runner-up at the State Tournament after being defeated by Abbeville in the championship game. Mayor Suggs announced that Meet the Mayor would be held on March 12, 2024, from 4PM to 6PM at the Public Safety Building. Mayor Suggs reminded the council that the Statement of Economic interest was due soon.

Samantha Norris stated that the Chamber of Commerce is busy. They are hosting an Alice in Wonderland Event instead of an Easter Egg Hunt. There are several events in April including the Small Town, Big Show Car Show, a Job Fair, and 2nd graders from Loris Elementary will be visiting the town as a field trip. The Chamber and the City will work together on the field trip plans. Downtown Tuesday in April will be Taco Tuesday sponsored by Panchito’s. The Loris Historical Society will be holding more art-related events. Sherry Whisnant had an art display this month.

1. **ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

**1.SC DHEC VCC APPLICATION**- Administrator Young stated that he and Meredith Holmes met with DHEC on the Voluntary Clean-up Program. They are working on the application that should be submitted by March 15, 2024.

**2.CITY BUDGET REPORT- 2024-** Administrator Young stated that he provided the council with a budget report from the new Harris system. The report includes expenditure to date. He also provided the council with a proposed budget schedule. He would like to plan for the First Reading in May.

**3.AUDIT FY 2021-2022-** The 2021-2022 audit is complete. The report should be ready next week.

**4.** **ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE-DRAFT-** Administrator Young stated that they are still working on the updated ordinance. They need to address some issues with Horry County.

1. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**
2. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**- Meredith Holmes stated that all campaign signs from the Special Election must be removed by ten days after the election.
3. **FIRE-** Kent Wright stated that the Loris Fire Department ran 109 calls last month. There were no fires.
4. **POLICE-** Report in Council packet.
5. **PUBLIC WORKS**- Report in Council packet.
6. **RECREATION-** Report in Council packet.
7. **BUSINESS**
8. **ORDINANCE 01-24- ANNEXATION OF 1.02 ACRES LOCATED ON FOX BAY ROAD. OWNED BY NORMA JEAN FORD AND IDENTIFIED AS [PIN:177-15-01-0013]-** Motion by Councilman Padgett to approve the Annexation of 1.02 acres located on Fox Bay Road and owned by Norma Jean Ford. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
9. **ORDINANCE 02-24- AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE A PORTION OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 45. OWNED BY HARTLAND PROPERTIES, LLCAND IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL Nos: 175-00-0046, 175-00-00-0047 FROM R1.4 to R1.5-** Mayor Suggs stated that the required Public Hearing will be held prior to Second Reading if First Reading passes. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the rezoning request. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.
10. **RESOLUTION 02-24- TO ACCEPT A LETTER OF CREDIT FROM THOMAS AND HUTTON FOR THE GUARANTEED IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MEADOWWALK SUBDIVISION** – Meredith Holmes stated that the Planning Commission requires a guarantee from a developer if all utilities have not been installed prior to Panning Commission’s final approval. Thomas and Hutton are proposing a letter of guarantee in the amount of 125% of the total project. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the Letter of Credit for Phase one of Meadow Walk Subdivision. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Resolution passes.
11. **RESOLUTION 03-24- A RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE CITY OF LORIS**- Mayor Suggs stated that the Fair Housing Month Resolution is an annual process declaring April has Fair Housing Month for the City of Loris. Motion by Councilman Hardee to adopt the Resolution declaring April as Fair Housing Month for the City of Loris. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
12. **DISCUSSION OF THE GIVING HOPE GARDENS PROPOSAL-** Administrator Young stated that council received a proposal from Giving Hope Gardens to maintain the flowerpots and hanging baskets on Main Street. They will update the flowers three times a year. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the proposal. Seconded by Councilman Padgett. All in favor. Motion passes.
13. **DISCUSSION OF SAFEBUILT CAROLINAS, LLC CONTRACT-** Administrator Youngsuggested that council discontinue the SAFEBUILT contract and hire a part time person. He stated that this will save money for the city. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to allow Administrator Young to terminate the SAFEBUILT contract. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.
14. **APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM TREASURER- ANGEL NEIGHBOURS-** Mayor Suggs stated that Tara Coe resigned. Angel Neighbours has been assisting in this position and Administrator Young suggests that she be appointed Interim Treasurer. Motion made by Councilman Hardee to appoint Angel Neighbours as Interim Treasurer. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.
15. **DISCUSSION OF THE SC DHEC VCC APPLICATION-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to allow Administrator Young to sign the VCC Application on behalf of the City of Loris. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS-**

1. **Wendell Boyd stated that over the last month he had requested information from Administrator Young. He was told that he needed to complete a FOIA request, and he had that document with him. Mr. Boyd stated that he has made it a point to get around town and he is not really impressed that on March 2, 2024, a fire truck was seen blocking Meeting Street. He said that Mr. Kent Wright was using the truck to help his daughter Kenya with her personal business. He said that he has heard that there is concern that bad politics is going on.**
2. **Todd Harrelson asked the council for an update on the Forensic Audit that was requested in the fall. Mayor Suggs stated that the audit is in progress along with other audits.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion to enter Executive Session made by Councilwoman Gause. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

Mayor Suggs stated that in Executive Session the council discussed the old Loris High School property. No action was taken.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to allow Administrator Young to sign all documents related to closing on the old Loris High School property. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.

**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**