



**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9,
2024
6:00 PM**

PRESENT

MAYOR

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

COUNCIL

**ANDREA COLEMAN
JOAN GAUSE
KELLI GERALD
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
TONYA SYKES**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00pm on Monday, September 9, 2024.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by City Clerk Graham.

1. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. **MAYORS’S REPORT-** Mayor Suggs said that the Voluntary Clean-up Program at the former Loris High School is being conducted by the South Carolina Department of environmental Services. Officials were on site in August. Soil samples were sent for testing. Watson Park is still being repaired. The ceiling has been repaired and the entire building has been cleaned. A list of lights that need repair was turned over to Santee Cooper. Some of these repairs have already been made. Thank you to Councilman Hardee for compiling a list. Mayor Suggs attended an event at Anderson Oaks Senior Living. It was a fun time. Congratulations to the Loris Ligh School football team. They are 3-0 to start the season. Please remember the citizens that lost their lives on 9/11.

Samantha Norris, Executive Director of the Loris Chamber of Commerce, stated that it is Bog-off Season. There is a Journey tribute band playing at the festival. October 1 will be National Night Out and the first Downtown Tuesday of the fall. The Bog-off is October 19, 2024.

B. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1.SMALL CITIES SUMMIT- Administrator Young stated he, Councilwoman Gerald, Councilwoman Sykes, and Meredith Holmes attended the Small Cities Summit on August 22, 2024. It was an informative meeting. They discussed funding strategies and Economic Development. The meeting was for cities our size.

2.FY 2023-2024 BUDGET REPORT- Administrator Young stated that the final report is complete but with a few minor adjustments needed. The year ended better than anticipated.

3. AUGUST MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT- Administrator Young will provide the council with a monthly financial report moving forward. The July report s in the council packet.

C. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS- Reports from Department Heads in Council packet.

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**
2. **FIRE**
3. **POLICE**
4. **PUBLIC WORKS**
5. **RECREATION**

2. BUSINESS

- A. **DISCUSSION AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 07-24- AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AN AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA for the FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025, ENDING JUNE 30, 2025** – Mayor Suggs stated that the Public Hearing for the ordinance was held prior to the Council meeting. The ordinance was read by title only. Motion to adopt the revised budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilwoman Gerald. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **DISCUSSION OF AXON ENTERPRISES, INC. CONTRACT FOR LORIS POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY CAMERAS**- Chief Buley stated that the contract is a renewal of the current contract. He has applied for a grant to cover a portion of the cost. Motion to approve the Axon contract and allow Administrator Young to sign on behalf of the City of Loris made by Councilman Padgett. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **RESOLUTION 05-24- A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR LORIS VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF JERRY HARDEE**- Mayor Suggs stated that it is not often that you get the opportunity to recognize someone for 50 years in service. Mayor Suggs read the resolution. Motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilwoman Gerald. All in favor. Motion passes. Mayor Suggs recognized guests in attendance for the recognition. Horry County Emergency Management Director Randy Webster thanked Jerry Hardee for his service.
- D. **DISCUSSION OF LORIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST**- Administrator Young stated that the request was for \$10,000 to lease the land on Main Street used for public events. Motion to approve the request for \$10,000 and for the contribution be paid from the Hospitality budget was made by Councilman Hardee. Seconded by Councilman Padgett. All in favor. Motion passes.
- E. **DISCUSSION OF THE PURCHASE OF THE CITY CHRISTMAS TREE AND ORNAMENTS**- Mayor Suggs stated that every year the City prepares for the Christmas season. This year there is a need to replace some items and purchase new decorations. The Building and Grounds committee should meet to review the options. A budget for these items should be set by the City Council. Administrator Young stated that the decorations could be purchased using Hospitality funds. Based on a preliminary review of the items needed, a budget of \$28,000 is requested. Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the budget for these items to be paid from the Hospitality fund and allow the Building and Grounds committee to review the options for purchase. Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All in favor. Motion passes.

3. PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

- 1. Genetha Jones (Canal Street)-** Ms. Jones stated that she was representing the Women's Coalition on behalf of President Veda Nichols. She reminded the City Council of the Veteran's Day program on November 9, 2024, at 10AM at Loris High School. Brunch will be served.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Suggs informed council that there were no items to be discussed in Executive Session.

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 at 6:26PM.

ATTEST:

**BRANDY GRAHAM
CITY CLERK**

**MICHAEL E. SUGGS
MAYOR**

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS

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