



**MINUTES OF  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024  
6:00 PM**

**PRESENT**

**MAYOR**

**MICHAEL E. SUGGS**

**COUNCIL**

**ANDREA COLEMAN  
JOAN S. 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, October 7, 2024.

**INVOCATION:**

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Gause.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by City Clerk Graham.

1. **MINUTES:**

- A. **MAY 06, 2024- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**- Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Gause. All in favor. Motion passes.
- B. **MAY 14, 2024- BUDGET WORKSHOP**- Motion made by Councilman Padgett to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Gerald. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **JUNE 3, 2024- REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**- Motion made by Councilwoman Gerald to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.
- D. **JUNE 24, 2024- PUBLIC HEARING**- Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- E. **JUNE 24, 2024- SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**- Motion made by Councilwoman Gerald to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.

**F. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. **MAYORS'S REPORT**- Mayor Suggs stated that October 1, 2024, was National Night Out. There was good attendance at the event. Kids and teens were able to interact with Police and Fire. Mayor Suggs thanked the Loris Chamber of Commerce and the Loris Police Department for their hard work to make the event a success. Santee Cooper is working at night to complete the list of street lights that need to be replaced. The City is currently working on several projects. They include the completion of Watson Park Community Room, the lot across from City Hall, and the former Loris High School site. Mayor Suggs congratulated the Loris High School football team for their region win over Dillon. The Lions are 5-1 on the season. The League of Cities Meeting will be held on October 23, 2024, at Briarcliffe Acres.

Samantha Norris, Executive Director of the Loris Chamber of Commerce, stated that the fall Downtown Tuesday events kicked off with National Night Out. There will be an event every week in October. October 8 will be Dinner and a Movie. October 15 will be the 80's Prom. The 45<sup>th</sup> annual Loris Bog-off is October 19. A Journey tribute band will close out the entertainment for the day. October 22 will be Luau.

**B. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

**1. WATSON PARK REPAIRS UPDATE-** Administrator Young stated that the meeting room is ready. A new refrigerator will be purchased. Additional PARD grant funds may be used to make improvements to the outside of the building.

**2. OCTOBER 22, 2024- OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL STATE GRANT-** Administrator Young stated that the City of Loris will receive a \$1,000,000 grant from the State of South Carolina for the Old Loris High School project. Senator Kent Williams and Representative Kevin Hardee will make the presentation on October 22, 2024, at City Hall.

**3. SEPTEMBER MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT-** Administrator Young stated that the September report is in the Council packet. The report includes Water and Sewer and Hospitality funds.

**C. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE-** Councilwoman Gause stated that the Building and Grounds Committee met on September 18, 2024. There was a full agenda to discuss. The committee reviewed options for Christmas decorations. Bog-off preparations were discussed. The committee heard from department heads about repairs and improvements that need to be made at the Public Safety Building. The alley way across from City Hall and Watson Park improvements were also discussed.

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

**1. CODE ENFORCEMENT-** Meredith Holmes stated that there are No Trespassing signs up at the Old Loris High School. There are more signs in place than required by the state.

**2. FIRE-** Bob Rudelitch shared that the Fire Department had a lot going on. It was National Fire Prevention Week. Smoke Alarms was the theme. Chief Hardee reminded citizens of the Smoke Alarm program that Loris Fire has in place. Applications can be found online or at City Hall.

**3. POLICE**

**4. PUBLIC WORKS**

**5. RECREATION**

## **G. BUSINESS**

- A. PROJECT UPDATE FROM HANNA ENGINEERING- SCIIP GRANT AND ARPA PROJECT-** Mike Hanna of Hanna Engineering provided an update on the projects happening in the City of Loris. He stated that the Highway 9 and Highway 701 projects are completely funded by SCDOT. The ARPA project is in the design phase. Hanna needs information from the City to complete the design. A lead and copper study is part of the project. The SCIIP grant project includes three phases. The red line is almost ready to advertise. They are waiting for a permit from SCDOT. The blue and yellow lines are slightly behind because of railroad permits. They are working with the railroad.
- B. DISCUSSION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE- 09-24- AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX 0.21 ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS AS R-2 (RESIDENTIAL, MEDIUM DENSITY) LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 110 FEET EAST OF CANNON ROAD [PIN: 176-11-01-0048 – DARLENE RICHBURG, AGENT]-** Clerk Graham read the ordinance by title only. Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance 09-24 was made by Councilwoman Gerald. Seconded by Councilman Padgett. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF EXPENSES TO COMPLETE THE CORNER LOT PROPERTY (CORNER OF WALNUT AND RAILROAD)-** Administrator Young stated that the lot would be identified as a public space for outdoor seating. Hospitality funds could be used for this purpose. A budget of \$35,000 was needed to complete the project in phases. Motion made by Councilwoman Gerald to approve the budget for the corner lot project. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- D. DISCUSSION OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING-** Mayor stated that several projects have been identified at the Public Safety Building. Motion made by Councilwoman Gause to allow Administrator Young to solicit bids for the projects. Seconded by Councilman Hardee. All in favor. Motion passes.
- E. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF TRICK OR TREAT DATE AND TIME-** Motion made by Councilman Hardee to approve October 31, 2024, from 6PM-8PM to be the set hours for Trick or Treating. Seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. All in favor. Motion passes.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS-**

1. **Jimmy Watson-** Mr. Watson stated that Main Street is very busy. He believes it would be beneficial to close parking on one side of the street and parking meters should be added.
2. **Veda Nichols (Church Street)-** Ms. Nichols reminded the Council of the Veteran's Day Program on November 9, 2024. She asked the City of Loris to be a Platinum sponsor.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Councilwoman Gause for adjournment; Seconded by Councilwoman Coleman. All members voted in favor. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:53PM.

**ATTEST:**

---

**BRANDY GRAHAM  
CITY CLERK**

---

**MICHAEL E. SUGGS  
MAYOR**

**LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

---

**JOAN S. GAUSE**

---

**LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.**

---

**ANDREA L. COLEMAN**

---

**CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.**

---

**KELLI GERALD**

---

**TONYA SYKES**