

**MINUTES OF  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL - ZOOM  
APRIL 20, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>TODD M. HARRELSON</b>
	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>LEWIS C. HARDEE, Jr. CARROLL D. PADGETT, Jr. MICHAEL E. SUGGS JOAN S. GAUSE TERRENCE T. HARDEE JAN P. VESCOVI</b>

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Todd Harrelson.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Councilman Terrence T. Hardee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Todd Harrelson.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by Interim Clerk Todd K. Massey II.

**FOIA:**

Notice of the meeting with an agenda was publicly posted, published, and forwarded to the media no less than 24 hours prior to commencement.

**Business:**

Councilman Carroll D. Padgett, Jr. called for a motion to retain the services of one Ms. Robin Poston, CPA of Georgetown, SC, to be the auditor/financial advisor for the City of Loris. City Attorney Kenneth Moss replied that a copy of the agreement with Ms. Poston was emailed to Mayor Harrelson and Council. Councilwoman Joan Gause made a second and all voted in favor.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to rescind the agreement they have with one Ms. Monica Richardson, CPA, of Johnsonville, SC. A second was made by Councilman Michael E. Suggs. All voted in favor and come out of executive session at 7:10pm.

**Keith Massey II Interim Clerk:**

Indicated that business license season is in full swing, revenue is going up. We are getting a lot in the office.

General Fund expenses are under budget, which is good with our expenditures. Which this has come from working hard this year. Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago and I have been working hard daily to get a handle on this budget and keep it up to date.

Water and sewer expenditures have decreased.

Public works have worked hard to get things fixed and worked to get the storm water issues corrected.

**Nicholson vs Edmunds:**

Nicholson does not break things down when a water payment is made, it does not break it down into water, sewer, and sanitation. Edmunds will break everything down allowing it to be coded correctly. If a past due payment comes in it will break that payment down into water, sewer, sanitation, and the late fee, whereas now it all goes to one category.

With Edmunds there will be no more building of spread sheets, it does it for you. When the software is built to your specs, all you will need to do is enter your information correctly and it builds the spread sheet, and you print it. It makes doing the budget and audit a lot easier than it is now.

**Interest and Revenue:**

Antenna rent came in at \$31,000.

**Meetings & Trainings:**

Councilman Padgett asked why were we so over budget for this line item?

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II replied, I am not exactly sure why we went over, but will research and get back to council. We will do all we can in the future to get this lowered as much as possible. The amount spent was a large amount spent at once and not spread out over a period. Could be line code sharing again, which we will get that fixed because line items do not need to be shared period.

Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago added that she believes it may be from the Waccamaw EOC Emergency meeting. Which should be coming from water and sewer but will get this checked into for sure.

Councilman Padgett asked how we paid property insurance for the city?

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II responded, last year in was paid quarterly, but this year it will be paid yearly. From here on out we are striving to keep it paid on a yearly basis.

Councilman Padgett brought forth that he and council would like to see all the short term and long-term debts that the City owes. The payment amounts, terms, interest and when they will be paid out. Also, the monthly occurring expenses not including payroll, so we can get a handle on our budget and know when our payments are due and exactly how much is going out each month and provide to all council members.

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II responded I have the spread sheet built and the information put in, I need to finalize it before I hand it over.

Councilman Michael E. Suggs asked what was done with the old vac truck?

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II responded, that it had been traded in on the new vac truck, and the new one was being paid for out of the Water and Sewer Dept. Councilman Suggs added that the new squad truck is paid for by Fire Impact Fees, as well as the Public Safety Building is paid for by A Bond. They are all paying for themselves and do not come out of the General Fund.

Councilman Padgett asked when the real estate taxes are received, is there a separate account set aside for the 8% that goes to reduce the debt of the Public Safety Building?

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II responded; I cannot answer that.

Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago responded, not that I know of. All goes into General Fund and the new software will break it down and put it in its correct place when its coded correctly.

Councilman Suggs, our budget has not been great in years past. This looks like a good budget, and I hope it will be. We need to ensure we have some cash set aside in case of an emergency. It is going to be crucial in the next few years to get us established.

Councilman Padgett asked, if our insurance payments caught up?

Interim Clerk Keith Massey II responded yes, everything is up to date and going to yearly payments.

Interim Treasurer Jenna Santiago stated, workers comp has come down in price a tremendous amount. Several cases that had been on there for several years have dropped off.

Councilman Padgett, I would like one day with all the department heads soon and say this is what we need or do not need. Let us look at the figures and be able to evaluate what can and cannot be done and fill in some blanks.

Mayor Harrelson, thank you for all your hard work, it shows. We are going into a budget cycle that we can be proud of and can be the best we have had in a while.

**Public and Press:**

Mrs. Jen Boyd Causey, writer with the Tabor-Loris Tribune asked was Ms. Robin Poston contracted to do an audit for the City of Loris?

Attorney Moss replied yes, she has been hired as the auditor for the City of Loris.

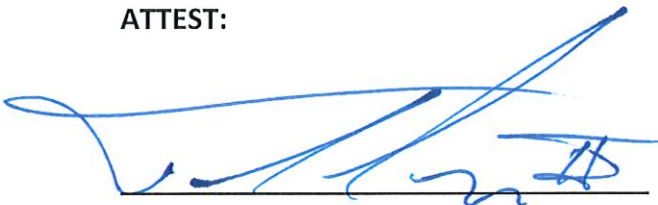
Councilman Suggs, Ms. Richardson, decided to go a different direction. So, we voted to go with Ms. Poston.

Attorney Moss replied that Ms. Richardson was so busy with other clients she could not proceed with the City's contract, so we decided to go another route.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Lewis C. Hardee, Jr., seconded by Mayor Todd Harrelson to adjourn. All members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

ATTEST:



Todd K. Massey II

Interim City Clerk



TODD M. HARRELSON

MAYOR

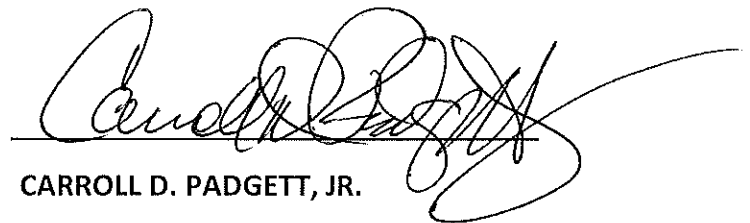
JOAN S. GAUSE

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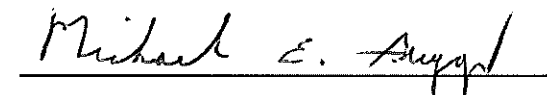
LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.

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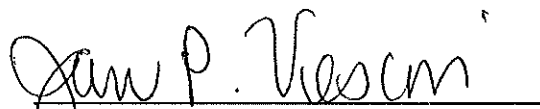
TERRENCE HARDEE

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CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael E. Suggs", written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan P. Vescomi", written over a horizontal line.

JAN P. VESCOVI