

MINUTES OF
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL - ZOOM
JUNE 29, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT

MAYOR

TODD M. HARRELSON

COUNCIL

JOAN S. GAUSE
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
TERRENCE T. HARDEE
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
MICHAEL E. SUGGS
JAN P. VESCOVI

NEWS MEDIA present via ZOOM were Mrs. Jen Boyd Causey, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune, Mr. Scott Harper, writer for The Loris Scene, and Ms. Annie Rigby, writer for The Loris Times.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Lewis Hardee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Harrelson.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Amanda F. Causey.

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.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Harrelson advised 38 ball games were played during the most recent tournament. He advised that the businesses were full of people from out of town that were attending the tournament.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 07-20 AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021, ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Amanda Causey read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Harrelson advised that the budget can be amended later if needed.

Councilman Padgett requested confirmation that the pay increases were removed. Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that the raises were removed.

Councilman Suggs asked for confirmation that the Fire Impact fees were not part of the General Fund because it is designated for specific purposes and would need to be placed in a separate account. Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that the expenditure for the tanker and equipment would be taken from the impact fees and at the end of the day would be a wash entry.

Chief Gary advised that he did not see the expense associated with the replacement police vehicle in the budget. Councilman Terrence requested additional information on the replacement police vehicle since it was not listed in the budget. Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that the cost associated with the 2020 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle would be \$10,007.88. He advised that after adding the allocation for the replacement police vehicle, the new surplus would be \$29,868.00.

Councilman Padgett asked if all the police vehicles were serviceable. Chief Buley advised that six (6) were patrol vehicles and two (3) were unmarked. He stated that all were serviceable.

Mayor Harrelson advised that he received a message from Scott Harper that the meeting was interrupted. Mayor Harrelson advised that the meeting was paused at 6:05 PM due to internet connectivity and resumed at 6:09 with no business discussed during that period.

Councilman Padgett suggested tabling the second reading until all discussed figures were entered into the budget so that when passed, the budget would be correct.

Councilwoman suggested that council pass the budget and make amendments later.

Councilman Padgett advised that the presented budget was not accurate, and raises were not accounted for and suggested that a stop gap budget ordinance could be adopted. Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that the pay raises would be an issue that would have to be discussed after the franchise fee implementation. He stated that a maintenance plan would have to be written before the franchise fee could be put in place and that document would not be ready before the August meeting. He asked if council would like for him to proceed with writing the maintenance plan so that a franchise fee could be established. Mayor Harrelson advised that he was in favor of it to allow a way to provide the employees the pay increases that they deserve.

Attorney Moss advised that he was in favor of including a line item that would allow for the transfer of revenue from Water Sewer Fund to the General Fund. He stated that \$0.00 could be entered. He stated that it was not a franchise fee but a fund

transfer fee. Councilman Suggs advised that he agrees with passing a resolution or ordinance to extend the current budget. He also stated that you cannot pass a budget that does not balance. He advised that once the budget is balanced, a public hearing was needed to include the script that is read stating the revenues, expenses, and how it was arrived. Mr. Brandon Harrelson asked for clarification of what needed to be correcting. Administrator Drozdak provided the definition of expenditure. Councilman Padgett explained that there needed to be a line item for the surplus reflected in the budget as Fund Balance.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to table the second reading of the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, seconded by Lewis Hardee. All members voted favorably.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to adopt a resolution to continue the 2019-2020 budget until such time the 2020-2021 budget can be passed. All members voted favorably.

Attorney Moss advised that he wanted to provide clarification as to the advertising requirements for the Public Hearing. Councilman Suggs advised that we must comply with the 15-day notification requirement. Attorney Moss advised that we would be compliant because it is a continuance of the initial notification. After discussion council agreed to have the Public Discussion on July 6, 2020, at 5:30 PM, prior to the Regular Council Meeting at 6 PM with no additional advertisements required.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

Mr. Scott Harper, writer with The Loris Scene, asked if the administration position was put back into the budget. Mayor Harrelson advised that the administrator position was added back into the budget.

Mr. Scott Harper also asked if Mr. Dennis Drozdak would be staying. Mr. Drozdak replied that he would not be staying.

Mr. Scott Harper also asked what the budgeted amount associated with the administrator position was. Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised \$75,000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to enter executive session for personnel and contractual matters, seconded by Councilwoman Gause at 6:32 PM.

A motion was made by Councilman Terrence Hardee to return from executive session, seconded by Councilman Padgett at 6:41 PM.

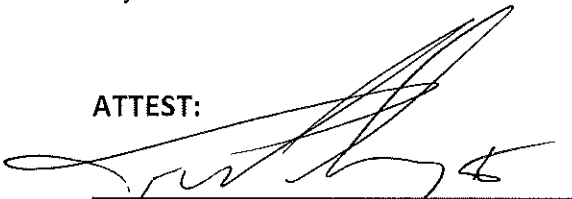
Mayor Harrelson announced that no action was taken in executive session.

Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion to accept Interim Administrator Dennis Drozdak's resignation, seconded by. Councilwoman Vescovi thanked Mr. Drozdak for the hard work and the creation of sports tourism.

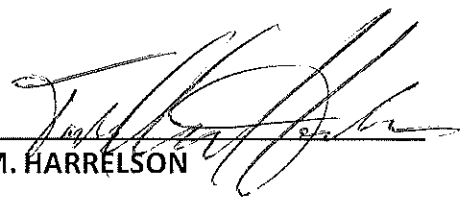
ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to adjourn. All Members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

ATTEST:

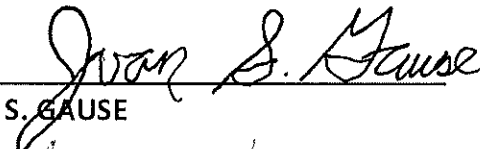


TODD KEITH MASSEY II
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

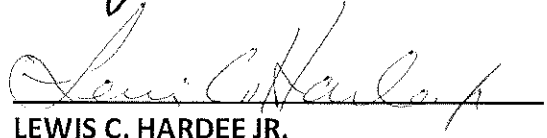


TODD M. HARRELSON
MAYOR

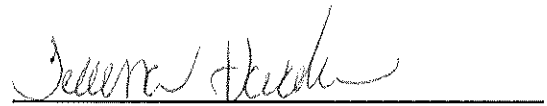
LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS



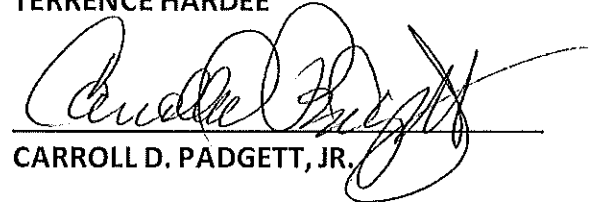
JOAN S. GAUSE



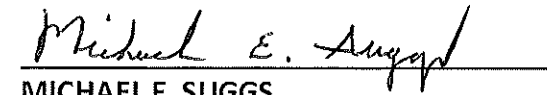
LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.



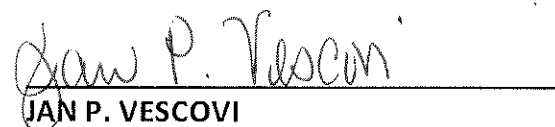
TERRENCE HARDEE



CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.



MICHAEL E. SUGGS



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