

**MINUTES OF
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL - ZOOM
JUNE 8, 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 was posted publicly, published, and forwarded to media no less than 24 hours prior to commencement. At the beginning of the ZOOM meeting confirmation was obtained by multiple parties participating that the meeting was auditable.

MAYORS REPORT:

Mayor Harrelson requested that the City continue to remember Assistant Fire Chief Larry Hickman's family in prayer as they continue to grieve their loss. Advised the Garden Club donated a beautiful flower arrangement that is now displayed in City Hall.

Advised there would be a dedication of a flag for Clyde Richardson scheduled for Saturday at the point across from Tammy's Backyard BBQ.

BUSINESS:

A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 06-20 RELATING TO THE RECOVERY OF COLLECTION COSTS AS A PART OF THE DELINQUENT DEBTS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT

Amanda Causey read the ordinance by title only.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vescovi to approve Ordinance 06-20, seconded by Councilman Padgett. All members voted favorably.

B. DISCUSSION OF FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET WITH DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Interim Administrator Drozdak advised that he is working with insufficient accounting recordings and the budget was prepared by each department head and submitted for presentation.

Attorney Moss asked for confirmation that the numbers used for proposed General Fund revenues coincide with receipts. Mr. Drozdak advised that he felt comfortable with all figures presented, except for business license. He advised that the history of the accounting records showed approximately \$240,000, but to date only \$40,000 has been collected.

Mr. Drozdak advised that he does not yet have confirmation of the funds to be remitted by MASC.

Councilwoman Vescovi advised that the Finance and Personnel Committee met earlier in the day and Councilman Padgett advised that in the past the City participated in the Tax Anticipation Note and council may want to consider that again as an option.

Budget Discussion:

Code Enforcement:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that business license renewals have a trend of being last minute for remittance and continued to review numbers displayed in the budget proposal. Mr. Drozdak advised that there is a need for the addition of an individual in planning and zoning to assist and requests Council to consider allowance for that in the budget. Mr. Drozdak advised that council would be provided more information by the following Monday.

Recreation:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson reviewed budget figures provided.

Mr. Harrelson advised that he prefers a more detailed budget and Mr. Drozdak added that

he is working on the addition of line items to further breakdown budgeted items to provide more information.

Mr. Harrelson advised that the rear portion of Watson Park is ready for rent but is awaiting direction due to COVID. Councilman Padgett advised that a waiver should be added stating that issues resulting from COVID are not the responsibility or liability of the City.

Sanitation:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson reviewed budget items listed.

Street:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson reviewed budget items listed.

Advised that he has budgeted for items in stormwater for minor repairs that Horry County or SCDOT cannot get to.

Advised sidewalk repair is crucial and was added.

Mr. Harrelson advised the City's Stormwater is dated and needs updating. He also advised that there are some stormwater issues that cannot be fixed.

Police:

Chief Buley reviewed budget figures presented.

Advised that salary increases are necessary to keep existing officers. Advised that he has written a grant with a 10% match for new radios.

Councilwoman Gause asked if Loris was able to receive funds to hire police officers. Chief Buley advised that we must be able to produce audits to apply for the matching grants.

Councilwoman Vescovi asked if the Police Trucks were accounted for in the budget proposal. Chief Buley advised that the vehicles were removed.

Councilwoman Vescovi asked why some salaries were increased and others were not.

Chief Buley advised that some of the employees were new or had recently received raises, therefore raises were not straight across the board.

Attorney Moss asked if there were any other departments in the state that required new hires to sign a contract. Chief Buley advised that we cannot require a contract but there is a statute that requires other agencies that hire our officers to reimburse expenses for the academy.

Councilman Padgett requested clarification of salary increases. Chief Buley advised that the increase is distorted because the department has been short staffed and typically would not show such a variation.

Court:

Attorney Moss advised that there was not an expenditure listed for a Victim's Advocate or a Public Defender. Councilwoman Vescovi advised that the Victim's Advocate was listed in the Police Department expenditures. Mr. Drozdak advised that he had not billed for a Public Defender but would confirm and add if needed.

Fire:

Chief Jerry Hardee requested an increase in compensation to include paying the fireman during training. Advised that if was the desire of council to keep the current ISO 3 rating, a full-time employee was needed.

Chief Hardee advised Mr. Drozdak that corrections needed to be made to add workers compensation expenses, fuel expenses, equipment, supplies and facilities.

Attorney Moss advised that Legislature us currently working on additional insurance for fire fighters and council may want to consider contributions for budgetary purposes.

Chief Hardee advised that direction was needed as to the purchase of the Light Rescue Vehicle.

In reference to purchase of the light rescue fire apparatus vehicle, Mr. Keith Massey advised that the City of Loris is a participant in a cooperative purchase agreement now known as Sourcewell.

Attorney Moss advised that in review of the ordinances a determination needed to be made by council if council considered a state contract acceptable or if they desire to receive bids.

After discussion it was determined and agreed that the City of Loris is a part of a cooperative purchase, Sourcewell. Cooperative purchases are based on a standard platform and if additional items are needed such as LED lights council would have to approve if over \$5,000. Councilwoman Vescovi advised that it would be her suggestion to go with the State Contract. Councilwoman advised that council desires to keep the business for purchase and financing as local as possible, all the while achieving the most competitive pricing.

Water & Sewer:

Mr. Brandon Harrelson reviewed the budget figures. He advised that the audit of the water sewer system and updated codes were used to project revenue. He stated that he is basing the estimated figures on the last two months of billing registries and invoices from GSWSA.

Requested consideration for equipment.

- a. Advised that the current (1994-year model) Vac Truck needs major repairs. He advised that the truck's value does not offset the cost to repair. He provided council with information on a 2010 Vac truck (for informational purposes only).
- b. Advised that we are currently renting a backhoe and mini excavator and for the same cost or less, we could purchase one.
- c. Requested permission to purchase a by-pass pump. Advised that currently a 6" pump is leasing from Thompson at \$4,000 per month. Thompson has offered to sell the pump for \$16,089.19. The purchase can be made in three (3) installments. Advised that Thompson needed an answer prior to July 10, 2020. Council agreed to purchase the pump without the procurement process.

- d. Advised trucks are needed for Water & Sewer. Advised the current vehicles are using oil and transmission fluid daily and the cost of repairs are more than their current values. Requested consideration for two (2) F250 Trucks be purchased.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS

There were no public or press comments.

Executive Session:

A motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters was made by Councilman Terrence Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause at 8:04 PM.

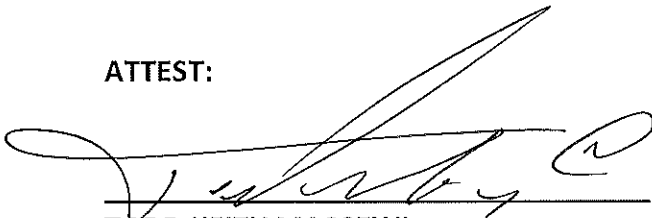
A motion to return from executive session was made by Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilman Terrence Hardee at 8:40 PM.

Mayor Harrelson advised no action was taken on matters discussed in executive session.

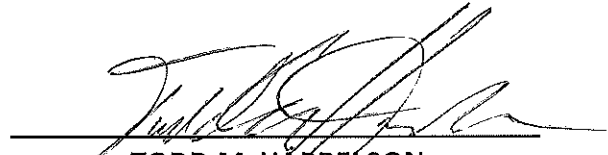
ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Terrence Hardee, seconded by Councilman Lewis Hardee to adjourn. All Members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

ATTEST:

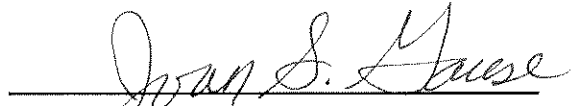


TODD KEITH MASSEY II
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

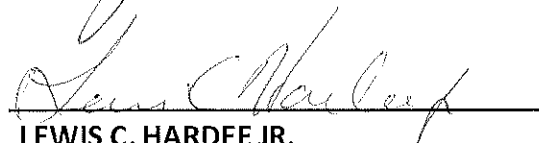


TODD M. HARRELSON
MAYOR

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS



JOAN S. GAUSE



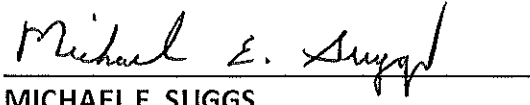
LEWIS C. HARDEE JR.



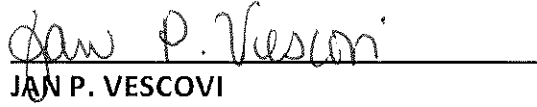
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