

**MINUTES OF
CITY OF LORIS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
3909 WALNUT STREET
LORIS, SC 29569
JANUARY 10th, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT
PRESENT**

**MAYOR
COUNCIL**

**HENRY L. NICHOLS
MICHAEL DOZIER
JOAN S. GAUSE
TERRENCE HARDEE
TODD HARRELSON
MICHAEL E. SUGGS
JAN P. VESCOVI**

NEWS MEDIA present were Mrs. Joyce Graham, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune, Ms. Annie Rigby Ezernack, writer for The Loris Times, and Mr. Scott Harper writer for The Loris Scene.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nichols.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mayor Nichols.

Mayor Nichols lost 3 classmates along with his mother in law and asked that all families are remembered in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nichols.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Clerk Kenya Wright.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 4th, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Dozier, seconded by Councilman Suggs to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably.

COMMUNICATIONS:

MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. Mayor Nichols introduced newly elected Councilman Terrence Hardee. Councilman Hardee shared information about himself and family and expressed his excitement as a newly elected Council member.
2. Reminded all members that the State Ethics report is due by March 30th, 2018.
3. Advised that a New Mayor Pro Tempore would be appointed during the business portion of the meeting. Mayor Nichols requested that members of Council nominate a peer on Council. After nomination a vote will be taken by roll call. Current Mayor Pro Tempore Joan Gause wishes to allow another member of Council to fill the position.
4. Samantha Norris with the Loris Chamber of Commerce thanked the City for all the hard work put into the Tree lighting and Christmas parade. Advised that the Chamber's annual banquet will be held at the Loris Health and Fitness Center on January 25th at 6:00 P.M. Tickets are for sale now.
Mayor Nichols would like to coordinate with the Chamber to hold an event for retired employees in the near future.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Advised that per stipulation of our current contract, American Waste Systems has been notified six months in advance by certified letter that the City will receive bids for the City's waste contract.
Mayor Nichols suggested that the City come up with a penalty and exit plan if the selected company does not meet the expectations of the signed contract. Quarterly reviews should be done to assure all contract agreements are being met.
2. Advised that specific delivery dates for the newly purchased vehicles from Ford are not yet available. All stipulations have been met and delivery dates should be available within the next week.
Mr. Brandon Harrelson is in the process of compiling a list of vehicles to be auctioned off or disposed of by the City. Once that list is compiled it will be forwarded to Council for review and approval.
3. Advised that by Supreme Court ruling, the City is required to obtain a Public Defender for our City Court.
Mayor Nichols advised that Council wishes to contract a Public Defender to be contacted by the Clerk of Court as needed.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Departmental reports were received by Council as information.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

1. Mr. Harrelson advised that efforts to condemn buildings in the City are being continued. Many efforts have been made by Code Enforcement and Chief Buley to clean up the trash around town by holding property owners responsible. Several buildings on Maple Street are currently condemned for violations. Code Enforcement is actively educating property owners and the general public as to who is responsible for such violations.

Councilwoman Gause inquired as to the time frame a property owner would be allowed after the property owner posted a condemned property for sale.

Attorney Battle advised that the fact that the property has been posted for sale does not stop the current proceeding.

COMMITTEE PRESENTATION:

Each committee chair has been asked to give an update on the committee's achievements, discussions and concerns within the last 2 years.

Mayor Nichols advised that new committee members would be selected in the upcoming months. Committees will consist of Council members along with community members. Mayor Nichols asks all Council members to inform him of the committee in which they would like to chair in the upcoming weeks so that he may move forward with appointing these committees.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Councilman Dozier has been the Public Safety chair for the last 2 years. Three police interceptors along with a police suv have been approved by Council to arrive within the next few months. The police department is fully staffed with the exception of 1 administrative clerk. An active shooter team has been comprised with members of the Loris Police Department. The Loris Police Department now has a Facebook page to keep promote community relations. Chief Buley is in the process of doing a pay study and retention package to offer officers of the department. The Loris Fire Department received a grant which was written by Mr. Robert Rudelitch for approximately \$333,000. This grant will help the department in purchasing a \$350,000 fire engine to replace the old fire engine. The fire department will soon need a squad truck to help the department with medical calls. The City will look into getting a grant to cover the majority of the \$100,000 truck. Loris Volunteer Fire Department is the largest volunteer department within the state covering over \$1,200 calls within the last year. The police and fire department are in the process of researching the possibility of the City having a training center. In the last year, the City's ISO rating has dropped to a 3.

Mayor Nichols thanked Councilman Dozier for his time and effort on the Public Safety Committee.

PLANNING, ANNEXATION, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Councilwoman Vescovi has served as the Planning, Annexation, Community and Economic Development chair for the last 18 months. During those 18 months, the committee has held several meetings. The committee's main focus has been on dilapidated buildings and nuisances. Several ordinances have been revised with the help of Mr. Brandon Harrelson. The committee has also checked into several other issues such as over-sized trucks coming down Main Street. The committee requested money in the last budget cycle to assist with the removal of depilated buildings. With the help of Mrs. Samantha Norris with the Loris Chamber of Commerce many businesses now have royal blue flags to fly on game days supporting the Loris Lions. This committee would like to continue to work with the Chamber in bringing more businesses into the City Limits.

Mayor thanked Councilwoman Vescovi for all her hard work and dedication to the committee.

RECREATION:

Councilman Suggs has served as the Recreation Chair for the last 2 years. During the last 2 years several meetings have been held. Watson Park received several updates and held a reopening ceremony. Several bids went out for items such as uniforms, equipment along with other proposals. The committee acknowledges that the batting cages need improvement. Several teams within the recreation department have received awards and recognition in the last several seasons. The position for a Recreation Director is currently open. Councilman Suggs appreciates and requests the continued assistance from Councilwoman Vescovi within the committee.

Mayor thanked Councilman Suggs for his service to the committee. Mayor Nichols requests that a well-qualified director is hired within the next 12 months.

BUSINESS:

A. HORRY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Sam Ward, Project Manager with the Horry County Soil and Water Conservation presented council with a Clean Water/Clean Living presentation. The Horry County Soil and Water Conservation District was recently awarded a grant from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control with support from the US Environmental Protection Agency to improve impaired waters in the Mitchell Swamp out of Loris area. Homeowners with faulty or inadequate septic systems are eligible for financial assistance to repair the septic systems which leak sewage into yards, ditches and streams and are a significant source of e-coli bacteria. In Some cases, entire septic tanks need to be replaced, or additional drain lines need to be installed.

Mr. Ward feels this grant awarded can be very beneficial to home owners in the Loris area. For additional information contact Mr. Ward at (843)365-8732 ext. 242.

B. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 09-17 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE CITY OF LORIS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

The ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Wright. A motion was made by Councilman Dozier to approve Ordinance 09-17 - AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE CITY OF LORIS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK seconded by Councilwoman Gause to approve the City Employee Handbook. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

C. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-18 – AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LORIS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

The ordinance was read by title only by Clerk Wright. A motion was made by Councilman Dozier to approve Ordinance 01-18 - AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LORIS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL seconded by Councilman Harrelson to approve the City Employee Handbook. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

D. APPOINT NEW MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to appoint Councilman Harrelson as Mayor Pro Tempore.

A motion was made by Councilman Dozier, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to close the open nominations for Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably. After nominations were closed by a motion and second Mayor Nichols and all members voted favorably by roll call to appoint Councilman Harrelson as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Councilman Suggs advised that Loris tradition has been that the member receiving the highest number of votes receive the honor of appointment as Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Nichols advised that the New Mayor Pro Tempore would be elected by nomination and vote by Council.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMENTS:

Mrs. Joyce Graham, writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune requested a copy of the recently approved employee handbook. Mrs. Graham inquired about the audit completion hold up. Mrs. Graham inquired about the total funds spent with the current auditing firm to date. Mrs. Graham also requested that the media be notified of all future committee meetings.

Mr. Scott Harper writer for The Loris Scene inquired about the change in recent City tradition for the selection of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mr. Al Lucksavage of 3260 Liberty Street inquired about signs laying on the ground around town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilman Dozier, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to go into executive session to discuss administrative and personnel matters. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilman Dozier to go back into open session. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

After executive session, Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion seconded by Councilman Dozier to appoint Mr. Brandon Harrelson and Mrs. Kenya Wright as acting Administrators while Administrator Kempski is out on extended medical leave. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

Councilman Dozier made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hardee to raise Administrator Kempski's salary \$3,000 effective January 1st, 2018. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

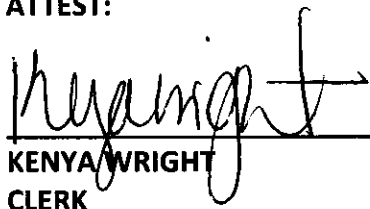
Councilman Dozier made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to raise Clerk Wright's salary \$5,000 effective January 1st, 2018. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably.

No other actions were taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi to adjourn. Mayor Nichols and all Members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

ATTEST:



KENYA WRIGHT
CLERK

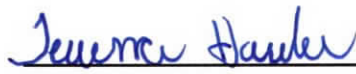
HENRY L. NICHOLS
MAYOR

LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS


MICHAEL DOZIER



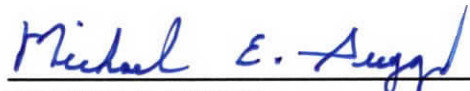
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