ANGEL R. NEIGHBOURS
INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR
TREASURER

MELINDA T. PRICE
CITY CLERK

JOHN C. ZILINSKY
ATTORNEY

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MICHAEL E. SUGGS
MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL
ANDREA L. COLEMAN
JOAN S. GAUSE
KELLI D. GERALD
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
TONYA F. SYKES

Notice of this Agenda was publicly posted, published, and forwarded as required by law.

AGENDA
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026– 6:00 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
   - A. INVOCATION
   - B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   - C. ROLL CALL

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
   - A. AUGUST 3, 2026 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

3. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
   - A. MAYOR'S REPORT
   - B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS
   - C. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS
     1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING
     2. FIRE
     3. POLICE
     4. PUBLIC WORKS
     5. RECREATION

4. **BUSINESS:**
   - **A. RESOLUTION 08-26: A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF LORIS TO PROVIDING A LOCAL MATCH FOR A MUNCIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA PROBLEM SOLVER GRANT AND FOLLOWING ITS PROCUREMENT POLICY WHEN SECURING SERVICES AND PRODUCTS WITH GRANT FUNDS.**

B. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM ATTORNEY JOHN ZILINSKY REGARDING THE PROJECT TO RE-CODIFY THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

5. PUBLIC & PRESS COMMENTS:

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A. PERSONNEL MATTERS
B. CONTRACTUAL MATTERS
C. LEGAL MATTERS

7. ADJOURNMENT:

**Recording of this meeting will be available the following day via our YouTube channel.*
http://www.youtube.com/@cityofloriscouncilmeetings6232

MINUTES OF
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY AUGUST 3, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:	**MAYOR**	**MICHAEL E. SUGGS**
	COUNCIL	**ANDREA L. COLEMAN**
		JOAN S. GAUSE
		KELLI D. GERALD
		LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
		CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
		TONYA F. SKYES
PRESENT:	**INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR**	**ANGEL R NEIGHBOURS**
	CLERK	**MELINDA T. PRICE**
	ATTORNEY	**JOHN C. ZILINSKY**

CALL TO ORDER:
The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00 pm on Monday, August 3, 2026.

INVOCATION:
The invocation was given by Councilman Padgett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

ROLL CALL:
The roll was called by Clerk Price.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. JULY 6, 2026 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of July 6, 2026, regular city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman, to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2026, regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Suggs reported the following:

Congratulations to El Patron Mexican Restaurant and Elliott Coastal Living Real Estate. Both businesses celebrated grand openings in July. El Patron Mexican Restaurant held a ribbon cutting on Saturday, July 18th and Elliott Coastal Living Real Estate held a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, July 21st. Mayor Suggs welcomed them as part of our local business community.

The Horry County League of Cities held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, July 23rd. Mayor Suggs, Councilman Hardee and Councilman Padgett attended the meeting which was hosted by the Town of Surfside Beach. Guest speaker was Lori Kelman who founded the Enhancing Teen Communication Program which teaches teenagers the skills needed to communicate confidently and effectively. Lori Kelman is also a radio and television journalist.

A break in a water main was discovered last night at Main Street and Railroad Avenue during the preparation of Main Street for repaving. The city's water and sewer department has worked overnight and throughout today to repair the break.

There have been stories in the local newspaper and on social media regarding Horry County's move to close Twin Cities Airport located just North of town. However, there has been no communication from Horry County to the city regarding this matter. Twin Cities airport was constructed by local citizens in the very early 1960's and given to Horry County in 1963. If the airport closes, it will affect the communities of Loris and Tabor City and this part of Horry County. If you have not heard about this, please pick up a copy of the current edition of the Loris Tabor Tribune. A very good article is published on the front page. Citizens are urged to make your voices heard with your county councilman about this issue. We do not want to lose this community asset. This is a real issue and not just rumor.

On July 10th the city received a letter from Governor Henry McMaster informing us that the city has been awarded $1,002,922.00 in Community Block Grant Funding from the State's Community

Infrastructure Program. These funds will be used for drainage improvements to the Upper Pleasant Meadow Swamp Basin which is where Loris is located. Phase one will include pipe improvements consisting of removal and replacement of existing pipes and/or installation of additional pipes to improve stormwater flow. Channel opening improvements, including regrading, will be done to open and enlarge the channel width to maximize flow. There are twelve sites, from Heritage Road to Railroad Avenue, being considered for improvements through this grant.

Morning with the Mayor and City Administrator will be held in the afternoon for the month of August from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm to accommodate working residents that can't attend morning meetings. This month's meeting will be on August 13th here at City Hall.

Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris was present and thanked everyone who attended and took part in Christmas in July. Ms. Norris also wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming Downtown Tuesday Pirates Adventure on August 4th and Deegan's Dino Show, which will be the last Downtown Tuesday being held on August 11th. The Loris Lions Football Block Party will also be held on Thursday August 13th; everyone is invited to participate in, or attend, this event. All scheduled events will be from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Ms. Norris stated the Chamber of Commerce holding these events is to promote the City and its businesses.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Neighbours reported that the city has been in contact with Horry County to confirm any existing easements from property owners along the Upper Pleasant Meadow project. The county is in the process of getting copies of the existing easements, and there are also a few more that will need to be obtained. This new Community Development Block Grant for stormwater flow was on the spring grant cycle. There is another grant cycle opening in the fall, and the application is due by the end of September. This is a community enrichment project grant the city will be applying for. This grant would be to obtain safety equipment for our fire department.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lewis Hardee reported that Public Safety Committee met on Thursday July 16th at 5:00 pm. All committee members were present along with Chief Buley and Lieutenant Williams of the Loris Police Department, and Fire Chief Jerry Hardee. Mayor Suggs and Attorney Zilinsky were also in attendance. Two items were brought to the committee for discussion and are on the agenda tonight for consideration by council. Those items are discussion and consideration of off-duty management service agreement for the police department and the discussion of survey and design needs for joint training facility for Loris Police and Fire Departments. Several ordinances were also discussed that need some possible enhancements and further discussion by the committee before being brought to council.

D. DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS:

1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes presented her statistical report. Applications for July have increased from last month. During July twenty-two (22) applications were processed while in June none were processed. Ms. Holmes stated that there has been a lot of activity regarding complaints and thirteen (13) have been received. However, some of those were referred to other agencies. There were seven (7) violation letters sent out due to those complaints. Governor McMaster has issued a proclamation declaring August emergency management awareness month. Horry County Emergency Management is our local contact center. Sam Hodge is the director, and Wanda Brust assists with different departments to help our communities be as resilient as possible.

2. FIRE – A written report was provided in the agenda packet for council. Fire Marshall Robert Rudelitch summarized some highlights from the report. He reported a major wood fire off Highway 45 where crews spent several days containing the fire. No structures were reported lost and no injuries or loss of life occurred. A 911 remembrance service ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the attack on America is being planned with the Chamber of Commerce for Thursday September 10th at 7:00 pm at the State Theater. The fire department also has some new volunteers that are in the training and on boarding process.

3. POLICE – A written report wasn't provided in the agenda packet for council. Chief Buley was present and informed council that it had been a very busy month, and he would provide a written report as soon as possible. Chief Buley reported that the department recently lost two officers, Dylan Sackett and Tyler Strouhal, due to resignations. They are looking to replace those two officers. Two narcotic search warrants were recently served and searches conducted. Two arrests were made and illegal substances were seized. Final numbers will be reported later. Mayor Suggs stated that it's a great accomplishment to get illegal drugs off the streets.

4. PUBLIC WORKS – Administrator Neighbours reported that lead and copper testing has been completed and results have been mailed to residents. SCDES determines the residences in the city from which samples must be collected for testing. The next test will take place between July and December. Ms. Neighbours also gave an update on the sewer rehabilitation project. The final phase starts Thursday. This phase will be to coat the inside of the manholes. Once that phase is completed, the company will be working to place all property back to its original condition prior to the beginning of the project. This work will be overseen by the engineer, contractor and city officials with a walk through to make sure all property has been restored back to the original or better condition before final funds are disbursed to the contractor.

5. RECREATION – A written report was provided in the agenda packet for council. Recreation Director Woody Hinson reported that the 10U Boy's Baseball Team was runner-up at the state

championship tournament. Mr. Hinson also stated that football season would be starting soon and that they have been able to purchase new uniforms and equipment thanks to Administrator Neighbours. He reported that he was informed right before the meeting that there had been an arrest in the chain of break-ins of the concession stand at the recreation department.

Councilwoman Coleman asked that public comments be heard before the start of business items. The gentleman who signed up to speak would like to discuss the first item of business. There being no objections, public comments were heard.

Chad Bennett 2524 Bayboro Street Loris S.C. signed up to voice his opinion on the re-zoning of a parcel located on highway 45 owned by Harriett Hardee. Mr. Bennett stated that his concern was that it would only create more flooding by rezoning and allowing more homes to be built in that area. Mr. Bennett stated that he was not completely against the rezoning, but he hoped that some research would be done to see how it would affect the people already residing in that area by adding more housing.

BUSINESS:

A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 06-26: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND REZONE PROPERTY OWNED BY HARRIETT D. HARDEE LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 45 AND IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL NO. 186- 00-00-0001.

Clerk Price read Ordinance 06-26 by title only. Mayor Suggs stated that this is the property that was referred to during public comments. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to approve second reading of ordinance 06-26. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably except Councilwoman Coleman, Councilwoman Gerald and Councilwoman Sykes who opposed. Motion Passed.

B. RESOLUTION 07-26: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUBDIVISION SURVEY CONCERNING THE OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY, SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE LOCATION OF 5.75 ACRES ON PROPERTY BEARING PIN 186-00-00-0024 AS REQUIRED BY THAT CERTAIN CONTRACT TO SELL AND PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY BETWEEN THE CITY OF LORIS AND HORRY COUNTY, A BODY POLITIC, SAID CONTRACT BEING DATED APRIL 10, 2026.

Clerk Price read Resolution 07-26 by title only. Mayor Suggs gave brief description of the property location and the specific area of the old Loris High School Campus to be purchased by Horry County. Attorney Zilinsky stated that Horry County has approved the survey of the property to be purchased. However, there is a billboard located on the property that Horry County wishes to be removed from the property before the sale is finalized. Per the sales contract, city council must also approve the survey before the closing can take place. Further, Mayor Suggs needs authorization by council to sign the certificate of ownership section of the survey plat on behalf of the city. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause, to approve resolution 07-26 and to authorize Mayor Suggs to sign the certificate of ownership on

the survey plat. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed. Once all signatures are obtained, the plat will be submitted by the county to the city's planning and zoning department to be approved for recording at the Horry County Register of Deeds Office.

C. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF OFF- DUTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Suggs stated that this item was discussed in the public safety committee meeting on July 16, 2026. Chief Buley was asked to give an overview; however, he deferred to Lieutenant Larry Williams. Lieutenant Williams gave a brief overview of the program and how it works. There will be no cost to the city. There is a small fee, which is paid by the entities requesting off-duty officers through the program. The program allows our officers and the police department to manage and document any off duty job work with other agencies or businesses such as assisting Coastal Carolina University during on-campus athletic events. It also expands opportunities for off-duty officers to assist other entities. The contract in no way prevents the city from contracting directly with entities needing the assistance of off-duty law enforcement officers. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman, to approve the contract and to authorize Administrator Neighbours to sign the off-duty management service agreement on behalf of the city. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

D. DISCUSSION OF SURVEY AND DESIGN NEEDS FOR JOINT TRAINING FACILITY FOR LORIS POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Suggs gave a brief description of the property to be used for the training facility. The proposed location is property owned by the city off Highway 701 South on Bonnie Bay Road. A portion of this property was used many years ago as a city dump. This project was approved by council several months ago and since that time wetlands delineation has been done and clearance from South Carolina Department of Environmental Services has been given to use the property for the training center. The police department will use the facility primarily for a shooting range. The police department is now travelling to Tabor City for firearms practice. The fire department will use the site primarily for field training including exercises such as search and rescue. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to approve and authorize Administrator Neighbours to move forward to obtain a survey of the portion of the property to be used for the training center and to seek a firm to provide a conceptual design of the facility. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

E. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH DIAMOND SHORES, LLC, FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES REGARDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR THE UPPER PLEASEANT MEADOW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Mayor Suggs gave a brief description of item E and explained that the Community Development Block Grant referred to earlier in the meeting which has been received to address stormwater issues will require the city to contract an engineering firm to design and supervise the project.

Attorney Zilinsky stated that a contract with Diamond Shores, LLC, has been provided to council in the agenda packet. He gave a summary of the contract and a brief background on the company, which has very good references. The contract will need to be approved, and Administrator Neighbours will need to be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the city. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to enter into contract with Diamond Shores, LLC for engineering services regarding the Community Development Block Grant and to authorize Administrator Neighbours to sign the contract on behalf of the city. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

Public comments were made before moving into the business items during this meeting. No one was present from the press.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Attorney Zilinsky stated that there were two legal updates to be given in executive session. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Gause, to enter executive session to receive updates on the legal matters. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed. Council entered executive session at 6:44 pm.

Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed. Council reconvened in open session at 7:05 pm.

Mayor Suggs reported that during executive session council received updates on two legal matters from Attorney Zilinsky, and no votes or action was taken while in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilman Hardee, to adjourn the regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

ATTEST:

_____ _____

MELINDA T. PRICE
CITY CLERK

MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR

ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL

JOAN S. GAUSE, COUNCIL

KELLI D. GERALD, COUNCIL

LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR., COUNCIL

CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR., COUNCIL

TONYA F. SYKES, COUNCIL

September 2026 City Council Report

Submitted – Robert Rudelitch

Calls – 118 Calls for the month of August / 886 YTD

City – 63 / Service – 35 / Outside Unincorporated - 11

- 106 Calls for the month of July

City – 61 / Service -33 / Outside Unincorporated -12

Roster – 25 members

Notable Activities August –

Various Apparatus Repair items ongoing

Upcoming –

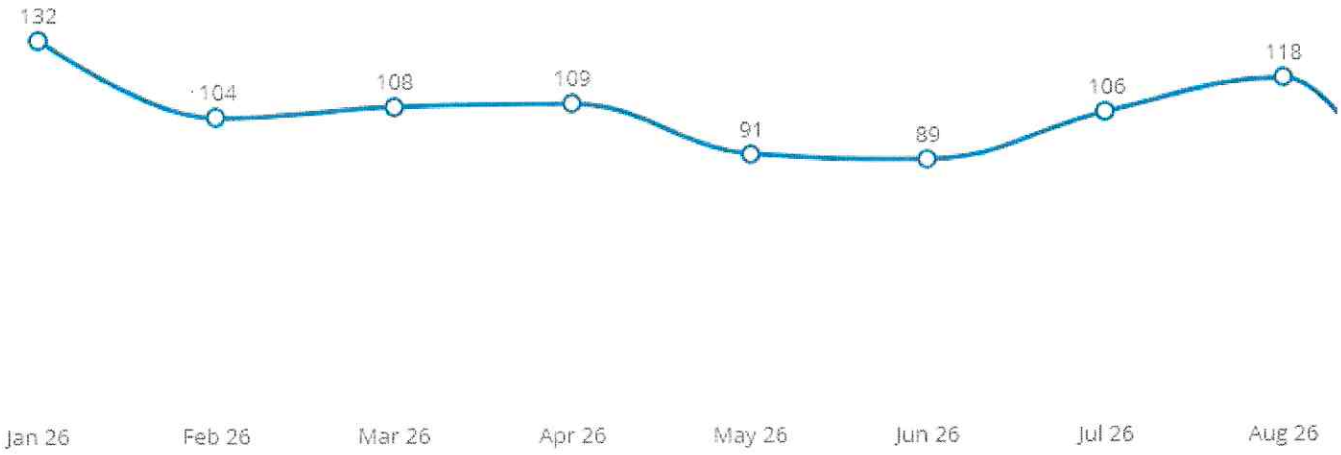
SCBA Flow Testing

9/11 remembrance service Thursday 9/10 at 7pm Loris Historical Theater. Friday Morning 9/11 Siren Remembrance.

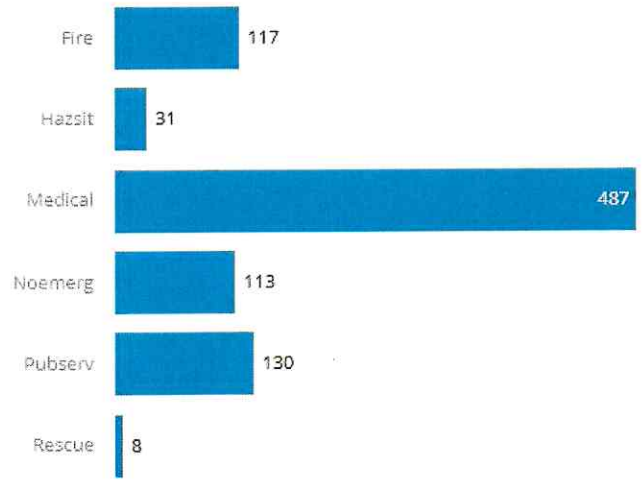
Open House – Fire Prevention Week / National Night Out at the PSB – Tuesday October 6th. 630 - 830pm.

Various CRR events in October.

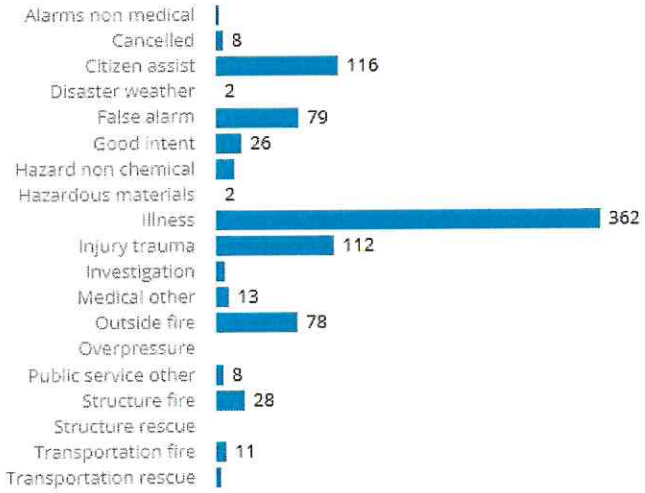
NERIS YTD Call Type Data



Count of Incidents by Incident Category



Count of Incidents by Incident Type Subcategory



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF HORRY) RESOLUTION NUMBER 08-26
CITY OF LORIS)

A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF LORIS TO PROVIDING A LOCAL MATCH FOR A MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA PROBLEM SOLVER GRANT AND FOLLOWING ITS PROCUREMENT POLICY WHEN SECURING SERVICES AND PRODUCTS WITH GRANT FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LORIS, here assembled on this 14th day of September 2026, that the Loris City Council hereby commits to provide a local match of at least $1,250.00, which equals the minimum five percent local match required by the Municipal Association of South Carolina, to support the City's application for a Problem Solver Grant in the amount of $25,000.00. These grant and local matching funds will be used to preserve the former city jail, built in the early 20th century, and to renovate it into a small city museum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council will follow its procurement policy adopted in accordance with SC Code of Laws Section 11-35-50 when securing all services and products purchased with funds awarded from a Problem Solver Grant.

This resolution is made in regard to the submission of an application for Problem Solver Grant Funds to the Municipal Association of South Carolina on or before the application deadline of September 25, 2026.

ATTEST:

MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR

MELINDA T. PRICE, CLERK

ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL

JOAN S. GAUSE, COUNCIL

KELLI D. GERALD, COUNCIL

LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR. COUNCIL

CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR. COUNCIL

TONYA F. SYKES, COUNCIL