



**MINUTES OF
REGULAR COUNCIL
MEETING
CITY HALL
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025
6:00 PM**

PRESENT

MAYOR

MICHAEL E. SUGGS

PRESENT

COUNCIL

**ANDREA COLEMAN
JOAN S. GAUSE
KELLI GERALD
LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR.
CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR.
TONYA SYKES**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00pm on Monday, April 7, 2025.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Councilman Hardee.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Clerk Graham.

MINUTES:

- A. **MARCH 3, 2025, REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:** The minutes of the March 3, 2025, regular city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025, regular council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.
- B. **MARCH 24, 2025, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING:** The minutes of the March 24, 2025, special city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2025, special council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. MAYORS'S REPORT:

Mayor Suggs reported that the demolition of the Old Loris High School is on schedule. The SCIIP Grant project is underway on Pinewood Drive. New sewer pipes are being laid. Mayor Suggs attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Habitat for Humanity project on Harrelson Avenue. The family is extremely excited about their new home. Opening Day for the Loris Recreation Department baseball and softball seasons will be April 12, 2025, beginning at 9AM. The Opening Ceremony will be followed by games. The Loris High School DECA Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 19, 2025, beginning at 1PM. The Watson Park Meeting Room Open House will be held on April 29, 2025, from 4PM to 6PM.

Samantha Norris, Executive Director for the Loris Chamber of Commerce, reported that the Loris Lion Roar Block Party was a huge success. The Small Town, Big Show Car Show will be held Saturday, April 19, 2025, in downtown Loris. New commercials promoting the City of Loris are being filmed. The new location guides will be printed in the next couple of weeks.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Neighbours provided the Council with the year-to-date budget. She would like to work on the appearance of the downtown area. The city is currently working with an arborist for tree trimming. She would like to focus on adding flowers and mulch to the beds. The black benches around town are being refurbished.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE—Andrea Coleman, Chairperson

The Personnel and Finance Committee met three times since the last regular city council meeting. The meeting dates were March 11th, March 24th, and April 1st. Personnel matters, concerning the retirement of City Administrator Clay Young and the appointment of Interim Administrator Angel Neighbours, were discussed at these meetings.

D. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS:

Written reports from Department Heads were included in the Councilmembers packet and were accepted by the council. The following additional reports were given by the department heads.

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT**
2. **FIRE-** Chief Jerry Hardee reported that the Loris Fire Department had a busy month. The fire record keeping and data collection system is undergoing a transition. There is no expense for this transition to the city.
3. **POLICE-** Chief Gary Buley provided updated written information for council concerning items previously discussed at a Public Safety Committee meeting.
4. **PUBLIC WORKS**
5. **RECREATION**

1. BUSINESS

- A. **RESOLUTION 03-25: A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH FOR THE CITY OF LORIS:** Mayor Suggs said that April of each year is Fair Housing Month and for many years the City Council had passed the Fair Housing Month Resolution in April. Clerk Graham read the resolution in its entirety. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause, to approve the resolution declaring April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Loris. Seconded by Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.
- B. **PETITION FOR ANNEXATION- A-202503-001: Request to annex 0.58 legal acres into the corporate limits of the City of Loris as R-1.4 (Residential) located on the northern side of Russ Road (County Road) [PIN: 177-10-01-0013] [Cox, Joseph Tanner et al]:** City Planning Director Meredith Holmes said that pre-annexation covenant is complete. There is currently a home on the property. They would like to connect to Water and Sewer. A Motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman Hardee, to accept the petition for annexation. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.
- C. **PETITION FOR ANNEXATION- A-202504-001: Request to annex 2.04 legal acres into the corporate limits of the City of Loris as C-2 (Commercial, General) located on the southeastern corner of U.S. 701 North & Fox Bay Road (S-26-570) [PIN: 176-12-01-0009] [Johnson, Thomas C TR]:** City Planning Director Meredith Holmes reported that the property is the grass lot beside the Speedway Convenience store and Wendy's Restaurant and Fox Bay Road. The request meets future land use requirements. A Motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes, to accept the petition for annexation. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.
- D. **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS VACANCY:** Mayor Suggs reported that there is a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Joice Grate resigned after many years of service. Mayor Suggs and Councilman Hardee thanked Mr. Grate for his service. Mayor Suggs said that Antonio Boyd applied for the vacant position. A Motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman, to appoint Mr. Antonio Boyd to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Joice Grate on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.
- E. **OLD LORIS HIGH SCHOOL DEMOLITION: DAWN SCHOOLCRAFT-** Dawn Schoolcraft reported that the Old Loris High School project has come a long way. The shop, field house, and gym demolitions are complete. The cafeteria demolition has started but the library is still standing. Mrs. Schoolcraft reminded the public that the bricks from

the building cannot be taken by the public, per SCDES due to the potential for Asbestos contamination. She was very pleased that the plaques from the shop, football fieldhouse and school building were able to be preserved. They have been tested and meet DES standards.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

There were no requests from the public or press to address the council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Suggs indicated that there was one personnel matter that needed to be discussed by council in executive session. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to enter executive session for discussion of a personnel matter. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

Following executive session, a motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilman Hardee to reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

Mayor Suggs reported that in executive session council received information regarding a personnel matter and that no action was taken.

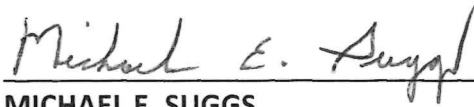
A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to accept the resignation of City Clerk Brandy Graham effective at the end of April. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

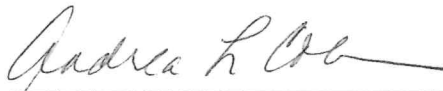
A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to adjourn. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:04PM

ATTEST:

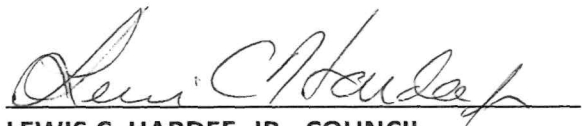
BRANDY GRAHAM
CLERK



MICHAEL E. SUGGS
MAYOR



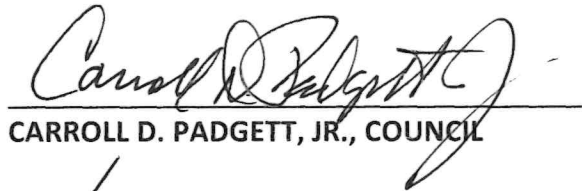
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