

**MINUTES OF  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>MAYOR</b>	<b>MICHAEL E. SUGGS</b>
	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>ANDREA L. COLEMAN KELLI D. GERALD LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR. CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR. TONYA F. SYKES</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>JOAN S. GAUSE</b>
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>ANGEL R. NEIGHBOURS</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>ATTORNEY</b>	<b>JOHN C. ZILINSKY</b>

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The special city council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00 pm on Monday, June 16, 2025.

**INVOCATION:**

Just prior to the invocation, Mayor Suggs stated that the community had experienced the loss of the following individuals over the period of just a few days and asked that their families be remembered:

Diane Hardee, wife of Fire Chief Jerry Hardee  
Harry McDowell, former Horry County Magistrate and Loris Municipal Judge  
Ernest Prince, brother of Loris Volunteer Fireman Paul Prince  
Andrew Brisbon, local barbershop operator and talented gospel singer  
Shorty Conner, local merchant and owner of Shorty's Grill  
Also, Loris Police Chief Gary Buley's grandfather passed away in New York.

The invocation was then given by Councilman Hardee.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called by Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes.

**BUSINESS:**

**A. DISCUSSION OF REPAIRS AND UPGRADES TO, OR REPLACEMENT OF, THE LORIS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AERIAL TRUCK**

Mayor Suggs stated that the meeting was necessary because the fire department's 1984-model aerial truck is out of service due to maintenance issues. An opportunity has presented itself to possibly purchase a used 1999-model aerial truck. A decision must be made whether to repair the 1984 truck or possibly purchase a replacement. Mayor Suggs then asked Fire Chief Jerry Hardee to give an overview of our options and address any questions Council may have.

Chief Hardee reported that the City's 1984 aerial truck is currently receiving maintenance at the C.W. Williams Company in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The company representatives indicate that the department's truck is in good shape for its age and if fully repaired should have a service life of at least five to ten years.

Councilman Padgett asked how much the current repairs will cost. Chief Hardee state that currently the City owes approximately \$18,000.00 for the repairs already made. However, a problem was found with the waterway from the pump to the top of the aerial platform causing a large amount of water loss during pump operations. This problem must be fixed to make the truck fully operational. Councilman Padgett asked what additional costs would be incurred to repair the waterway. Chief Hardee stated that the estimate is approximately \$40,000.00 in additional costs and that the parts would have to be manufactured by a company in South Dakota and shipped to C.W. Williams Company's repair facility in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Other than the problem with the waterway, the truck is operational.

Chief Hardee stated that a fire department in Upper Macungie Township, Pennsylvania has a 1999 American LaFrance aerial truck that is for sale. The truck was completely reconditioned and upgraded in 2017 at a cost of over \$300,000.00. Chief Hardee and Fire Marshal Robert Rudelitch have been in contact with the department, and it may be willing to accept an offer of \$33,000.00 to \$35,000.00 for the truck. This may be an option instead of repairing our truck because the cost of the 1999 truck is potentially less than the cost to fully repair the department's aerial truck. There is at least one other fire department interested in the used truck in Pennsylvania, so the purchase the truck, if Loris submits a bid, is not guaranteed.

Chief Hardee said that if the used truck was purchased, the City would have the option of selling the 1984 aerial truck but, because of its age, may not get much interest or much money out of it. Another option would be to keep the truck and repair it at a later time because with the growth of the area we may have to consider building a second fire station and having two aerial trucks would be advantageous.

Chief Hardee told Council that if they wish to move forward with making an offer on the 1999 American LaFrance aerial truck in Pennsylvania, an offer letter will need to be sent by the Mayor to the fire department, and their governing board will have to vote to accept the offer. Further, Chief Hardee recommended that any offer be contingent on the truck passing an aerial certification inspection and that the truck be inspected by members of our fire department to check its condition and to determine if it meets our department's needs.

A motion was made by Councilman Hardee and seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to authorize Mayor Suggs to move forward with a letter of intent outlining the City's offer to purchase the 1999 American LaFrance aerial platform truck from the Upper Macungie Township, Pennsylvania Fire Department for a price of \$33,000.00. During discussion of the motion, Councilman Padgett asked Interim City Administrator Angel Neighbours if the City's finances would allow the department's 1984 aerial truck to be repaired and be paid for within the next three to four months. Administrator Neighbours responded that she would have to check before committing to the availability of an additional \$40,000.00 for repairs. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorable. Motion passed.

A motion was then made by Councilman Padgett and seconded by Councilwoman Sykes to authorize the repair of the waterway on the department's 1984 aerial truck. Councilman Padgett cited the uncertainty of winning the bid on the truck in Pennsylvania and the necessity of the fire department to have a fully operational aerial truck as the reason for his motion. Councilmembers Hardee, Gerald, Padgett and Sykes voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Coleman and Mayor Suggs voted against the motion. Motion passed 4-2.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No members of the public present at the meeting offered comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Suggs indicated that there were no items for executive session.

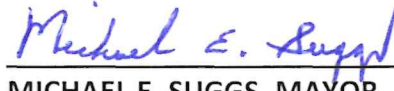
**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hardee and seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to adjourn. Mayor Suggs and all members present voted favorably. There being no further business, the special council meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

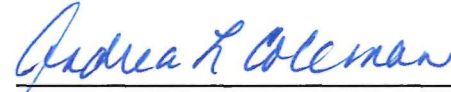
ATTEST:



ANGEL R. NEIGHBOURS  
INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

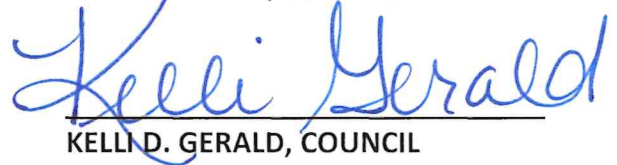


MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR

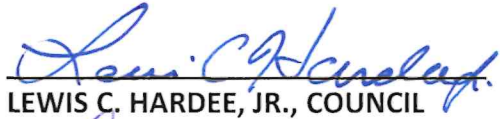


ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL

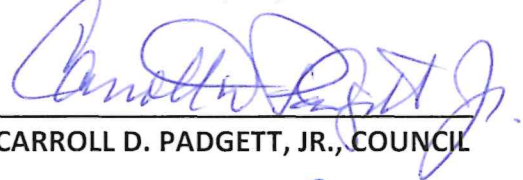
JOAN S. GAUSE, COUNCIL



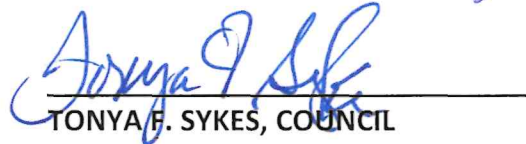
KELLI D. GERALD, COUNCIL



LEWIS C. HARDEE, JR., COUNCIL



CARROLL D. PADGETT, JR., COUNCIL



TONYA F. SYKES, COUNCIL