

**MINUTES OF  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL - ZOOM  
JUNE 1, 2020 – 6:00 PM**

**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 were Mrs. Jen Boyd Causey (zoom), writer for Tabor-Loris Tribune, Mr. Scott Harper (zoom), writer for The Loris Scene, and Ms. Annie Rigby (in person), writer for The Loris Times.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harrelson.

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Councilman Terrence 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 with an agenda was publicly posted, published, and forwarded to the media no less than 24 hours prior to commencement.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes from the City of Loris Regular Council Meeting March 10, 2020 were presented for approval. Councilman Padgett made a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2020, seconded by Councilman Lewis Hardee.

Minutes from the City of Loris Special Council Meeting March 17, 2020 were presented for approval. Councilman Suggs made a motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2020, seconded by Terrence Hardee.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Advised Scott Montgomery with McLeod stated that the Loris Facility has returned to normal operations. Advised the COVID cases peaked 2 weeks ago. Advised there will be free testing on Friday, June 12, 2020, from 10 am to 12 pm.

**Administrative Report:**

Amanda Causey advised that the City of Loris is now offering online bill pay by visiting [www.cityoflorissc.com](http://www.cityoflorissc.com).

Councilwoman Vescovi asked if there was a fee for processing a payment online. Amanda Causey confirmed that there was not a fee associated with payment processing.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Code Enforcement:**

Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that City Hall renovations are nearing completion. Requested Council to provide input on dedication plaques and open house ceremony.

**Recreation:**

Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that he allocated funds in the budget for the upgrades to Watson's Park. Advised the rental portion of the building was complete. Advised the front portion of the building is still in need of repairs. Advised there is a PARD Grant for the playgrounds at Watson Park and Heniford Field. The grants are matching at 20 percent. Advised at this time the parks are open but suggested that we close parks at certain hours to allow cleaning times. Councilwoman Vescovi recommended closing the parks at 8 pm. Advised there was a lack of participation for baseball for a regular season. In lieu of a regular season, the city would be hosting an evening camp. Advised the travel ball scrimmages were successful.

**Public Works:**

Mr. Harrelson advised that due to COVID cutbacks DOT has delayed paving projects. He also advised that he recently met with Representative Kevin Hardee and Chairman Tony Cox of DOT about drainage and road issues. Advised the I&I is being aggressively attacked.

Mr. Harrelson advised that the City of Loris does not have the means to fix potholes and requests that SC DOT be contacted.

Mr. Harrelson advised that the backhoe is in the shop due to a rear end accident.

**Police Department:**

Chief Buley, on behalf of the Loris Police Department, expressed deepest sympathies to the family of George Floyd. Advised that the relationship between the citizens and officers is important.

Advised that the department has recently hire two new officers that are at this time awaiting scheduling for the academy.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Hardee advised the department is following guidelines pertaining to COVID. Advised that the department is currently using gloves, gowns, and masks. Advised that approximately half of the residents at the extended care facility have tested positive.

Advised the department is sponsoring a Smoke Alarm Blitz on August 15, 2020. The smoke detectors will be provided free of charge. Also advised that the department received a grant that has allowed fire extinguishers to also be provided.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***Finance & Administration:*** Councilwoman Vescovi advised that the committee has not met during the COVID pandemic.

***Infrastructure Committee:*** Mr. Brandon Harrelson advised that the members have spoken on multiple occasions about drainage issues.

***Public Safety Committee:*** Councilman Padgett advised that event security cameras and vehicle purchases were discussed. Advised that the June 9, 2020, meeting date would need to be rescheduled due to the Election. Advised that the committee will only meet if there are issues needing to be discussed.

***Community Programs:*** Councilwoman Vescovi advised that the committee has been meeting with Top-Gun and Triple USA. Advised due to the COVID pandemic spring sports have been cancelled and rescheduled as camps. Advised the committee is interested in the possibility of seeking property for purchase to possibly build a facility to house our recreation sports.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO ACT AS CLAIMANT AGENCY FOR THE COLLECTION OF DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF LORIS, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Amanda Causey read the resolution by title only.

A motion to adopt resolution 02-20 was made by Councilwoman Vescovi, seconded by Councilman Lewis Hardee. All members voted favorably.

**B. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE RECOVERY OF COLLECTION COSTS AS PART OF THE DELINQUENT DEBTS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT**

Mayor Harrelson read the ordinance by title only.

Councilman Padgett made a motion to adopt first reading of Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Lewis Hardee. All members voted favorably.

**C. ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 FORD F-450 FIRE RESUCE APARATUS.**

Mayor Harrelson read the resolution by title only.

Councilman Terrence Hardee made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-450 Fire Rescue Apparatus, seconded by Councilwoman Vescovi. All members voted favorably.

**D. ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE APPROPRIATED 2019/2020 BUDGETED ITEMS-YEARLY LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR POLICE VEHICLES**

Councilman Lewis Hardee requested further explanation of the need of said vehicles. Chief Buley explained the transporting of drugs in the evidence room to Columbia. Mayor Harrelson advised the vehicles would be used for patrolling also. Mayor Harrelson requested a motion to approve. There was no motion to approve.

**Discussions:**

Councilman Padgett advised further information needed to be collected and confirmed on the cooperative purchase. Chief Hardee advised that he was attempting to tag onto a bid that was already been submitted.

Attorney Moss advised that he understood the resolution to be specific in the authorization of the purchase of the vehicle. Councilman Padgett advised that the purchased needs to go through the bidding process in which council opens sealed bids. Councilwoman Vescovi requested that three proposals be provided for council's review. Council also agreed that State Contract bids were acceptable. Councilman Suggs advised that council will need to approve all purchase even if previously allocated in the budget.

Lieutenant Williams added that there is a need for the police trucks for transportation of drugs collected by pill collection box. Advised that the drugs need to be transported monthly. Also advised that there is also a need to transport any items a person has on them when an individual is arrested.

Councilman Hardee asked if it would be possible to use one of the other city vehicles. This option was discussed, and it was decided that the use of a "non-police" vehicle is not a good option.

Councilwoman Vescovi advised that she agrees with the need and desire of the police department for the truck. She advised that she is in full support of keeping the drug drop box. Councilman Terrence requested Lieutenant Williams find out how other municipalities transports the drugs. Lieutenant Williams advised that Horry County is issuing the trucks to supervisors.

Chief Buley advised that the drugs (minus the pill collection box) in the evidence room have been accumulating since 1994 because they were never transported to Columbia. Lieutenant Williams advised that there is a need for two police vehicles. Advised that he nor the Chief get paid for overtime and they would be the ones to transport the drugs and called to the scene to transport belongings of individuals arrested.

Councilman Hardee requested to table the item until the next council meeting.

**E. DISCUSSION OF SEPARATION OF CLERK TREASURER INTO CITY CLERK AND CITY TREASURER**

Attorney Moss provided council a description of City Treasurer duties. Requested Council review the information provided and be prepared to discuss at the next council meeting.

**F. DISCUSSION OF EVENT SECURITY SURVELENC SYSTEM**

Councilman Padgett requested what the protocols for the use of the security cameras would be. Lieutenant Williams advised that the camera system would always record. Councilman Terrence Hardee advised that he was under the impression at the Public Safety Committee Meeting that the cameras were going to be geared more for the ball fields. Councilman Lewis Hardee advised that council had to make certain of the intent of the cameras and where were they going to be placed. Mayor Harrelson advised that council needed more information as to placement and specific use prior to approval. Lieutenant Williams advised that a map was previously presented for review. Councilman Padgett asked who reviewed the camera system at the recreation department. Brandon Harrelson advised that the cameras at the recreation department, public works shop, and city hall are not "real time" monitored. He advised that they are only monitored if the need arises. Lieutenant Williams requested council to vote on the security camera system. Mayor Harrelson asked Attorney Moss if council was within its legal guidelines to vote on the direction to continue to pursue the camera systems. Councilwoman Vescovi made a motion for Lieutenant Williams pursue more information and provide council more on the requested camera system, seconded by Councilman Lewis Hardee. The roll was called by Amanda Causey and resulted in a 4/3 vote in favor of pursuing additional information. Councilwoman Gause, Councilman Lewis Hardee, Mayor Harrelson, and Councilwoman Vescovi voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Terrence Hardee, Councilman Padgett, and Councilman Suggs voted against the motion.

**PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS**

Ms. Annie Rigby, writer for The Loris Times, asked if notices of delinquency were sent to customers prior to their account being submitted for set off debt.

Amanda Causey advised that delinquent notices are sent, as well as, at the time of application the customer will sign authorizing the city to pursue the collection of outstanding debt through the debt set off program.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Terrence Hardee made a motion to enter executive session for personnel and contractual matters, seconded by Councilwoman Gause.

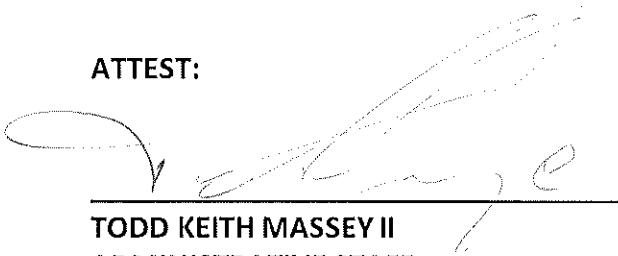
A motion was made by Councilman Terrence Hardee to return from executive session, seconded by Councilman Lewis Hardee.

Mayor Harrelson advised there was no action taken on items discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

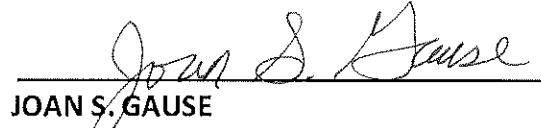
A motion was made by Councilman Lewis Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to adjourn. All Members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

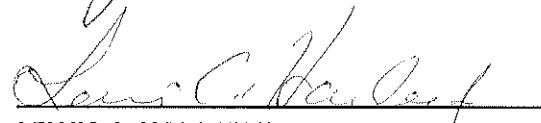
**ATTEST:**

  
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**TODD KEITH MASSEY II**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**


  
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**TODD M. HARRELSON**  
**MAYOR**

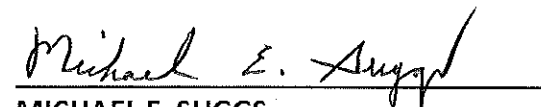
**LORIS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

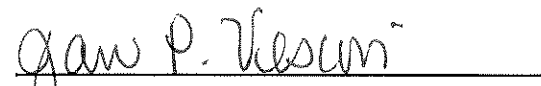
  
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