

**MINUTES OF
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Suggs at 6:00 P.M. on Monday, October 6, 2025.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Gause.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Suggs.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by City Clerk Melinda Price.

Attorney John Zilinsky was unable to attend due to medical reasons. Attorney Brad Smith attended the meeting in Attorney John Zilinsky's absence.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of September 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Gause, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025, Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Suggs reported the following:

Firefighters and police officers will be hosting open house Tuesday October 7th at the Public Safety Building to represent Fire Prevention Week. Everyone is invited to attend.

The police department and fire department have both been awarded grants. Lieutenant Williams and City Fire Marshal Rudelitch have updates in their department reports.

Blue Skies Counseling and Family Services have joined us as a new business here in Loris. The ribbon cutting was held on Friday October 3rd and we are happy they decided to make Loris their home. Blue Skies Counseling Services is a Local Foster Care Agency, which happens to be the only one located in the Pee Dee Region.

Mcleod Loris Hospital is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Mcleod Loris opened in 1950. Scott Montgomery, administrator for Mcleod said that a celebration is being planned for November with more details to follow.

The Loris Lions defeated the Dillon Wildcats in an exciting game, final score 23 to 22. Loris remains undefeated at 6 and 0 for the season. Loris Lions will be holding homecoming Friday October 9th. A homecoming parade will take place on Main Street at 4:00 pm with the Loris Lions facing the Waccamaw Warriors at Heniford Field at 7:30pm.

Mayor Suggs announced that the annual Great Loris Bog-Off will be held here Saturday, October 18th and at that time he turned it over to Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Samantha Norris for her report.

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Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris was present to discuss the preparations being made for the upcoming Bog-Off. The Bog-Off will be held on October 18th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Samantha also announced Downtown Tuesday will start on October 7th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and follow every Tuesday except on certain dates that may conflict with other events. Trunk or Treat will be held on October 31st from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Samantha invites all to attend all events.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Interim Administrator Neighbours reported that mulch is being placed around the city and Fall and Halloween decorations are in process of completion before the Bog-Off. Several other beautification projects are in process of completion in the coming months.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee meetings during the month of September.

D. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS:

Mayor Suggs advised that written reports were prepared by each department and provided in the council meeting packet.

1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes stated that written stat reports for August and September were included in the packets. She stated that the update on All Hazard Mitigation Task Force was not included but that process has been completed with the county. The full plan comment period closed at the end of August and has now been submitted to the state. Once it has been approved, it will be adopted through council. We are also working with WRCOG on rural long range transportation plan which goes back to some of our grant funding. (Intersections that need some repairs.) There are also some grant opportunities coming up to assist with flood mitigation for 2026.

2. FIRE – No additions to written report.

3. POLICE –Lieutenant Larry Williams stated that they had received three grants totaling: \$73,730.42. Also, they just went through jury trials in September and that went great. Shana Mincey is nationally recognized as Loris Police Department's first and only Certified Forensic Investigator. Two officers have just completed training Corporal Sackett is now a Certified Driving Instructor and Officer

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Strouhal is now a Certified Ground Defense Instructor. The police department also had two officers that welcomed new babies. Congratulations to those officers.

4. PUBLIC WORKS – No written reports presented.

5. RECREATION – No additions to written reports. Councilwoman Joan S. Gause did question about what happened to the basketball goals at Watson Park. Interim Administrator Angel R. Neighbours explained that the city is in the process of replacing the basketball goals as well as updating playground equipment. The city is waiting on PARD grant approval for this project.

BUSINESS:

A. CONSIDER ANNEXATION PETITION (A-202508-002): A PETITION REQUESTING ANNEXATION OF 54.88 TOTAL ACRES INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LORIS WITH “PARCEL A” CONSISTING OF 31.73 ACRES ZONED AS R-2 (RESIDENTIAL, *MEDIUM DENSITY*), AND “PARCEL B” CONSISTING OF 23.15 ACRES ZONED AS IND (INDUSTRIAL) LOCATED ALONG THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST SIDES OF CANNON ROAD (COUNTY ROAD), SOUTH OF RALPH ELLIS BOULEVARD, AND NORTH OF CEDAR STREET (S-26-337) (PIN: 176-00-00-0026 / TMS: 048-00-01-036) (*DIAMOND SHORES, AGENT*)

Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details on the petition requesting Annexation. A representative for Diamond Shores David was available for questions. Councilwoman Gerald asked the representative for Diamond Shores if the changes would negatively impact the current homes already in the area and he explained that it would not. Mayor Suggs stated that this is a petition for Annexation. That means that if council votes to accept the petition, it will be forwarded to the planning commission to study it and meet with the owner and developer and then the planning commission will make a recommendation to City Council for further action. 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.

B. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 08-25: (PC-202401-003) AN ORDINANCE TO RE-ZONE APPROXIMATELY 18.8 TOTAL ACRES FROM IND (INDUSTRIAL) TO PD (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT) LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN CORNER OF BROAD STREET (U.S. 701) AND MEADOW STREET (STATE ROAD S-26-152). PIN #: 186-00-00-0023 & 186-03-04-0004, (*BOLTON 7 MENK AGENT*).

City Clerk Melinda Price read Ordinance 08-25 by title only. Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details of the property to be rezoned and explained the Planned Development District. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilman

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Hardee to approve second reading Ordinance 08-25. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

C. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 09-25: (PC-202502-001) AN ORDINANCE TO RE-ZONE APPROXIMATELY 3.8 TOTAL ACRES FROM R-1.4 (RESIDENTIAL) TO C-2 (GENERAL BUSINESS) LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF MAIN STREET (S.C. 9). PIN#: 176-09- 04-0002 / TMS: 048-00-05-031, (WAGDI MITRY, AGENT/OWNER).

City Clerk Melinda Price read Ordinance 09-25 by title only. Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details of the property to be rezoned. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to approve second reading Ordinance 09-25. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

D. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 10-25: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LORIS TO UPDATE THE CLASS SCHEDULE AS REQUIRED BY ACT 176 OF 2020.

City Clerk Melinda Price read Ordinance 10-25 by title only. Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details of the process of updating the Business License Ordinance. This update is required by state law. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to approve first reading Ordinance 10-25. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

E. CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF DEED CONVEYANCE FROM DR HORTON FOR MEADOW WALK – PHASE 2 UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

Mayor Suggs explained that by accepting the deed, the water and sewer infrastructure installed by the developer would be transferred to the city. Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details on Item E and stated that the infrastructure has been completed. A representative of the developer was present for questions. Mayor Suggs asks Attorney Brad Smith if he has anything to add. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gerald, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to accept the Deed of Conveyance from DR Horton for the utility infrastructure in the Meadow Walk- Phase 2 Subdivision. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

F. CONSIDER REQUEST BY DR HORTON FOR REDUCTION OF IMPROVEMENT GUARANTEE FOR MEADOW WALK – PHASE 2

Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes gave details on Item F. The improvement guarantee is given by a developer to ensure that the infrastructure is properly installed and completed. DR Horton has completed the infrastructure in Meadow Walk, Phase 2 as discussed under agenda item E. Mayor Suggs asks if there were any questions from Council. A motion was

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made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes to approve the reduction of improvement guarantee for Meadow Walk- Phase 2. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

G. DISCUSS AND APPROVE LORIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR FUNDS

Mayor Suggs explained that for several years the city has provided \$10,000.00 in funding to the chamber of commerce from hospitality tax funds to assist with rent and upkeep of the lot on Main Street that is used for community events. Mayor Suggs asked Samantha Norris, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce if she had anything additional regarding this year's Funding request. Samantha explained exactly where the lot is located and some of the events that are held there. Samantha stated the funds help so much to contribute to the activities in downtown Loris. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to approve the request from the Chamber of Commerce for \$10,000.00 to be paid from hospitality funds. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

H. DISCUSS AND SET TRICK OR TREAT HOURS FOR HALLOWEEN

Mayor Suggs stated that Halloween falls on Friday night this year which happens to also be the night of the Loris-Aynor football game at which the senior athletes, band members and cheerleaders will be recognized. Also, the Trunk or Treat sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for that night. Mayor Suggs and Council discussed the item. A motion was made by Councilman Hardee, seconded by Councilwoman Gause to set Trick or Treat hours from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday October 31st, 2025. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

Robert L Watson of 4828 Watson Street Loris addressed the council about the appearance of Watson Street. Mr. Watson stated that he keeps his property tidy, however the surrounding areas are not properly maintained. Mr. Watson presented pictures to council. Mayor Suggs asked Attorney Brad Smith to determine if sending letters to the owners of the surrounding property, reminding them of their obligation to maintain their buildings and property, would be the proper procedure to follow.

Hattie Williams of 3301 Church Street addressed council at last month's meeting. She stated that she was back because her utility bill still wasn't correct. Ms. Williams maintains that her average water usage of 3,000 gallons per month is too high and believes that her meter readings are incorrect. Mayor Suggs stated that a new meter could be installed at her property to see if that would correct her issue.

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Candice Grella of 3208 Main Street Loris addressed council about why approved minutes of previous meetings had not been posted to the website since April 2025. Mayor Suggs responded that the approved minutes of the meetings will be uploaded as soon as possible.

Veda Nichols of 4010 Church Street Loris was present to discuss Veterans Day Tribute "Salute To Loris American Heroes." The event will be held November 8, 2025, at 10:00 am at the Loris High School Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public with free brunch served.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Suggs indicated that there was one personnel matter to be discussed in executive session. Attorney Brad Smith stated that one legal matter also needed to be discussed in executive session. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to enter executive session to discuss the personnel and legal matters. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

Upon returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilman Hardee to exit executive session and reconvene in open session. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

Mayor Suggs announced that in executive session Council discussed a personnel matter as well as legal matters, however no action or votes were taken in executive session.

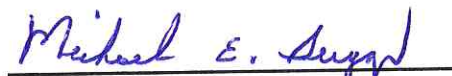
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

ATTEST:




MELINDA T. PRICE
CITY CLERK


MICHAEL E. SUGGS, MAYOR
ANDREA L. COLEMAN, COUNCIL
JOAN S. GAUSE, COUNCIL


KELLI D. GERALD, COUNCIL


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