

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, FEBRUARY 02, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- A. INVOCATION
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- C. ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. JANUARY 05, 2026 – REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

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

4. BUSINESS:

- A. **RESOLUTION 01-26 A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING LORIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH GREG MANCE AND THE 2025 LORIS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM.**
- B. **DISCUSSION OF MINOR AMENDMENTS TO WATSON PARK MEETING ROOM RENTAL AGREEMENT.**

C. UPDATE REGARDING SC FORESTRY COMMISSION/US FORESTRY SERVICE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT

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/@cityofflorisouncilmeetings6232>

MINUTES OF
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
LORIS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY JANUARY 5, 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, January 5, 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 City Clerk Price.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. DECEMBER 1, 2025 - REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of December 1, 2025, regular city council meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Councilman Padgett, seconded by Councilwoman Gerald, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2025, regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Suggs reported the following:

Mayor Suggs started by saying he hoped everyone had an enjoyable Christmas Holiday with their families and wishing everyone a good year in 2026.

Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. There were many people in attendance even though the weather was rather chilly. Thank you to our local ministers and musicians that took part in the event.

On Tuesday December 9th, Councilwoman Gerald, on behalf of the city, attended the Grand Opening of the Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council's Myrtle Beach Head Start Center. The event was held at the Boys and Girls Club of the Grand Strand in Myrtle Beach and was a very nice event.

The replacement of two major sewer lines is under way, as well as rehabilitation of manholes. Ms. Neighbours will inform us more about these projects later in the meeting.

The street sweeper is back in operation after some major repairs. It should be out downtown beginning this week.

Clerk Melinda Price was thanked for taking on the task assigned to her by Administrator Neighbours in researching and organizing the city records. Council minutes, agendas, ordinances, and resolutions books have been reorganized and are being researched for proper retention. This project is still in process; however, it should be completed soon.

Thursday, January 15th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, Administrator Neighbours and Mayor Suggs will be meeting with citizens here at city hall. Citizens are invited to stop by with any questions, input, or just to say hello. We plan to continue this informal meeting once a month.

January 05, 2026

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting

Loris Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Samantha Norris was not present for the meeting.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Neighbours reported that the street sweeper should be out of the shop tomorrow and operations will resume. Tree trimming bids will be taken and hopefully the tree trimming can begin on time in the Spring and the Fall. Several sidewalk repairs have been completed with others being worked on. Administrator Neighbours gave an update on the eight Hurricane Florence FEMA projects discussed at the last meeting. Findings are that four of the projects have been closed out. Two projects are under review to be closed out. Two other projects are being worked on for closure, which probably will be completed by the end of February. Documentation has been the key to getting the projects closed. Administrator Neighbours stated that the projects in question that were funded by FEMA were completed. However, it has taken some research to find the proper documentation to submit due to issues with record retention and organization during the time the projects were actually being done.

C. DEPARTMENT HEAD'S REPORTS:

1. CODE ENFORCEMENT & PLANNING – Planning and Zoning Director Meredith Holmes has been out due to knee surgery and was unable to attend the meeting. No reports were received.

2. FIRE – Fire Marshall Robert Rudelitch reported a total of 1470 calls for the year with 125 of the calls being in the month of December. They had 10 calls on the first day of January, which is one of the busiest days on record. Fire Marshal Rudelitch reported that they have applied for the South Carolina Forestry Firefighters Grant which is a 50/50 grant and hope to hear from that soon. On the federal level, the federal Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act was signed into law in late 2025. This act expands the federal PSOB (Public Safety Officer's Benefits) Program to recognize certain cancers as line-of-duty deaths or disabilities for firefighters, ensuring their families receive benefits. This is a good benefit for our firefighters and their families. There is a Fire Instructor class that our department will be hosting, 16 have registered for the class, of which 4 of them being from our department. The Fire Department has received a piece of equipment with support from McLeod Healthcare System, and a press release will follow shortly.

3. POLICE –Police Chief Gary Buley reported that he did not have a written report due to the cities merging with the Horry County reporting system and some technical issues relating to the new system. He reported that the department ended the year with 8834 calls with the most calls being in the months of June and July. Overall, it was a good holiday season. The

department is happy to report that six vests for officers have been received. These vests were from an outstanding grant.

4. PUBLIC WORKS – Administrator Neighbours reported that this year, we have added Shakima Grissett as our new water/sewer department billing clerk. Thomas DiMaggio has joined our water department as a water tech. William Stavrakis has joined us as meter reader. We are happy with these new additions to our water/sewer team. We are continuing with phase two of our sewer line installation/rehabilitation on Liberty Street. We have also partnered with SC Rural Water Association; they have inspected all 3 water tanks using a drone to assist with the inspection. This is part of DES inspection which is required. We are continuing with hydrant flushing and valve maintenance, which is required as well.

5. RECREATION – Recreation Director Woody Hinson was not present at the meeting. Mayor Suggs presented his written report. The kids worked hard however came up short in the district tournament. Basketball practices have officially started for this season. During the colder months Mr. Hinson is working on some needed repairs throughout the recreation building. He hopes to create a cleaner and more professional environment for the players and public.

BUSINESS:

A. MUNICIPAL COURT UPDATE FROM JUDGE HUTSON

Judge William N. Hutson began his tenure as city judge on July 1, 2025, and thanked City Council, the Mayor, and the City of Loris for trusting him with their court system. The first jury pool was impaneled last Fall. The number of pending cases has been reduced. Loris Municipal Court had 1301 cases pending as of June 2025. As of December 29, 2025, there are 400 cases pending, most of which are current cases. Judge Hutson report that 70% of the case load pending as of June 30, 2025, has been cleared. There are a little over 100 pending jury trial requests that the court is currently working on to determine if a jury trial is necessary for each case. An additional court date has been added each month. Municipal Court is now held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This additional court date should cut down on paying overtime to officers previously required to attend court on days they were not working. Aundrea Washington, clerk of court, has been very helpful in clearing up backlogged cases in the system. Judge Hutson thanked Police Chief Buley and Lt. Williams for coming together to assist in clearing up the older cases. Judge Hutson acknowledged that the court and the police are different branches of government, but they work together in efficiently processing cases through the system. There were no questions for Judge Hutson. Council and Mayor Suggs thanked Judge Hutson for all he has done since becoming municipal judge last July. Judge Hutson will give another update in 6 months.

B. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE

Mayor Suggs explained that a Mayor Pro-tempore is required by state law to be appointed the first meeting after new Council Members have been sworn in following each general election. Mayor Pro-tempore will serve a term of two years. Mayor Suggs asked for nominations from Council. Councilman Hardee made a motion to nominate Councilman Padgett to the position, seconded by Councilwoman Sykes. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. Motion Passed.

C. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Mayor Suggs stated that city ordinances require standing committees to be appointed after every general election. The election was completed in November and Mayor Suggs appointed the Standing Committees of Council. A printed copy was provided to each Council member by Mayor Suggs.

PUBLIC AND PRESS COMMENTS:

The Horry Independent and Loris Scene was represented by one of their reporters. No one from the public or press signed up to speak.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no matters to discuss in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gause, seconded by Councilwoman Coleman to adjourn the regular city council meeting. Mayor Suggs and all members voted favorably. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 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



February 2026 City Council Report

Submitted – Robert Rudelitch

Calls – 131 calls as of Noon 30JAN2025 – Data Insights below.

Roster – 30 members

Notable Activities January –

Hosted a SCFA / National Level Fire Instructor 1 Class. 3 of our firefighters completed and the city hosted students from Myrtle Beach, Fort Mill, Greenville, Berkley County, and Horry County.

Joint Live Fire Acquired Building Training with TCFD and other Columbus County departments.

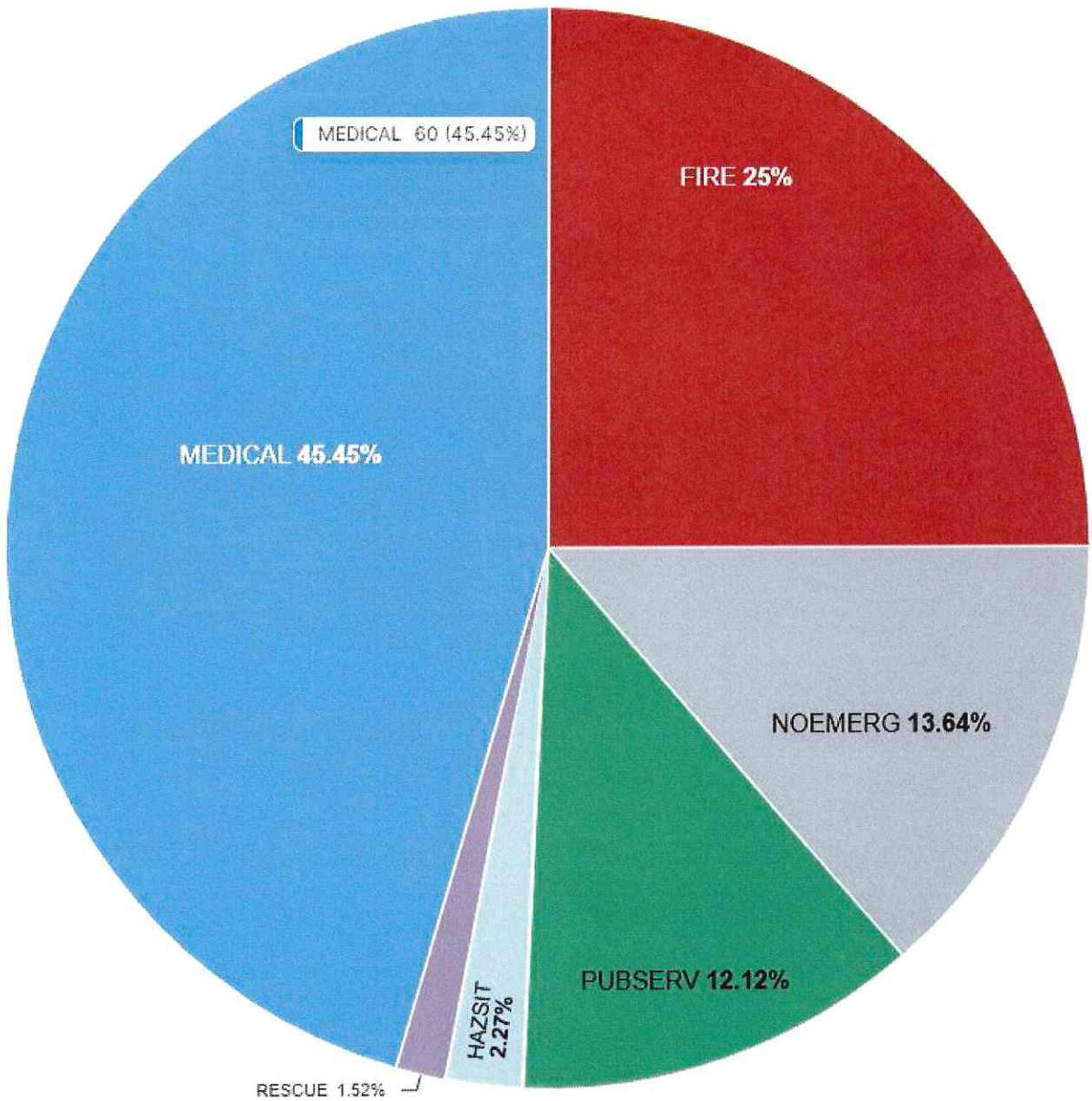
American Red Cross is now our current lead partner for the Smoke Alarm Installation Program providing alarms until SC OFSM can secure another grant.

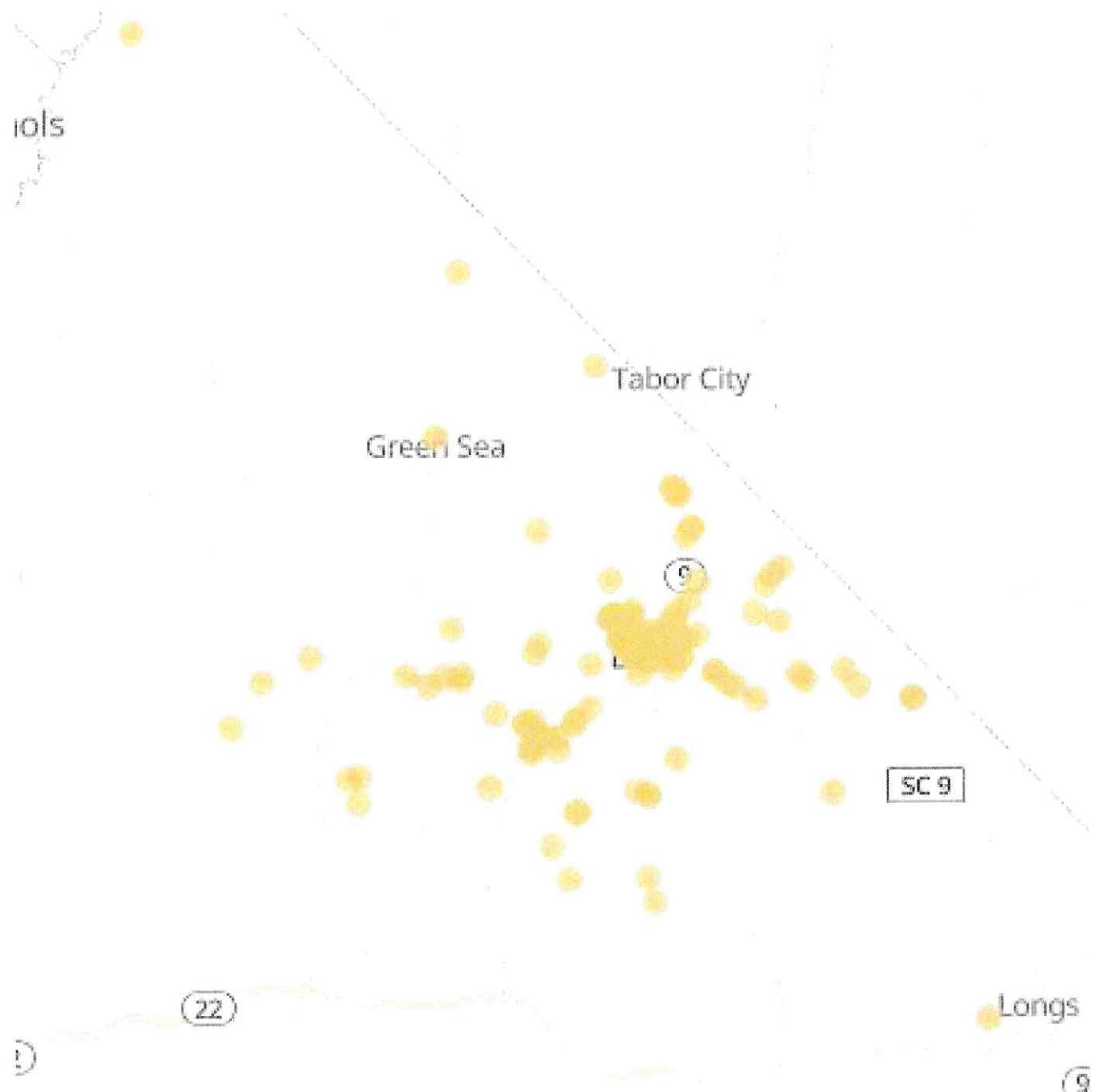
LFD was awarded a SC Forestry Commission – Federal Volunteer Fire Assistance 50/50 Grant to assist with Wildland PPE equipment.

Upcoming Events February –

Citywide Annual Fire Extinguisher Inspections

Pump Testing





STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF HORRY)
CITY OF LORIS)

RESOLUTION NUMBER 01-26

**A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING LORIS HIGH SCHOOL HEAD FOOTBALL COACH GREG MANCE AND
THE 2025 LORIS LIONS FOOTBALL TEAM**

WHEREAS, Coach Greg Mance has led the Loris High School varsity football program for six (6) seasons and has assembled a well-qualified and talented coaching staff that has inspired, molded and coached the Loris High School student athletes into a winning football team that, in 2025, set records and achieved things that no Lions teams have done in the history of Loris football.

WHEREAS, the 2025 Loris Lions Varsity Football team defeated the conference rival Dillon Wildcats for the second consecutive year in a thrilling game in Dillon with a final score of 23-22; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Loris Lions Varsity Football Team was undefeated in region play with 5 wins and 0 losses and was crowned Region 5-AAA Champion for the second consecutive year, a feat last accomplished in 1991 and 1992; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Loris Lions Varsity Football team was undefeated in regular season play with a perfect record of 10 wins and 0 losses becoming only the third Lions team to have an undefeated regular season; and

WHEREAS, the Loris Lions advanced to the South Carolina AAA State Playoffs defeating each team in their bracket, and for the second consecutive year, played for the South Carolina AAA Lower State Championship finishing the season with an overall record of 13 wins and 1 loss; thus, becoming the first Lions team to win 13 games in a single season and the first Lions team to play for the Lower State Championship in consecutive seasons; and

WHEREAS, The 2025 Loris Lions Varsity Football Team scored a total of 645 points setting the record for the most points scored in a single season by a Loris Lions team and achieved a post-season ranking as the third best AAA football team in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Coach Mance, his coaching staff and the 2025 Loris Lions Varsity Football Team have united and energized the City of Loris and surrounding community, brought recognition to Loris High School and instilled in us all a sense of pride.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Loris hereby recognizes and congratulates Coach Greg Mance and the record setting 2025 Loris High School Lions Varsity Football Team for their outstanding accomplishments on the football field and thanks them for bringing recognition to our high school, our city and community. This Resolution shall be recorded in the minutes of the Loris City Council and a copy presented to Coach Greg Mance.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of February 2026.

ATTEST:

MELINDA T. PRICE
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



Watson Park Community Room – Rental Form

CONTACT NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

DAY PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

ALL FACILITY RENTAL FEES MUST BE PAID AT TIME OF RESERVATION TO SECURE DATES. A 48-HOUR CANCELLATION NOTICE IS REQUIRED FOR A REFUND. IN THE EVENT OF A CANCELLATION BY GROUPS WITH A HISTORY OF CANCELLATIONS, THE DEPOSIT SHALL BE FORFEITED.

DESCRIBE IN DETAIL THE TYPE OF EVENT OR ACTIVITY YOU PLAN ON HAVING (BE SPECIFIC):

DATE OF EVENT: _____

EXPECTED ATTENDANCE: _____

STARTING TIME: _____

ENDING TIME: _____

I/We agree to be fully responsible for the facilities per conditions as outlined on the front & back of this reservation request. I understand that this request should be returned to the City of Loris Parks & Recreation Department before the desired event date. This application is subject to the approval of the Parks & Recreation Director or their designee. **Rental is for interior use of building ONLY.** The park and playground area are public spaces and can be used as such by the community.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Security Deposit - \$100.00

Daily Rental Rate - \$150.00

(FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY)

DEPOSIT PAID: \$ _____ CASH: _____ CHECK#: _____ CREDIT: _____

RENTAL PAID: \$ _____ CASH: _____ CHECK#: _____ CREDIT: _____

APPROVED BY: _____

DATE ENTERED ON CALENDAR: _____

Applicants may begin their setup no earlier than 7:00 a.m. on the date specified on the face of this contract. The event must end, and the facility must be cleaned and returned to its pre-rental condition with all supplies removed no later than 10:00 p.m. of the date of rental, unless prior approval is given.

1. Rental covers the interior use of the Watson Park Community Room ONLY. The park and playground are public spaces and can be used by the community.
2. Event signage may be posted outside of the building during the hours specified on this application. Signage must be removed at the end of the event. Certain activities may require a special event application to be filled out in advance and subject to approval.
3. All decorations, equipment, paraphernalia, food, trash, etc., installed by the applicant or their authorized representatives must be removed from the facility prior to the end of the contract period stated on this application. All items left after the rental period shall be deemed abandoned. The City of Loris shall exercise its right to remove any items and dispose of them.
4. Decorations, banners, etc., should be hung using materials that will not damage the walls or ceilings. Visible damage or holes will result in loss of security deposit.
5. The facility access code will be issued no more than 48 hours prior to rental date. The code will only allow access to the facility during the times listed on this agreement.
6. Drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products are prohibited in the facility. Drugs and alcohol are not allowed on City of Loris property.
7. Only applicants aged 21 and older will be considered for approval.
8. The Parks & Recreation Director reserves the right to deny applications submitted.
9. No rice, grain, confetti, etc., shall be thrown or distributed in the building or directly outside the building.
10. No mud, soil, or pots containing water, except flowerpots, may be placed in the building.
11. Approximately 10 Tables and 70 Chairs are available for use. A refrigerator and sink are also available. All equipment is clean and in good working order. Do not sit or stand on tables. Do not stand on the chairs. Tables and chairs are NOT to be removed from the facility.
12. HVAC controls must be turned off at the end of the rental period. All lights must be turned off. All exterior doors and windows must be locked prior to the end of the rental period.
13. Kitchen use: If the sink or refrigerator is used, the equipment must be cleaned prior to the end of the rental period. No raw materials (food/trash, other debris) may be dumped into sinks. All items brought in must be removed prior to the end of the rental period.
14. Grills, cookers, fryers, etc., may not be brought into the facility or placed on the porches. Portable cooking equipment may be used 10ft from the building. Proper safety equipment must be available.
 - Required Extinguisher(s): Fryers – Class K; All others – Class ABC
15. Applicants must supply their own cleaning supplies and trash bags for cleanup. A broom, dustpan, mop, and bucket are available for use. All bags of trash must be properly disposed of prior to leaving the facility. All floors must be swept, trash picked up, and damp mopped prior to the end of the rental period.
16. The applicant is responsible for the security of the building during the rental period and must ensure the building is secured prior to leaving.
17. The City of Loris Parks & Recreation staff and Loris Police reserve the right to enter the facility at any time.
18. The applicant and their licensees and invitees agree to hold harmless the City of Loris and its agents, servants, and employees from all damage arising from the use of the facility rented pursuant to this agreement.
19. The applicant shall be responsible for the replacement cost of any damage that occurs to the building or contents during their rental period. Parks & Recreation staff shall inspect the facility after each rental. Upon arrival at the facility on the day of the scheduled event, applicant shall conduct an inspection of the premises for any damage to the facility or its contents. If any such damage is discovered, the applicant will immediately call Loris Parks & Recreation at (843) 756-9804 and report it.
20. This property is subject to all ordinances of the City of Loris. The City of Loris' noise ordinance is in effect. Loud music is not allowed. Parks & Recreation staff and/or Loris Police reserve the right to shut down the event if any rules and regulations are not adhered to.
21. Loris Parks & Recreation line is (843) 756-9804. Loris Police Department Non-Emergency line is (843) 756-4000. You may reach Loris City Hall at (843) 756-4004.

Please note that this Rental agreement is for the Community Room ONLY.

The playground is open to the public and may be accessed by the public during your designated rental period.