

**TOWN OF MEGGETT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** October 23, 2017      **Time:** 7:00PM      **Location:** SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

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<b>Call to order by:</b>	Mayor Herrington
<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Mayor Herrington
<b>Minutes:</b>	Erica Schaffer

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Mayor Herrington	P	Angela Watts	P
A = Absent	Tommy Butler	P	Andy Gowder	P
P = Present	Tom Hutto	P	Stephanie Smith	P
	Keith McCarty	P		

**Prayer given by:** Mayor Herrington      **Pledge led by:** Mayor Herrington

Approval of Minutes from previous Council Meeting held on: September 25, 2017.

**Motion made by:** Council Member Keith McCarty moved to approve minutes.

**Seconded by:** Council Member Angela Watts seconded the motion.

**In Favor:**

- Mayor Buster Herrington
- Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler
- Council Member Angela Watts
- Council Member Keith McCarty
- Council Member Tom Hutto

**Opposed: None**

**Conclusion:** Minutes approved.

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**Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund Effort - Update:**

Mayor Herrington informed everyone that the Town organized a fundraiser within the community, neighboring towns, as well as a few local churches to raise funds for those affected in Texas by Hurricane Harvey. Mayor Herrington let residents know that the fundraiser raised a total of \$11,890.05. Two checks were sent out to the First Methodist Church of Huston, TX. He added that the pastor of the First Methodist Church in Houston is coordinating their relief efforts with other local churches in that area. Mayor Herrington continued by saying the Town felt this was this best method for getting the funds where they needed to be and insure that the funds will be spent responsibly. He added that we have received many calls from people in Texas who are beyond thankful for our contribution to the relief effort. Mayor Herrington thanked the community and our churches for coming together to help those in need during that time.

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**Christmas Tree Lighting & Country Christmas Fair – Dec 2nd:**

Mayor Herrington stated that our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. He added that some changes are being made to the event and asked Town Administrator Stephanie Smith to elaborate on the changes. Town Administrator Stephanie Smith began by saying that this year we are going to forgo the daytime event and conduct everything in the evening. She added that the Christmas Tree Lighting will be moved up an hour from 7pm to 6pm. She also stated that we are going to preserve the traditional gathering upstairs in the SCPA Building following the Tree Lighting which will consist of a similar menu, decorations, and welcoming of our guests who prefer a more climate controlled environment. Stephanie added that the Bakery will be open only in the evening inside the Town Hall this year and it will be stocked with yummy donated baked goods. Town Administrator Stephanie Smith announced that we will be having a Country Christmas Fair outside this year which will be geared towards children. The Country Christmas Fair will consist of making smores, arts and crafts, gingerbread men, ornament making, and an outside food display that will be more catered towards a younger group. She added that Santa will be available outside by the Christmas Tree.

**St. Paul's Fire Department**

Mayor Herrington introduced Chief Larry Garvin of the Saint Paul's Fire Department. The Mayor added that Chief Garvin brought our Town of Meggett representative Larry Gerth with him. Chief Larry Garvin introduced himself. He provided a brief summary of the ongoing changes and improvements to the St. Paul's Fire Department. In his summary he included the adjustments being made to adapt to the current budget and debt. Chief Garvin did discuss his experience at the Federal Hearing and verified that there was an indictment which is the reason for the debt within the St. Paul's Fire Department. He added he is having new firefighters sent to training in January and he hopes to have the new Fire Station fully manned in the months ahead.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Annexation Unincorporated Charleston County Properties into Meggett, SC**

Mayor Herrington completed the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading on the Annexation for Unincorporated Charleston County Properties to become a part of Meggett. Please see attached "Exhibit A" for additional information.

**Motion made by:** Council Member Tom Hutto, to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**Seconded by:** Council Member Angela Watts.

**In Favor:**

Mayor Buster Herrington  
Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler  
Council Member Angela Watts  
Council Member Keith McCarty  
Council Member Tom Hutto

**Opposed: None**

**Council Member Reports:**

**Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington**

Mayor Herrington advised that the roofing materials have been delivered for the SCPA Building and the Town Hall. He advised that the roofs have not been installed yet due to rain; however, when the rain stops they will begin replacing both

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roofs. Mayor Herrington notified residents the Town has some street signs missing around town. He added some of the signs have been run over, some have fallen down, and others have been stolen. The Town has contacted the County and the SCDOT in regards to replacing the signs. Mayor Herrington advised council that we are upgrading our security camera system and the upgrade should be completed by the end of next week,

**Financial report given by: Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler**

*Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler presented the financial report:*

*Town of Meggett General Account went up \$4,300.00, the Wastewater account was up \$3,800.00 and Meggett 1925 stayed the same. He added that after doing a five-year snap shot it appears that it appears we are treading water with our funds. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler mentioned that he would like to do an analysis and discuss adding some funds into our CD at the next Council Retreat. He stated that the CD has gained money by the interest earned but the Town has not added to the CD. Mayor Herrington stated that the Waste Water account was up a great deal until we purchased back 39 taps. He added we will recoup that money once the taps are sold. He estimated \$120,000.00 worth of unsold sewer taps. Council Member Tom Hutto thanked Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler for such a great breakdown and added that we also need to take into account the assets the Town has acquired over the past few years. Council Member Tom Hutto referenced Roxbury Park estimated at three million dollars, the blue house (4784 Hwy 165) which is valued at over one hundred thousand dollars, upgrades to our sewer system, and other properties recently purchased by the Town. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler agreed with the Mayor and Council Member Hutto in regards to the assets. He went on to say the only out of the ordinary expenses were payments made for the picnic shelter being built at Roxbury Park.*

**Grants and Special Reports given by: Council Member Tom Hutto**

*Council Member Tom Hutto updated Council on the final portion of the grant for Roxbury Park which is the large picnic shelter next to the cottage. He stated that the foundation is in and Charleston County has approved it. The framing stage has begun. All of the funding has been approved. We are hoping to have the picnic shelter completed by the end of the year. It will all depend on the weather. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that we were able to purchase Roxbury Park with funds from the Greenbelt Grant/LWCF. In regards to future grants the county passed a 1/2 cent tax increase. Those funds are to be used for roads and green space which will help bring parks into operation. Charleston County Parks and Recreation purchased Harmony Hall with is near Ethel Post Office Road. They are hoping to use some of the grant funds to have this park in operation either next Spring or Fall. The allocation of grant funds is to be spread out over the next 5 years. If the Town sees a property that would be advantageous for the citizens of the Town we would look into getting a grant for such a piece of property. Council Member Tom Hutto went on to say that the County should have more information in place as to how they will allocate the grant funds hopefully within the next 4-6 months.*

**Communications given by: Council Member Keith McCarty**

*Council Member Keith McCarty stated that he has been receiving numerous phone calls in regards to internet not working or dropping while people are trying to use it. He plans to get in touch with Frontier to see what their plans are to solve the problem. Mayor Herrington asked Council Member Keith McCarty to follow up with Frontier as the Town Hall receives many calls in regards to the same issue. Mayor Herrington asked Council Member Keith McCarty to let him know if he could assist in any way. Council Member Tom Hutto added that he is still having problems and dropped calls with his Verizon cellular phone service. He mentioned he is having a lot of dropped calls as well as dead zones on Hwy 174. Council Member Tom Hutto added that Verizon was wonderful in the past but has become quite spotty lately.*

**Roxbury given by: Council Member Angela Watts**

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Council Member Angela Watts updated that Tom Austin sprayed the cottage for bugs and set mouse traps on Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Tom also dug up all of the sweetgum and persimmon stumps, burned them, and mowed the area by the cottage as well as the parking lot. Council Member Angela Watts stated that on October 7<sup>th</sup> Roger Brabham pulled up some roots around the event shelter foundation and Tom Austin burned them. Roger also removed a tree that had fallen down along the driveway. Tom Austin mowed the cottage grounds, causeways, and hayfield. Council Member Angela Watts continued by saying that on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Tom Austin completed his regular maintenance around the park. He trimmed areas where needed, picked up litter at the front entrance to the park, and tested the propane torch on weeds in the parking lot. She added that caretaker; Tom Austin led a couple of nature groups around the property. She reported that someone blew a tire on their boat trailer and left it about 100ft inside the gate. Tom Austin left a note for the owner to contact the Town Hall. Council Member Angela Watts advised council that on the weekend of Oct 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Tom Austin did his weekly maintenance. He worked in the gardens and hauled some gravel. She advised that on Sunday Tom assisted Steve Sapp with a plumbing emergency at the cottage. Roots from nearby live oak trees grew into the septic line and formed a clog. Steve was able to get the blockage cleared, however; we still need to get the roots out of the septic system. Council Member Angela Watts added that she and Mike were visiting the park and a wedding was taking place. Council Member Angela Watts updated Council on the trail camera photos. She advised that Tom has captured photos of an Eastern Gray Squirrel, a Nine-Banded Armadillo, an alligator, an opossum, Great Blue Heron, a marsh rat, several raccoons, 2 deer (1 doe and one 8-point buck). Mayor Herrington notified council that the current septic tank for the cottage is very old and it is also homemade. He stated that we will need to demolish the current septic tank and have a new one installed as it is all plugged up. Mayor Herrington advised that he would get some pricing on the new system and update council with that information as soon as possible.

### **Public Comments:**

Joe Branton of 4199 Hwy 165 stated that he is on a fact-finding mission in regards to Stevens Towing and the zoning laws. He stated he represents a large group of homeowners in the Meggett area as well as homeowners on Wadmalaw Island. He stated that Stevens Towing is bringing in 2 new lifts. One is a purposed 150 ton lift which they are bringing in where their parking lot is supposed to be. Residents believed that the parking lot was zoned only for a parking lot and he would like clarification on that. He continued by saying Stevens Towing is putting in a larger lift on an existing pier further down. Mr. Branton continued by saying that he would like legal advice or any information to take back to other residents. Mayor Herrington stated that he can't answer all of the questions however; the property is labeled as Industrial. Joe Branton continued to say that he thought that council was watching out for residents. He stated that a new resident building a home received a letter from OCRM notifying the builder of the request to add one pier and extend another. Mayor Herrington stated that he was not aware of the OCRM letter. He added that the neighbor Mr. Branton is referring to is the person who showed it to Mayor Herrington. Mayor Herrington encouraged Meggett Residents to call and update him on any new information. Mayor Herrington stated that he would be happy to do the same for Mr. Branton and his group.

Council Member Tom Hutto stated that Charleston County had a meeting to discuss short and long-term rentals. He thinks they have a good plan going with some fairly confined terms. He mentioned that as Charleston County continues to refine their plan it might be something that the Town of Meggett could consider adopting as a policy. Resident Eric Meyer commented that he thinks it's an emerging industry. He continued to say that it would improve safety of residents with regards to inspections of homes being rented, it would control liability, require sexual predator background checks. It would cut down on what is and is not allowed. He explained that an example was used during the meeting as far as comparisons go from beach communities to rural communities. The new rental rules, if approved, could help avoid event houses in neighborhoods and things of that nature. Council Member Tom

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*Hutto said we have a few short-term rentals. Eric Meyer stated that he felt the Town could use something like this. Mayor Herrington asked if there were any other comments. No other comments were made therefore Mayor Herrington stated that he and Council would be headed into Executive Session in regards to a contractual matter regarding intergovernmental agreement between the Town of Meggett and Charleston County. He added that attendees could help themselves to refreshments until they reconvene. They returned from Executive Session. Mayor Herrington stated that no decisions were rendered during executive session. Mayor Herrington adjourned the meeting.*

*Meeting concluded at 8:07 pm*