

**TOWN OF MEGGETT
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Date: November 27, 2017 **Time:** 7:00PM **Location:** Meggett Town Hall 4776 Hwy 165

Call to order by:	Mayor Herrington
Type of Meeting:	Council Meeting
Facilitator:	Mayor Herrington
Minutes:	Erica Schaffer

Roll Call:	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: October 23, 2017.

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

Seconded by: Council Member Tom Hutto 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.

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

Mayor Herrington stated that our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Country Christmas Fair will be held on December 2nd. He asked Town Administrator Stephanie Smith to elaborate on the event. Town Administrator Stephanie Smith began by saying that the Christmas Tree Lighting will begin at 6pm and will consist of a 30-minute program. Town Administrator Stephanie Smith that the Country Christmas Fair will begin outside immediately following the program. She added that it will be geared towards children and families. The Country Christmas Fair will consist of making smores (which can be purchased inside the bakery of the Town Hall), arts and crafts, gingerbread men decorating, ornament making, and an outside food display that will be more catered towards a younger group. She provided a brief description of the menu chicken fingers, pigs in a blanket, macaroni and cheese, as well as cake and cookies. She added

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that Santa will be available inside the Town Hall by the Christmas Tree for photos. She also stated that we are preserving the traditional gathering upstairs in the SCPA Building following the Tree Lighting which will consist of a menu similar to what we have had in the past, including decorations, and welcoming of our guests who prefer a more climate controlled environment. Stephanie added that the Bakery will open after the program inside the Town Hall. She stated that the Bakery will be beautifully decorated and stocked with delicious donated baked goods.

Request for Sewer Tap Buy Back TMS# 159-00-00-001 & TMS# 159-00-00-080

Mayor Herrington stated that we have two separate requests from property owners who purchased sewer taps for property that they had planned to develop. He went on to say that the property owners are now asking that the Town buy the sewer taps back. Council Member Keith McCarty asked why they are not using the taps. Mayor Herrington explained that the sewer taps purchased for the larger parcel were purchased prior to our zoning change and the current owner can only use a portion of the taps originally purchased for the development. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that we zoned them out of using the taps. Council Member Keith McCarty stated that he felt we would have to buy them back. Mayor Herington stated that by changing the zoning we did take away their ability to use the taps. Council Member Keith McCarty said that he was in favor of buying them back. Mayor Herrington stated that the second scenario is similar to the first one except for the fact that the current buyer is not going to develop the property and he only wants one tap. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler stated he felt as a result of the zoning change we as a Town almost have an obligation to buy the taps back. Council Member Tom Hutto asked Town Attorney Andy Gowder if the Town is obligated to purchase the taps back. Town Attorney Andy Gowder stated that the Town was not obligated. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler stated that when we sold them we did not get all of the money because some of the money went to Hollywood however; if we bought them back and sold them at a later date we would break even. Mayor Herrington and Council member Keith McCarty both stated that they didn't think it would be fair to our residents to continue to make them pay the \$15.00 per month service charge on sewer taps that they will never be able to use. Mayor Herrington asked for a motion to purchase back the taps.

Motion made by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Council Member Tom Hutto

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 roof installation has been completed for both the SCPA Building and the Town Hall. He advised that he inspected the Town Hall roof and it looks good. Council Member Keith McCarty said he would climb up and take a look at it soon. Mayor Herrington notified council the upgrade for our security camera system is complete. He added that 4 cameras were installed across the street in the park. Mayor Herrington added that he ordered and received the Pet Waste Stations. He added he plans to have them installed very soon as resident's dogs are making a mess of our park and sidewalks. Mayor Herrington stated that AC Electric came and fixed the street light that was out

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and SCE&G came out and replaced the bulb on our street light in the parking lot. Mayor Herrington stated that he was able to finish pressure washing the Pavilion in order to prepare for the Christmas Tree Lighting. He added that Tom Austin was able to touch up the areas where the paint blew off from the pressure washer.

Financial report given by: Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler

Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler stated that he received the financial report late. He stated he was training a new employee at work and was unable to prepare the financial report.

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 he checked with Roger yesterday. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that Roger and his crew have all the decking boards down. They have begun building the trusses on the ground. The idea is to raise them up with the lift and assemble them to the shelter once the trusses are complete. Council Member Tom Hutto added that they are making good progress. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler asked when Council Member Tom Hutto estimated completion of the project. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that the original completion date was expected to be last December but because of hurricanes the completion has been delayed several months. Council Member Tom Hutto added that the good news that Town Administrator Stephanie Smith was able to get final payment documentation submitted and approved. Mayor Herrington added that the brick company was supposed to bring samples to Roger but they did not show up. He continued saying that Roger went to the supply house to get the samples and Mayor Herrington had hoped to have them for the meeting but unfortunately, they were unable to get us the sample today; however, he stated that the color was a brownish-gray.

Communications given by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Council Member Keith McCarty stated that he was three levels in with regard to the terrible service from Frontier Communications and he has yet to speak to a human being. He asked the Mayor if he or Stephanie had a telephone number he could call to contact a person. Mayor Herrington stated that Town Administrator Stephanie Smith has a phone number for Council Member Keith McCarty. Council Member Keith McCarty told Stephanie he would call her to get the phone number.

Roxbury given by: Council Member Angela Watts

Council Member Angela Watts updated that Tom Austin has been shoveling gravel as the causeway below the parking lot is now repaired. Additionally, Tom Austin has been working in the garden and planting winter seeds. Council Member Angela Watts added that firewood has been split and the weeds have been trimmed in the hayfield. Old switch cane stalks are being collected to create a bee hotel. Council Member Angela Watts stated that Tom Austin issued a request for some items that he would like to improve the appearance of the park. Mayor Herrington stated that Tom Austin sent he and Council the list. Council will be reviewing those requests.

Council Comments:

Council Member Tom Hutto mentioned the possibility of purchasing buying 78 ½ acres. He asked if council would be interested in looking at purchasing the property for future development. Mayor Herrington stated that he thought it would be worth obtaining some information on it.

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Council Member Tom Hutto added that he has heard some complaints about people speeding right here in front of the park and Town Hall. Mayor Herrington stated that he looked a purchased a flashing speed detector. The cheapest one he could find was \$12,000.00. Council Member Keith McCarty asked if the \$12,000.00 included installation and he also wanted to know if it was solar powered. Mayor Herrington answered yes to both questions. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that we have had a number of complaints about speeding throughout the years. Mayor Herrington stated that the Town has tried a number of things to deter speeding. He stated that 3 or 4 years ago we had the police set up early in the morning and the officer wrote 18 tickets in one day. He added that slowed the speeding down for a while. Mayor Herrington stated that the speed limit is 35mph and people are driving 55 or 60mph. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler suggested getting the police to come back out here. Council Member Keith McCarty recommended having the police come set up one day every six weeks. Mayor Herrington said it was certainly something the Town could request. Council Member Tom Hutto mentioned speaking to the owners of the local businesses to see if they would speak to their employees about slowing down. Mayor Herrington stated that he would see what he can do with the police and he said he would also speak to the local business owners.

Council Member Tom Hutto asked what the status was with the architect we had come look at the SCPA Building and Town Hall. Council Member Keith McCarty stated that we ended up having the storms come up so the needed repairs were placed in front of the forecasted repairs from the architect. Council Member Tom Hutto asked if there are any next steps for preserving and upkeep of the buildings. Mayor Herrington stated that we have to do some brick sealing, brick repair, mortar joints, we need to consider replacing the windows because the sills are rotting. Council Member Tom Hutto stated that it might be good to have a professional come in and look at things so we can include repairs in the upcoming budget. Mayor Herrington stated that council would be discussing these things at the next retreat before the budget is decided. Mayor Pro Tem Tommy Butler stated that he knows we are trying to keep everything looking historical but as time progresses we may need to consider incorporating some newer more modern products for longevity. Council Member Keith McCarty added that brick has a life span and eventually things like that will need to be replaced and the original brick can't be found.

Council Member Tom Hutto asked Town Administrator Stephanie Smith if she was still working on the audit. Town Administrator Stephanie Smith said that the audit had currently slowed to a stop with the Christmas Tree Lighting preparations but she plans to get it started back up again as soon as the event is complete. She added that she will call the auditor tomorrow.

Council Member Tom Hutto asked Mayor Herrington to update everyone on the Meggett Creek Bridge. Mayor Herrington stated that Council Member Tom Hutto attended a meeting recently and discovered that the former director for our area at the SC Dept. of Transportation has recently retired. We are optimistic that the new director can help us get moving forward on replacing the Meggett Creek Bridge. He added that Council Member Tom Hutto has been emailing with someone at DOT in regards to the bridge. Council Member Tom Hutto added that he sent over a request to get a status on the project and he received a reply from DOT requesting more information in regards to the plans for the project. Mayor Herrington stated that we have been working on getting the bridge replaced for 6 years.

Public Comments:

Mr. Colby stated that it might be better to borrow a flashing speed detector. He doesn't feel that spending that much money flashing speed detector will work for this area. He also added that it might be nice to get a sign for the bridge that states "Water on Bridge" or "Road Flooded" signs for the flooding we get with heavy rains and storms.

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Mayor Herrington stated that he and Council would be headed to Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. He added that meeting attendees could help themselves to refreshments until they reconvene. After returning from Executive Session Mayor Herrington stated that no decisions were rendered. Mayor Herrington adjourned the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 8:04 pm