

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 23, 2015 Time: 7:00PM Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

Call to order by:	Mayor Buster Herrington
Type of Meeting:	Council Meeting
Facilitator:	Mayor Buster Herrington
Notes:	Ellie Brabham

Roll Call:	Mayor Herrington	P	Matt Zender	P
A = Absent	Tom Hutto	P	Andy Gowder	P
P = Present	Tommy Butler	P	Ellie Brabham	P
	Keith McCarty	A	Erica Schaffer	A

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

Approval of *Minutes from previous meeting held on: February 23, 2015. Council Meeting*

Motion made by: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto

Seconded by: Council Member Tommy Butler

In Favor: Mayor Buster Herrington
 Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto
 Council Member Tommy Butler
 Council Member Matt Zender

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes were approved as written*

Website:

Mayor Herrington asked if council had looked at the new website since it had been updated. Council Member Butler stated that he had and that it looked good.

Meggett Creek Bridge:

Mayor Herrington stated he had not heard anything new on the bridge and asked Council Member Matt Zender if he had heard anything. Council Member Zender stated he had heard nothing new, however it is scheduled for late this year or early 2016. He stated that he asked Robert Clark of SCDOT if the cold weather would be a problem and Mr. Clark said that it would not be for bridge construction.

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Road Maintenance

Mayor Herrington said that he put road maintenance on the agenda because there were a few pot holes that had resurfaced throughout the town. Work orders are pending on Church Flats, one on Hwy 165 just before the Manor, two on Toogoodoo Rd, and two on Ethel P O. Charleston County Public Works should be out working on those next week.

Drainage

The Town of Meggett has sent work orders into the Charleston County Public Works Department as well as the South Carolina Department of Transportation for some drainage relief. All of the rain we have had this year has caused a lot of problems. Mayor Herrington stated there are a few key areas they are going to address around town. He added that he hopes they will get to this very soon.

The Mayor further added that as part of Drainage the corner of Toogoodoo and Hwy 165 has been contracted to another company by SCE&G to replace lines and poles. As you can see they have done a pretty good job of tearing up the corner. They are aware that they have to fix it when they leave.

Meggett Park

Mayor Herrington stated that he had mentioned at the last meeting that he and David Singleton had put in some of the rubber playground tiles in the playground area of the park. Unfortunately they have been unable to install anymore because it is under water. He added that every time the area dries up, it rains again. After talking to several people over the last few weeks, the Mayor feels that council needs to get quotations on bringing some dirt in to raise the level of that area some and then put the mats down so that everything moves away from it into the pond and the ditch behind it. The Mayor feels that if we put the mats in at the existing ground level and we get another rain like we have had this year, all of it will be under water. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto agreed with the Mayor that would be a good idea. Mayor Herrington said that we have five new trees that will replace the trees that were removed from the park. Green Meadows Nursery has them in. Five Gum trees were removed and will be replaced by Tulip Poplars.

Water System:

The Mayor asked Council Member Matt Zender if he had any comments. Council Member Zender said CPW is still doing the engineering and planning on adding additional lines to the Meggett Water System. They are cutting it into pieces so they can send it out for bids. Usually the cost to run water lines is \$55 a linear foot to lay an 8 inch pipe, unless there are a lot of trees and they have to do a lot of boring. They are going to send out questionnaires to people that have signed up for water. It basically asks where you fall economically. If the resident falls in a certain economical range they may be eligible for some type of grants. It is a long drawn out process and obviously Meggett is going to have to come up with some funding. We talked previously at a meeting and we decided that we would put the \$350,000 parking lot in the back of Town Hall on hold until we found out what the cost were going to be for the water project. Council Member Zender also reminded council that he had suggested we stop the possibility of spending \$100,000 on purchasing the CSX right-of-way across Hwy 174. He added that we are spending a lot of money on the park. If we consider running water for residents down Quigley, Early Jersey, and Legacy, the town will have to come to the party. CPW said they would contribute part of it and if we get a grant, it will be better yet, but we will have to spend some money. That is where it stands for now and when and if it will be done, it will be done in sections, not all at once. Mayor Herrington asked Council Member Zender how many people he had signed up in those two areas that want water. Council Member Zender answered that he had not counted them but he would say over one hundred. He added that he knocked on every door and one out of twenty said they did not want it because they could not afford another bill. Some said their water is so bad that visitors bring their own water when they come to visit. Many cannot drink their water. Council Member Zender stated that

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he had water that had salt in it and has an RO System which he spent a lot of money on and keeps spending a lot of money on but a lot of people cannot afford that. He further added that he thinks the Town of Meggett should start something to help the residents get better water. The Mayor stated that with the linear foot being \$55 that is \$290,400 per mile. The grants mentioned are based on low to moderate income. Mayor Herrington stated that he looked into the grants several years ago and the household income for the town is above what is considered low to moderate. While the town may not be eligible for any type of grant, CPW has a program where they waive \$3000 per tap. The cost to go from Ethel P O where the line stops down Quigley would be around one million dollars. Council Member Zender said then we do a piece at a time. Council Member Zender stated that instead of the \$350,000 for landscaping behind Town Hall that could be used to begin the water lines for the residents. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto said that as soon as Lydia Owens of CPW got prices together for the town then we would have a better idea of what we can do. Council Member Zender stated that would probably be after his term expired but he would continue to follow up for the town.

Wastewater System:

Council Member Zender stated that he had asked the Mayor for a copy of Gary Dent's contract, insurance and bond information several months ago but still has not gotten them. The Mayor stated that the contract and insurance papers were in his other office and he would get that for him. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto stated that the presentation earlier by Mark Grego was very helpful. Mayor Herrington stated that he had talked with other municipalities that are using the Ecoflow System and asked if they would recommend it, he added that he did not get one "no". The Mayor Pro Tem stated unless anyone has more discussion he would like to make a motion that Mark draw up a contract for the Mayor's signature for the town to implement this system. The motion was second by Council Member Butler, all approved, the motion was passed.

Zoning:

Mayor Herrington stated that we have a few issues going on as far as our zoning regulations and our code enforcement. Mainly at the end of Gibson Road we have some zoning violations and issues that are being addressed. They are between three different parcels. The Mayor stated that he and Ellie had a meeting with one of the owners this week and has since received an email asking for an extension to have the zoning violations corrected. The property owner has asked for a sixty day extension at the advice of Andrea Pietras at the county. The Mayor sent the letter granting the extension today. In the meantime the other two zoning violations by the neighbors are going to be addressed and within the next 30 to 45 days we will have an answer as to how the county is going to handle them.

Election

The election is coming up on May 5th. There are two council seats and the Mayor's position open. The election sign up began on February 4th and ended on March 6, 2015. No one signed up to run against the Mayor. The candidates for the council seats are Tom Hutto, Lloyd Roberts and Angela Watts. Mayor Herrington wished good luck to all candidates .

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington stated that he had already touched on getting some pricing for ground work to be done in the park across the street. Ken's planting at Roxbury is not going as quickly as he had hoped it would due to the weather. The Mayor stated that he had gone underneath the SCPA Bldg trying to determine what is causing a musky odor in the restrooms. He did not find anything so he will call a plumber this week to take a look.

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rants and projects reports given by: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that he really appreciated all of the hard work that was put into the Oyster Roast at Roxbury Park by staff and volunteers. The cottage is being rented about once a month now. He added that the last gate has been installed and we are now down to fishing docks and one last picnic shelter.

Council Member Zender asked Mayor Herrington if we are going to get a new town sign at the corner once the work is finished by SCE&G. Mayor Herrington said yes and stated that he intentionally waited until the work was done to move forward with the sign. Council Member Zender also stated that the bushes were to be removed in 2011 because the wording on the sign could not be seen. They Mayor stated that they have been continuously pruned. Council Member Zender also asked about changing the wattage on the lights going through the town. The Mayor stated that he has the 17 watt bulbs ordered and a few of the new globes ordered and will have them installed as soon as they come in.

Communications: Council Member Keith McCarty

Not in attendance, the Mayor gave a brief update on the website earlier.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Tommy Butler reported that the Town of Meggett bank balance went up \$22,600. There were no out of the ordinary expenses. The Wastewater account went down \$3800 and the Meggett 1925 account went down \$9700 which was the money for the playground mats. He also reported that we have received the Fiscal Year Audit ending June 30, 2014.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

Council Member Matt Zender stated he would be meeting with the Palmetto Telecommunications Coop on Wednesday. In the past they have received FCC approval to tie into commercial as well as residential homes. They have tied into the schools and the Fire Stations so he hopes he can persuade them to get some fiber optic cable to the general population. Hopefully they will go into the more populated areas. It may be a good idea for the three towns to get together and make a presentation and hopefully we will get high speed to areas that do not have it. Comcast and Frontier do not want to spend any more money on equipment in our area.

Public Comments:

Mayor Herrington opened the floor for public comments.

Resident Bobby Shealy apologized for his cell phone going off. He also feels that it will be a good idea to have a forum to meet the candidates running for office since we do have so many new faces. Council Member Matt Zender suggested that the candidates do a bio for the newsletter which will be going out in the next week or so. Ellie asked that they get their information to her by Tuesday, March 31.

Mayor Herrington reminded everyone of the April in Meggett Festival and Car Show on April 11th and the Litter Pick up on April 18th.

With no other comments, the Mayor congratulated the Colby's on getting the CO for their new home on Ethel P O Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

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Submitted by Ellie Brabham