

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 27, 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:	Erica Schaffer

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

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Approval of *Minutes from previous meeting held on: March 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: *The minutes were approved with one correction. In the first sentence under Meggett Creek Bridge the word "asked" was removed per Mayor Herrington.*

Meggett Park:

Mayor Herrington reminded everyone of the discussion from the last meeting in reference to getting quotes to add dirt over at the Meggett Park to stop the flooding. He stated that he has received two quotes thus far and he is waiting on a third. Council Member Matt Zender asked Mayor Herrington when the drinking water fountain would be installed. Mayor Herrington stated that the plumbers recently finished running the line to the location of the fountain. He also stated that the brick mason has been notified and we are ready for him to lay the bricks so the fountain can be installed.

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Evening in Meggett:

Mayor Herrington announced that the date for our Evening in Meggett this year will be held on Saturday June 6, 2015. The theme will be the "1925 Era". He requested that everyone come out and support Meggett 1925 by planning to attend this event. He also stated it would be fun if everyone decided to dress the Era. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that he had someone approach him about renting the SCPA Building as a place for homeschooled seniors to have their prom. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto addressed Erica Schaffer by requesting that we come up with a sheet or flyer to handout to people that can answer general questions such as price, capacity, and restrictions that the town might have. He suggested we do this for Roxbury as well.

Litter Pick Up:

Mayor Herrington gave his sincere thanks to all who came out to help pick up trash on April 18th in support of keeping Meggett clean. He stated that they picked up trash from the intersection of Toogoodoo Road and Hwy 165, down 165, down Ethel PO Rd, down Wilson, and back up Toogoodoo. He stated that he greatly appreciated everyone who showed up and worked so hard.

Roxbury:

Mayor Herrington stated that the rentals for Roxbury are going well. We have someone renting at least once every month. He announced that we received two new bookings this week. One for June 19th – 21st and July 17th – 19th

Meggett Creek Bridge:

Mayor Herrington asked Council Member Matt Zender if he had any updates on the Meggett Creek Bridge. Council Member Matt Zender stated that there was nothing new to report. Meggett Creek Bridge is still on the list for either late this year or early next year. Mayor Herrington stated that he had Ellie research as to when we started the process of trying to replace the bridge. He stated that the time line began in 2010. He also stated he has been calling SCDOT and the Governor as well as sending letters trying to get SCDOT to begin the bridge work.

Drainage:

Mayor Herrington stated that work has begun along the roadways and in our ditches. We are hoping this improves our drainage issues.

Wastewater System:

Mayor Herrington stated that he has ordered the Ecoflow System for our pump station. Mark Grego will coordinate with the electrician on the installation process. Council Member Tommy Butler stated that he has the continuous tax exemption certificate that the town can begin using. He told Erica Schaffer that

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the use tax registration was an annual filing and forms should be coming in soon for office administration to complete and return. Council Member Matt Zender offered an explanation as to what the Ecoflow System was for residents in the audience who may have missed the March meeting. He stated it is a machine that injects enzymes into the sewer system to help prevent sulfur dioxide from building up in the system. Hopefully this will eliminate odors emitting from the pump station. Mayor Herrington thanked Council Member Matt Zender for the explanation.

Meggett Sign:

Mayor Herrington stated that the power line relocation by our sign is complete. SCE&G has notified Ertel that they need to come back and fix the ruts and the grass. He also added that Ertel should be taking care of that soon. Meanwhile; the Mayor stated that he has been working diligently with a drafts person on the design for the new sign. He said he would discuss these ideas further with council at the upcoming budget meeting.

Election

Mayor Herrington reminded everyone that the election is coming up on May 5. Voting will open at 7am and close at 7pm. The mayor encouraged everyone to come out and vote.

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington stated that the plumber came out to investigate the odor coming from underneath the SCPA Building. It was determined the odor is being caused by a moisture issue and another dehumidifier may be needed to resolve the issue. Council Member Matt Zender asked if we had any prospects to rent the vacant offices in the SCPA Building. Mayor Herrington stated that we had a medical distribution company take a look at it but there was not enough space. Council Member Matt Zender also asked if we had seen anymore of the people disturbing the park. Mayor Herrington stated that he hasn't seen anything on the security camera and he is hoping that whoever it was does not come back.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto announced that Roxbury Park was the lead article in the South Carolina Wildlife Magazine for May 2015. The park received a six page write up. He stated that Ken should be commended on his discussion with the author of the article. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto advised council and residents that there is one more structure to complete under our grant. The larger picnic shelter will be closer to the cabin.

Duke Energy has announced a \$10 million dollar Water Grant as a result from a coal ash spill into the Dan River. This grant helps those with water quality issues. They are planning to spread the money across North and South Carolina, as well as Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia. Applications are

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accepted on an ongoing basis with decisions made twice a year. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated it would be great if we could get some of the grant money to spread oyster shells in Toogoodoo Creek.

Communications: Council Member Keith McCarty

Not in attendance, the Mayor stated that the website is up and running and we are updating it as we go along.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Tommy Butler reported that the Town of Meggett bank balance went down \$16,900. The expense that caused this decrease was the fee we pay the auditor for our yearly review which was \$8,000.00. We also had a \$2,000.00 maintenance fee for the blue house. The other expenses were just standard expenses to run the town. I believe we get a large chunk of money usually in June so the account will go back up. The Wastewater account went up \$2,400.00 and the Meggett 1925 account went up by \$40.00. CD #1 matured and we earned \$452.60 in interest. The wastewater CD matured and earned \$2,153.00 in interest. Council Member Tommy Butler stated that he has been talking to Ellie to come up with a plan to move this money as per the auditor's suggestion. Mayor Herrington told council that we are having a problem with one of the AC units in the SCPA Building. The unit in question is the one that cools the upstairs council room. This is not one of the units that was involved in the previous vandalism. Chris Wilson had one of his technicians come out to look at the unit and they believe the unit was damaged by lightening. They will monitor the situation further and get back to the town with their recommendation. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that the town is only at 72% of its budget for expenses. It looks like we will come out with a surplus for the end of the fiscal year. Mayor Herrington stated that even with the expense of the dirt needed at Meggett Park, the drinking water fountain at Meggett Park, and the AC issue in the SCPA Building we should still come out ahead. We are at 52% of the property improvements budget with a little over \$7,000.00 remaining.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

Fiber Optic Line:

Council Member Matt Zender stated he had a meeting with Palmetto Rural Telecommunications Coop and the CEO Chief Financial Officer. In the past they have received FCC approval to tie into commercial as well as residential homes. They have tied into the local schools and the Fire Stations. They said they would like to hold a meeting with the Mayors from Meggett, Hollywood, & Ravenel to see if they are interested in talking about moving forward. Council Member Matt Zender stated that Palmetto Rural Telecommunications Coop said they would need more information to determine the cost but the estimate is approximately \$25,000.00 per mile. They asked for money from the towns and we said no. They are currently looking into going South down 17 and loop into Hwy 174.

Water System:

Council Member Matt Zender said Lydia Owens with CWS is reviewing my water survey. Council Member Matt Zender stated that Lydia Owens does not want to move forward with the engineering and

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planning to add additional lines to the Meggett Water System until she receives an indication from council saying yes we want water and yes we can bring money to the table. The estimated cost for the water line installation is between \$270,000.00 to \$300,000.00 per mile. Both Mayor Herrington and Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that they would love to be able to provide city water to all residents but neither felt comfortable agreeing without further information. Mayor Herrington stated that he would need to know exactly how much money CWS would require of the town before the town could commit. He continued to say that he needed specifics. No municipal tax is being charged to residents to help pay for things like this. Mayor Herrington continued by saying he does not want to commit the town to anything without first knowing the cost. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that at \$300,000.00 per mile we would have spent almost our entire yearly budget in the first mile. He also stated that he was not voting for raising taxes so it would be difficult to pay for this with no way to recoup any of the money. Council Member Tommy Butler agreed with the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Matt Zender stated that the town was planning to spend \$350,000 on the parking lot in the back of Town Hall at one point. 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. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that if that property had been purchased it would have been paid for by way of a grant. Council Member Zender went on to say we should spend our money on running water for residents down Quigley, Early Jersey, and Legacy. Council Member Zender stated that 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 stated many residents cannot drink their water; it's rotten. He continued by stating that CWS said they would contribute part of the money and help us get a grant but we will have to spend money too. CWS will send out questionnaires to people that have signed up for water once Meggett agrees to come aboard with the money. The questionnaire basically asks where you fall economically. If the resident falls in a certain economic range they may be eligible for some type of grant. For example a household of two with income levels at or below \$15,930.00 is considered an extra low income level. The same household with an income level of \$25,200.00 is considered very low. Finally, an income level of \$40,250.00 or less is considered low. All of these people would be in the grant bracket. We have plenty of people living off of Social Security or Pension checks. Council Member Matt Zender asked if council was on board with him. The answer was unanimously no. Mayor Herrington, Mayor Pro Tem Hutto, and Council Member Tommy Butler all stated that the town needs Lydia Owens of CWS to give us an accurate account of what the town will need to contribute we can't say yes. Mayor Pro Tem stated we can't say yes until we know what we are committing to financially. Council Member Tommy Butler stated CWS could come back and say they need five million dollars. Administrative Assistant Erica Schaffer suggested we invite Lydia Owens to come to one of our meetings to explain the rant process and answer some of the questions that council has concerning funding the water.

Council Member Matt Zender stated that although the Bed and Breakfast violation on Park Island is not on the agenda, many people from Park Island are in attendance. It needs to be discussed. It seems as if a resident is running a Bed & Breakfast in a single residence zone. This requires a land use change and will require BZA approval. The County is working on the violation. Mayor Herrington responded that Charleston County Code Enforcement is checking into this for the town. He said he received an email from Andrea Pietras at Charleston County that stated there seemed to be some confusion as to whether or not it's a B&B or if the property is being used as a rental. Code Enforcement will clarify. This falls under Meggett's Zoning regulation and Charleston County is subcontracted to enforce our zoning regulations. We will address this issue as quickly as possible. Let's try to be fair and allow the Code Enforcement to complete their process.

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Public Comments:

Mayor Herrington opened the floor for public comments.

Resident Ken Schilling said he had questions and comments about items nine and ten on the agenda. First, the Meggett Creek Bridge has been an issue since we moved to Meggett three years ago. I am frustrated and find this confusing. Is the bridge approved and are we waiting for funding? Mayor Herrington responded to Mr. Schilling by stating that the bridge was approved for repair long ago. The problem came in when the engineers realized they did not put enough in the budget to move the power poles. We are waiting on funding from a SCDOT grant. As I stated earlier we have been trying to get this bridge replaced since 2010. We have had nothing but delays.

Resident Ken Schilling asked if there is anything else the town can do to move this forward? Mayor Herrington stated that the town's only responsibility was to move our sewer line which we have already done. Resident Ken Schilling asked if there is anything the residents can do to help move this forward. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto said you can contact Robert Brown or any State Senator and encourage them to vote for the Hwy's Bill.

Resident Ken Schilling also wanted to know who was doing the drainage work on the ditches and if we knew which roads were being done when. Mayor Herrington stated the Town of Meggett sent work orders into the Charleston County Public Works Department as well as the South Carolina Department of Transportation. We are unsure which entity has started work we are just grateful to have them. The goal is to have ditches cleaned out this side of Hwy 162 from Chapel Road down to Oyster House Road. Neither the county nor SCDOT has given us a map of their plans.

Resident Gale Smith stated that she lives at 4651 Hwy 165. She stated that her property will be directly impacted by the bridge and its construction. She stated she was not sure how the town could possibly be waiting on funding for a bridge that doesn't seem to be designed yet. She stated that she spoke directly to SCDOT surveyor's who said they were surveying the area for the bridge replacement but they appeared to have no knowledge of a design already in place. Resident Gale Smith also stated she is concerned that the design of the bridge could cause drainage issue to her property or even be built too high where it might block her view which would impact the value of her property. SCDOT was out taking preliminary measurements. She stated that if there is a design she would like to see it. Mayor Pro Tem stated that SC Hwy 165 is a State Road and the Town doesn't have design review rights. The state has jurisdiction over the road. He recommended Ms. Smith contact the Town Hall and get the telephone number for the local SCDOT Representative Robert Clark. It was also stated that the state would not be able to flood her property as alignment is agreed upon. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that Ms. Smith's property should not have a storm water issue. The bridge will be designed with elevations to insure the water drains properly.

With no other comments, Mayor Herrington thanked everyone for coming and offered them refreshments.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm
Submitted by: Erica Schaffer*