

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 18, 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	A
P = Present	Tommy Butler	P	Ellie Brabham	P
	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: April 27, 2015 Council Meeting.*

Motion made by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto

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

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes approved.*

Meggett Park:

Mayor Herrington advised everyone that the brick mason completed the brick work for the drinking water fountain and the fountain was installed today. He urged everyone to go over and take a look at it if they had time. He also advised everyone that the fountain will be dedicated to Stevens Towing Company, Inc. in honor of their 100th Anniversary of being in business. He stated that we tentatively have the dedication planned for June 22, 2015 which is the same day as our usual monthly council meeting. We will begin the meeting outside at 6pm with the fountain dedication and move back inside at 7p, for our regularly scheduled council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto advised that Johnson Stevens has just become recently engaged to Dillard Salmons of Salmons Dredging.

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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 sent another letter to Governor Haley's office on May 8, 2015. He received a response by email on Friday and he is supposed to have a telephone conference with someone from SCDOT Thursday May 21, 2015. He advised that he would let everyone know the outcome of that conversation.

Evening in Meggett:

Mayor Herrington announced that the date and time for our Evening in Meggett 1925 Membership Renewal and Dinner Party. He let everyone know it will be held on Saturday June 6, 2015 beginning at 6pm in the evening. Mayor Herrington asked Administrative Assistant, Erica Schaffer if she would elaborate on what we will be doing at this year's event. Erica advised residents and council that we will be having a sit down dinner with a full meal and an RSVP will be mandatory for our meal planning. The theme will be the "1925 Era". She reminded everyone to dress up in their 1920's best whether it be gangsters, flapper girls, or just some everyday 20's style clothes. She asked that everyone come out and support the Meggett 1925 Project by planning to attend this event.

Budget Workshop:

Mayor Herrington stated that we need to set up a date for our budget workshop. The first and second reading must be completed before June 30, 2015. It was decided that the budget workshop will be held on June 9th at 7pm. The second reading will be done at our council meeting on June 22, 2015.

Wastewater System:

Mayor Herrington stated that the Ecoflow System for our pump station **as** arrived. The electrician was there today beginning the evaluation of the installation process. Roger Brabham put the structure together that we ordered to house the system.

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington stated that the earthwork that needs to be done at the Meggett Park to install the rubber mats has been delayed due to the fact he had left something off of the original scope of work submitted to the contractors who would do the earthwork. He contacted the three companies who had already submitted bids and asked them to revise their bids to include the missing items. He stated they would all revise their quotations and resubmit. The Mayor notified everyone that we have developed a small leak on the Town Hall roof on the left rear side. He got up there and checked on it and stated it was the same spot that we patched a few years ago. He mentioned that we should consider this leak when determining the budget as we may have to do more than a patch for this repair. Josh Garvin has informed the Mayor that the tulip poplars are in and ready to be installed at the park. He requested volunteers to help remove the Wax Myrtles that are currently by the pond. New trees will be put in their place.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto said he had been doing some research in regard to a grant for solar panel roofing. Mayor Herrington said the last time we checked into that we were not eligible because we are a municipality. He also read that the rate of return was around 23 years and the life span on the roof was only twenty five years. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that he believes the laws have changed quite a bit on this issue and he thinks the Town of Meggett might be eligible for a grant. Mayor Herrington asked Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto to follow up on the issue and get back to him with the results.

Communications: Council Member Keith McCarty

Council Member Keith McCarty stated that the website is up and running and we are updating it as we go along. He encouraged residents to visit the website. He welcomed their feedback. He also stated that he has had several people in town who wish to see a regular newsletter come out here in the town. He said he knows the newsletter is a good bit of work but it might be advantageous to do this electronically and have available so everyone could view online via our website.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Tommy Butler reported that the Town of Meggett bank balance went up \$6,600.00. The only out of the ordinary expense we had this month was \$1,766.00 for running the water over to the park. It was taken out of the infrastructure account. The Wastewater account went up by \$2,800.00. Council Member Tommy Butler paused for a moment and asked if we had sold any of the sewer taps yet. Mayor Herrington advised him that we have not. The Meggett 1925 account went down by \$72.00. This expense was the beginning of the expenditures for our preparation for the Evening in Meggett 1925 Event. Mayor Herrington asked everyone to look at their copy of the current financial statement. He asked them to direct their attention to line item 5 under the general fund (Building Maintenance/Town Hall/Walkway). We have some money left in that I would like to use (some of it; not all of it) to do some pressure washing and touch up painting in the near future. Maybe we can talk about putting in next year's budget enough to do some serious painting on the exterior of this building including windows and things. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto said that sounds good.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

Fiber Optic Line:

Council Member Matt Zender stated he talked with Palmetto Rural Telecommunications Coop and they are planning to finish their work for commercial businesses on 17. They have no intention of bringing fiber optic into the residential area of Meggett at this time. Council Member Matt Zender also said that he spoke to CWS who informed him that all of their engineers are backed up with other engineering design projects therefore; it is going to be some time before we will see any costs to what it might take to get city water to those residents currently using wells. This is my last report obviously and I was hoping to leave on a nice even note but; as many of you know I have been waiting a long time for a contract from our current sewer maintenance personal. Let the record show: Please see attached, "Let the record show".

Public Comments:

Mayor Herrington opened the floor for public comments. With no public comments Mayor Herrington advised that we

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would proceed with our Oath of Office. He also had everyone recognize our previous mayor and thanked him for coming. Everyone applauded for Mayor Coffin. Mayor Herrington went on to say that prior to Mr. Coffin being Mayor his own father Mr. Harry Herrington was also mayor. He said that Mayor Coffin gave him the Oath of Office when he was first elected. "Tonight I have asked my father; former Mayor Herrington to give me the Oath of Office after which time I will give the Oath to Tom and Angela. I have also asked my son Harry V. Herrington, IV. (Van) to assist with the ceremony by holding the Bible that I will have my hand on. It is very special to me. It was given to me by grandparents on my seventh birthday in 1976."

Mayor Herrington brought the podium up. His father Mr. Harry Herrington took his position behind the podium and asked the Mayor to repeat after him the following:

"I do solemnly swear that I am duly qualified according to the constitution of the State of SC to exercise the duties of the office to which I have been elected and I will to the best of my ability discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of this State and the United States. As Mayor of the Town of Meggett, South Carolina, I will equally, fairly, and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me, and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to law the purposes for which I have been elected. So help me God."

Mayor Herrington invited our newly elected Council Member Mrs. Angela Watts to take her Oath of Office.

"I do solemnly swear that I am duly qualified according to the constitution of the State of SC to exercise the duties of the office to which I have been elected and I will to the best of my ability discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of this State and the United States. As a Council Member for the Town of Meggett, I will equally, fairly, and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me, and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to law the purposes for which I have been elected. So help me God."

Mayor Herrington invited our reelected Council Member Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto to come up and take his Oath of Office.

"I do solemnly swear that I am duly qualified according to the constitution of the State of SC to exercise the duties of the office to which I have been elected and I will to the best of my ability discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of this State and the United States. As a Council Member for The Town of Meggett, I will equally, fairly, and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me, and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to law the purposes for which I have been elected. So help me God."

Mayor Herrington thanked everyone. He excused Council Member Matt Zender of his position and offered our newly elected Council Member Angela Watts a seat at the council table. Mayor Herrington welcomed Council Member Angela Watts and congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto on his reelection. Mayor Herrington continued by saying that it is a blessing and an honor to serve our town. He is humbled by the honor to have this opportunity and he is looking forward to working with everyone and making a lot of progress for the town. He thanked the citizens for showing up and supporting us during the meetings and our elections. Mayor Herrington encouraged everyone to continue to be involved. He encouraged anyone with any questions or concerns to please call us or email us.

Council Member Keith McCarty asked town staff to remind all residents to go online to our website and enter their email address. This will help us move forward with the electronic delivery of our newsletter and keep you as informed as possible on what is happening within Meggett.

Mayor Herrington added that we have one final note of business before we close. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that

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he has had the pleasure of serving as the Mayor Pro Tem for the last two years however it is time for someone else to take over the position and he nominated Council Member Tommy Butler as the new Mayor Pro Tem. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Mayor Herrington thanked Erica Schaffer for cooking the meal. He also thanked Ellie Brabham, Trudy Herrington, and Rebeccah Singleton for doing all of the decorating. He thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay, enjoy the meal, and fellowship with one another. Mayor Herrington asked his Father-in-law, John Steele, to bless the meal. After the blessing the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Submitted by: Erica Schaffer

MAY 18, 2016

Let the record show:

The contract with the prior sewer maintenance company ended last October. I'm concerned that Meggett has been unnecessarily exposed to unlimited liability in the case of a sewer failure, which has happened in the past. I was told that Mr. Gary Dent has taken over the sewer maintenance. Since January, I have requested copies of his contract, his insurance policy and his bond, none of which has been provided under the Freedom of Information Act. The law states it must be provided within 15 working days.

That point aside, apparently Mr. Dent is not licensed nor certified by the state for this work. I have been in contact with various departments regarding this problem, including the Council of Governments, the Municipal Association of South Carolina, the Attorney General's Office, the Labor Licensing and Regulation Department, the Ethics Department and DHEC. According to the Licensing Department, Mr. Dent is in violation and is not certified to maintain our system.

I recommend that Meggett follow the legal requirements and solicit bids publicly for our sewer maintenance and award the contract to an insured, bonded, licensed contractor.

In my discussion with DHEC, I was told that DHEC must approve any sewer hookups. To obtain a DHEC permit, engineering drawings must be submitted. Meggett must also provide a current map showing all taps as well as a maintenance log with any repairs noted. I will forward the email from DHEC to Council. I suggest Meggett follow DHEC regulations in the future. That will require a company that can provide the appropriate documentation.

Again, I am concerned that a sewer failure will put Meggett in a position of having to spend untold amounts for clean up and fines. This can be avoided by hiring a qualified contractor.