

***Town of Meggett
Council Meeting***
Meggett SCPA Building
4776 Highway 165
January 23, 2012– 7:00PM

(Item 1, 2 and 3 Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call and Prayer)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Herrington. Council members present were Matt Zender, Tom Hutto and Keith McCarty. Unable to attend was Councilman Tommy Butler. Also present was Attorney Andy Gowder and Gail Seabrook, Planning and Zoning Administrator. The prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were lead by Mayor Herrington.

(Item 4) Approval of Minutes November Council Meeting

The minutes for the November Council Meeting were e-mailed to all council members prior to the scheduled meeting for review and comments. Tom Hutto made the motion to accept the minutes with minor corrections. The motion was seconded by Keith McCarty. All voted in favor.

(Item 5) Lisa Hajjar/Water and Soil Conservation Grant

Ms Hajjar came before council asking for support of the Sewee to Santee Grant and what it would encompass. Presently, the Toogoodoo River, which is part of the Toogoodoo Water Shed area, is closed to harvesting shellfish due to poor water quality. The purpose of the Grant would be to study the impact of waste filtrating into the waterways. Contaminations in the creek waters may result from septic systems not functioning properly as well as runoff from pastures where farm animals are kept. In addition to the study, some of the funding would go towards repairs to failing septic systems. The grant would also focus on educating residents that raise livestock and present solutions that would help to prevent waste material from making its way into our creeks and rivers. The goal is to find ways to improve water quality in the Toogoodoo Water Shed area. She asked for council's support and hope they would take an active part on the committee for this project.

(Item 6) Council Member Reports

Buster Herrington – building repairs and ground maintenance The security alarm system for both buildings has been installed. Floors in the office spaces in the SCPA Building have been refinished and the office formerly used by Larkin Engineering has been repaired from water damage and painted. The hallway also received a fresh coat of new paint as well. The downstairs rear closet in the SCPA Building has been cleaned out and will be used for storage by Fluent Logistics. The doors have been repaired with new weather stripping and new locks. The re-glazing and painting of the windows are presently in progress. Tom Hutto took away the old bricks that were stored behind the SCPA Building. Mayor Herrington removed the old timbers that were left by the little grey shed from the demolition of the clock tower. Mayor Herrington also reported that the clock in the tower of the pavilion is now working. With the completion of all the repairs, we now have a three year lease signed by Fluent Logistics and a two year lease signed by Dr. Meyer.

At the previous meeting several residents complained about people speeding in the area. The traffic was monitored for 14 days beginning January 3, 2012 by Town Hall on Highway 165. During that time frame, 11,522 vehicles were recorded. The highest speed recorded was 57 miles per hour. The lowest speed recorded was 10 miles per hour. The average speed by Town Hall was 26.3 miles per hour. At the request of several residents that live on Westervelt Road, speed limit signs have been posted in that area. No parking signs have been posted along Flounder Lake area and Highway 165. "Do not Litter" signs have also been placed along some of the roadways as well.

Councilman Matt Zender made mention that we had spent \$78,957 of the \$80,000 approved for capital improvements; if we need additional work done would we go over budget. Mayor Herrington said that covers everything that we have completed so far with the exception of the glazing of the windows. That cost will come out of a separate budget item. The approximate cost of \$2800 associated with the window glazing would come out of the funds appropriated for the Produce Associated Maintenance listed as item 40 on the budget. With nearly all the budget for capital improvements spent, Councilman Zender asked if we were going to be able to address the drainage problem around town hall. Mayor Herrington indicated if we saw a need to do the drainage at this time we could move funds from money that was appropriated for the Walnut Hill property into the account for capital improvements.

- a. *Keith McCarty – Web Page* Councilman McCarty said the web page is up to date.
- b. *Tom Hutto – Walnut Hill Property* Councilman Hutto said he planned to remove all of the furniture this Saturday with help from volunteers. The yard has been cleaned up. An inventory of the different species of birds found in the

area has been started by individuals interested in the wildlife. Tom has contacted a contractor to do some repairs to the cottage. Presently they are trying to coordinate a schedule for the work. Councilman Hutto also made mention of the official opening of the new fire station this Saturday located on Highway 174.

Councilman Matt Zender said he was under the impression that the grant contract for the Walnut Hill property stated that they would contribute to building a parking lot and trails. He suggested that we contact Kathy Ruff and inquire about the funds that were mentioned in the contract for these projects. Councilman Hutto said his interpretation was the funds had to be included in the initial request but he would read the contract again to make sure he understood it correctly.

- c. Tommy Butler- Finances – Mayor Herrington provided the reports since Councilman Butler was unable to attend the meeting. The following information was provide for the financial report:

Main Account	CD's	Total for Accounts (main account and CD')	Wastewater	1925 membership	Business License 2012
Nov \$426,970	No Change	Nov \$479,784	Nov \$352,007	as of January	as of January
Dec \$410,376		Dec \$463,190	Dec \$357,160	\$ 6039	\$15,485

For all of the repairs completed so far totals \$79,957.

Matt Zender-Utilities Matt indicated that Councilman Hutto had already provided information about the opening of the new fire station that he was going to give in his report but he wanted to add to Tom’s information that it is open to the public. Councilman Zender also provided information on the facilities that the new fire station has installed. A 15,000 gallon holding tank which is filled from a well that pumps 150/gallons per minute is located on the site. This will provide a faster solution for filling the trucks. The new fire station location will provide a much needed service to those living in the area as well as a benefit in the reduction of fire insurance to the homeowners within a 5 mile radius.

(Frontier Telephone) - He spoke with Frontier Telephone and their projected budget for this year will lean more towards improving service to the Ravenel area and parts of Hollywood.

(Bridge Repairs) - We are waiting on the permit from the Army Corp of Engineers. Once we have that in hand we should be able to coordinate with CPW and move forward with the project. Gail Seabrook intervened to remind Matt we would still need the permit from the State Budget and Control Board. We could not move forward with that application until all other permits were obtained. That will be the last application we will need to apply for and then we can begin the contract bidding and construction part of the project.

(Flounder Lake Subdivision) Attorney Gowder is working on an ordinance which will implement how subdivision sewer lines will be handled by the town.

The 13 acre tract located off of Cobbler Road, which was part of the Harmony Hall property, has been subdivided into two lots but will not be served by the existing town’s sewer system. Presently we have 46 taps assigned to Harmony Hall and 4 taps assigned to the four lots along Wilson Road which was originally part of the Toogoodoo Farms. Matt inquired about the procedure of trying to get those taps back. Attorney Gowder said he had sent a letter to the Bank of Walterboro explaining the town could not provide sewer service to these lots since Toogoodoo Farms was split up into different parcels which created no access for sewer lines. So far he had not received a response from the bank. Mayor Herrington indicated that only the town can buy the taps back and resell to other residents. It cannot be done through the individual owners of the taps. We have a waiting list and we go down the list when taps become available. Councilman Zender asked at present how many do we have on the waiting list. Gail Seabrook replied that we have about 15 on the waiting list at present. Keith McCarty said he felt at first the bank thought they had something of value but he felt now they realized the taps were of no value since they could not access the sewer system and they may be willing to sell back to the town at a reasonable rate. Andy Gowder said he would follow up with this.

Matt asked Robert Clark if funds a new bridge were in their new budget. Mr. Clark said when the utilities are removed repairs would be made to the existing bridge but funds had not been appropriated for the new construction. For safety reasons, he would have inspections done periodically until the repairs have been completed.

(Item 7) New Business

Mayor Herrington said he had been approached asking to allow organizations in the community to use the SCPA building for meetings and storage and not be charged. Presently the Exchange Club uses the building once a month for their meetings and the kitchen as well. They pay \$100 a month. The American Legion meets briefly in the front room once a month. With only four members they do not pay. The St. Paul's Garden Club previously met in the building and would like to become active in the town again. Presently they have files stored in the small brick building and would like to continue to use the building for storage. The Exchange Club would also like to have storage in the kitchen closet for their supplies. The Christmas decorations have been removed from that closet and can now accommodate their supplies. Matt Zender asked what responsibility would fall on the town with storing items that did not belong to the town. Mayor Herrington said an agreement would need to be signed indicating no responsibility would fall on the town should anything happen to stored items. No motion was brought to the floor for a vote on the issue. Next discussed by Mayor Herrington was the little grey storage shed. The estimate he got to have the building moved to the back area of the property was \$500 to \$600 provided no problems were encountered in the move. However, it was pointed out that the roof was in bad need of repair and that would cost about \$1000. A new storage shed the same size would cost about \$1400. Mayor Herrington asked council if they wanted to demolish the existing shed and replace it with a new one or move the existing and make the necessary repairs. Councilman Keith McCarty indicated he did not want to sink any money into the old building. No motion was brought to the floor for a vote referencing the issue.

Mayor Herrington said he had been asked by Tom Boozer if the extra bricks that we had used on the walkway could be donated for a confederate memorial that is being built on Edisto. Council felt that we would need those brick for repairs to the existing walkway and that the town should not get rid of them.

Meeting and Event Schedule

Feb 27, 2012	7:00pm	Council Meeting

(Item 13) Public Comments

Council Matt Zender inquired if there was a state law that placed the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of a private road on the residents that live on the road? Attorney Andy Gowder indicated the upkeep and maintenance is usually determined according to what is specified in the by- laws and the conveyance of the deeds and subdivision regulations. Many variables would determine who the responsibility would fall on but there is not a state law that actually states that those residing on the road are responsible.

Mike Watts, a resident on Ethel P.O. Road asked about the Walnut Hill property. He asked its location and the plans for the use of the property. Council Hutto said it was located on Highway 174 and Little Britton Road with access as well to the Toogoodoo Creek. He provided information of what they plan to have on the premises when the park is completed such as trails and access to the water for canoes and kayaks. It should also provide a place for events to be held as well. He invited Mr. Watts to come out and view the property and would be glad to make arrangements for him to pick up a key to access the property if he would like to see it.

Another resident at the meeting asked why was so many no parking signs placed along the marsh area of Flounder Lake bordering Highway 165. She said it took away from the beauty of the area and would like to have them removed. It was explained that residents living in that area had approached the town with concerns about people parking there and fishing in the private lake. They also were concerned that due to the curves in that area it presented a danger for traffic. The town asked SCDOT for assistance with this matter and they placed the signs in the area. Perhaps the number of signs could be reduced but it would depend on the regulations that SCDOT would need to abide by. Robert Clark with SCDOT, said he did asked that they move the signs a little further back from where they are placed at present. He did feel they were a little too close to the road but indicated that the distance between the signs were standard regulations.

A motion was made by Councilman Keith McCarty to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter.

Council came out of executive session. No action was taken on the legal matter and Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Zoning and Planning Administrator: Gail Seabrook