

***Town of Meggett
Council Meeting***
Meggett SCPA Building
4776 Highway 165
February 27, 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 Buster Herrington. Council members present were Matt Zender, Tom Hutto, Tommy Butler and Keith McCarty. Also present was Attorney Andy Gowder, Administrator Ellie Brabham and Planning and Zoning Administrator Gail Seabrook. The prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were lead by Mayor Herrington.

(Item 4) Approval of Minutes January Council Meeting

Council member Keith McCarty made the motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Matt Zender. All voted in favor.

(Item 5) Chelsea Bacher – Resolution opposing a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

Ms Bacher representing Mullikin Law Firm came before the town asking for support regarding the opposition of a legislated mandate requiring a certain percentage of a state's electricity to come from renewable energy. Should this legislation pass, energy prices will increase for both the individual citizens and industry. Jobs will be lost and household expenses will climb. She asked for council to firmly and unanimously denounce the introduction, passage, and implementation of any RPS mandates by signing a resolution and copies of the resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as each of South Carolina's Congressional Delegates in Washington. Councilman Keith McCarty asked who her law firm represented. Ms Bacher stated that the parties asked to remain anonymous and therefore she was not at liberty to disclose that information. A copy of the resolution was given to council. Council briefly discussed the issue and decided not to move forward with the resolution.

(Item 5) Charter School (Lowcountry Leadership Charter School)

A group of residents from the area came before council and residents to relay information of their efforts to start a state charter school in the area. Spokesperson for the committee, Chryse Jackson explained that the intent is to serve children in the area with a facility that will provide a quality education. Funding for the school will be through the state and will operate by the state charter school regulations. Presently they are looking at buildings to house the school. Certain structural requirements will need to be met which will be a deciding factor when a final decision is made for the location. Their goal for starting enrollment is about 400 students for grades K5 thru 8th. The committee hopes to start the school the beginning of the school year 2013-2014. Mrs. Jackson asked council and all residents attending the meeting to help promote the school by getting the word out to the community. She encouraged parents with children to fill out the application form as soon as possible. This would help to get a count of students and enable the committee to plan for staff and teachers that will be needed. For information you can visit the web site www.lowcountryleadershipcharterschool.org.

(Item 6) Council Member Reports

a. *Mayor Buster Herrington – building repairs and ground maintenance*

The security light on the front of the SCPA Building has been installed. The painting and glazing of the windows in the SCPA Building is completed. Blinds for the front window in the SCPA Building have been installed.

b. *Council Member Keith McCarty – Web Page*

The web page is up to date

c. *Council Member Tom Hutto – Walnut Hill Property*

Councilmember Hutto informed council he had received a quote to have the cottage at Walnut Hill cleaned for \$100 plus the cost of cleaning supplies. Council approved. The cost for putting up the "No Trespassing signs" will be \$12/hr as needed. Councilmember Hutto provided information on a grant for park improvements and asked if the town would be interested in applying. This is a \$200,000 grant with a 50% match, meaning the town would be responsible for \$100,000. He also added that in-kind funding could be applied towards the town's \$100,000 match. Councilmember Hutto further stated that a Letter of Intent is due this week and the application deadline is June 1, 2012. Councilmember McCarty made a motion to move forward with the application, all council approved. Tom also had received a cost from Whitty Boykin to install a new dock as well as repairs to the existing platform. It was

recommended that we would not go forward with the dock until we determined if we qualified for the grant. However, we may need to proceed with repairs to the platform for safety reasons. Councilmember Zender asked why the Walnut Hill Park has not been turned over to the Planning Commissioners. He felt they should be the ones to work with the citizen's committee and present their ideas to Town Council for approval. Councilmember Hutto stated he had sent an e-mail to council to that effect.

d. Councilmember Tommy Butler – Financial Report

Councilmember Butler gave the following financial information for the month of January.

Financial Report 2012	Bank Balance First Citizen	C/D Bank of Walterboro	Waste Water	C/D Waste Water	Meggett 1925
January, 2012	\$425,688.63	\$52,814.01	\$78,575.49	\$280,861.91	\$6,039.78

e. Councilmember Matt Zender-Utilities

(Bridge Repairs) – Mickey Seabrook has applied for the final permit from the State Budget and Control Board for the relocation of the sewer line that crosses the Meggett Creek Bridge. The request for the permit is listed on the agenda for the State Budget and Control meeting scheduled on March 6 in Columbia. Councilmember Zender made the recommendation to have Mr. Seabrook attend the meeting and represent the town at the hearing. Council agreed with Matt's recommendation. Councilmember Zender then made a formal motion to have Mr. Seabrook attend the Budget and Control meeting scheduled for March 6 representing the Town of Meggett. Mr. Seabrook would be compensated for cost associated with his representation and travel to attend the meeting. Councilmember Keith McCarty seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Matt also mentioned that the permit from the Corps of Engineers issued for the bridge project stipulated that our engineer, Mickey Seabrook be on site during the duration of the bore. Mr. Seabrook's initial invoice only included preparing the engineer drawings for the project and did not include being on site. Mr. Seabrook indicated through an e-mail that he would be glad to be present for the bore but the fees on the original invoice did not include this. Mayor Herrington made the comment that he did not like being told what we have to do. Councilmember Hutto stated it was probably a safety issue because in the past there had been incidents where damage to the marsh area occurred which involved costly clean up. The Corps of Engineers probably feel there would be less chance of problems with an engineer on site. Councilmember Zender made a motion to authorize Mr. Seabrook to be at the project site during the construction phase and pay the associated fees for his services. Tom Hutto said he did not want to approve funding for Mr. Seabrook until we received a cost projection. Councilmember Zender offered to contact Mr. Seabrook and ask for a proposed cost.

(Flounder Lake Subdivision) – Councilmember Zender made the suggestion to Attorney Gowder to remove the part of the ordinance relating to gravity sewer and then we can amend the ordinance if we needed to add it in the future.

(Sewer taps for lots on Wilson Road) – Attorney Gowder said he had not heard anything from the Bank of Walterboro with reference to the bank selling them back to the town.

(PUPS) Palmetto Utility Protection Service – Councilmember Zender once again reminded council that we will be required by law to join PUPS by June, 2015. Effective June 2012, utility companies will be solely responsible for repairs resulting from damage that may occur from individuals or contractors as well as any cost associated with environmental impact resulting from damage. A copy of our sewer drawings will need to be sent to Palmetto Utility Protection Service (PUPS) so they can calculate the cost for the membership. Councilmember Zender made a motion to send as-built drawings to PUPS to obtain an estimated cost and move forward towards joining PUPS. Councilmember Tommy Butler seconded the motion. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Gail Seabrook asked for the motion to be corrected to say "the drawings" since we never received as-built. She indicated that the design drawings were accurate enough for the calculations of the membership as well as for location purposed. The motion was changed to say "the drawings". All voted in favor.

(Water quality) – Councilmember Zender addressed council on the subject of water quality in the area. Prior to the meeting Matt talked with Andy Anderson regarding issues with wells in this area. Mr. Anderson has installed many of the wells for residents in the area. Mr. Anderson indicated that salt is very prevalent in most of the deep wells located in the vicinity. Due to the drought that this area has experienced in the last few years as well as certain environmental impacts, it has become apparent the salt content is increasing. Reverse Osmosis System (RO System)

can remove the salt but is very costly to have installed for the entire home. Many residents bring in bottle water for drinking purposes. They either fill their containers at the public faucet located at the library in Hollywood or purchase water for drinking. Mr. Zender said he would like to have Mr. Anderson do a presentation at one of our council meetings and inform the community of what can be done to help improve well water. He would also like to have Ken Hill with Charleston Water Systems attend as well and provide information and cost associated with public water. He thought this could be very informative for the community. Mr. Zender also mentioned that he would like for council to consider placing a faucet in the park area across from Town Hall to provide another access for the community to be able to come and fill their containers with public water. This would be beneficial to the community since so many people have to rely on wells and the problem with the water quality from the wells. He also mentioned in the event of a natural disaster if power was lost, it would provide access to get water. Council was against this recommendation. They felt it would create a problem with litter in the park. It was stated that the area where the public access is located in Hollywood, litter did not seem to be a problem. Councilmember Keith McCarty said he was only without power for a day when Hurricane Hugo hit. Gail Seabrook made the statement that Meggett was very fortunate when Hurricane Hugo devastated this area. Many communities were without power for many weeks. Meggett endured the southwest quadrant of the storm where as the areas that were hit by the northeast quadrant suffered far more damage. Councilmember McCarty said his well provided him with good water and he saw no need for a water tap to be placed in the park area. He said Meggett residents could come to his house for water if they needed to.

(Storage Shed) – It was decided that it was not cost worthy to move the little grey shed and make the necessary repairs. Council feels it would be better to just purchase a new shed and place it in an area where it would not be as visible. Matt Zender made the motion to purchase a new storage shed. Tom Hutto seconded the motion. Council members Matt Zender, Tom Hutto, and Keith McCarty voted in favor. Tommy Butler did not vote because a designated cost was not determined in the motion.

(Item 7) New Business

John Tarkany, landscape architect, was invited to speak to council by Council member Tom Hutto. He offer to do a landscape design for the back area behind Town Hall. His quote for the design was \$4750. Mr. Tarkany asked if the town had a survey of the area. Gail Seabrook said we have a few drawings that show mainly proposed parking locations but she did not think it provided information such as a tree survey or design for plants. She offered to provide him with copies of the drawings we have.

(Item 13) Public Comments

Mr. Teffeau, a resident from Park Island Road, asked to be recognized and questioned council as to why they would spend so much money for a park that was of no use to the Town of Meggett and do nothing to help the community get water. Many of the residents have issues with their wells producing quality drinking water. Without an RO system almost all residents have to bring in drinking water. He went on to say that an RO system is expensive; many residents can not afford it. He thought council should put more emphasis on the needs of the community rather than spending money for projects that were of no benefit to the community but satisfied personal interest. Councilmember Keith McCarty said people that need drinking water could go to Hollywood to get it. Mr. Teffeau said “*I don’t live in Hollywood, I live in Meggett. Why should I go to Hollywood to get water*”?

With no further comments, a motion was made to adjourn.

Submitted by Zoning and Planning Administrator: Gail Seabrook