

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 23, 2012

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
Note Taker:	Gail Seabrook

Roll Call:	Buster Herrington	P	Matt Zender	A
A = Absent	Keith McCarty	P	Ellie Brabham	P
P = Present	Tom Hutto	P	Gail Seabrook	P
	Tommy Butler	P	Andy Gowder	P

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Minutes from previous meeting held on: March 26, 2012

Motion made by: Councilman Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Councilman Tom Hutto

To accept minutes as written

In Favor: Mayor Buster Herrington
 Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty
 Councilman Tom Hutto
 Councilman Tommy Butler

Opposed:

Conclusion: Approved minutes as written

Council Committee Reports

Finance report given by: *Tommy Butler*

Councilman Butler said it had been recommended by the Municipal Association and suggested by Councilman Zender that it would be a good idea to have an account for emergency situations such as a natural disaster. It was decided that the town would place \$150,000 in a CD to be combined with the existing \$52,814 when it matures for emergency purposes.

Financial Report 2012	Bank Balance First Citizen	C/D Bank of Walterboro	Bank Account Waste Water	Bank of Walterboro C/D Waste Water	Meggett 1925
	435,007.93	52814.01	86,756.07	280,861.91	6039.78

Building and grounds given by: *Mayor Herrington*

A copy of the survey for the area behind Town Hall and the SCPA Building has been received. The final drain pipes have been installed and flow to the ditch in the back area. Guttering for the buildings will be installed within the next two weeks.

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Communications report given by: Keith McCarty

Council member McCarty said he had set up two interviews to get ideas and estimates for changing our web page. One person was too expensive and one was a no show. He would like to interview two others before he makes a recommendation to council.

Grants and projects reports given by: Tom Hutto

The overgrown area behind the SCPA Building has been cleared. Councilman Hutto is organizing a committee to work with John Tarkney, a landscape architect, to provide input for the landscaping of the back area and how it will tie in with the existing buildings and the park across the street.

Tom said he is working with Ellie on the grant application for Walnut Hill. Tom has hired an individual that will provide the GIS maps for the submittal of the application. The submittal deadline is June 12th.

The dock at the Walnut Hill property has been repaired with the exception of the railing and an area for parking has been cleared.

Utilities report given by: Buster Herrington provided the report for Matt Zender

Mayor Herrington said Councilman Zender was unable to attend the meeting tonight but for the record all permits are in for the bridge project. Charleston Water Systems will handle the invitation to bid since we will use the same company to do the bore for both projects; the water line and the sewer line.

Agenda Topics:

Ordinance 2012-01 (Sewer Ordinance) – Second reading of Ordinance 2012-01 regarding the Meggett Sewer System. Mayor Herrington asked to table the second reading with council's permission since Councilman Matt Zender was not able to attend the meeting and had some questions and concerns about the ordinance.

Ordinance 2012-02 (2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget) – First reading of ordinance 2012-02, the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget. The budget will go into effect July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. A public meeting will be held before our next meeting.

Motion made by: Councilman Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Tommy Butler

Decision: To accept the budget as written for the first reading

In Favor: Councilman Keith McCarty
Councilman Tom Hutto
Councilman Tommy Butler
Mayor Buster Herrington

Opposed:

Conclusion: The first reading of the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Budget was approved as written.

Charter School – Chryse Jackson

Mrs. Jackson provided an update of what the committee has accomplished since the last council meeting. Their application for the charter school will be submitted May 1, to the state. The committee feels they have a good chance to be approved. They have received about \$3000 in donations to help with expenses. They will receive notification in August if approved. Charleston County School Board will have the opportunity to appeal the decision if they so desire. Presently they have received about 350 letters of interest inquiring about the school. A location for the school will not be determined until they have received approval from the state.

At the March meeting a motion was made by Tom Hutto to give the Lowcountry Leadership Charter School a donation of \$1000. The motion was tabled until Attorney Gowder could find out if it was legal for the town to make the donation to a SC nonprofit corporation organizing the school, even if the school was not technically in existence. Attorney Gowder indicated it was legal for the Town to donate to the SC nonprofit for the public purpose, such as public education, and it was within the discretion of the town to make the donation. The motion was reinstated by Councilman Hutto.

Motion made by: Councilman Tom Hutto

Seconded by: Keith McCarty

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Decision: To give \$1000 donation to the Committee for the Lowcountry Leadership Charter School

In Favor: Councilman Keith McCarty
Councilman Tom Hutto
Councilman Tommy Butler
Mayor Buster Herrington

Opposed:

Conclusion: Motion was carried

New Business:

- a. **New format for minutes** – Mayor Herrington said we will be using a new format to record the minutes. It will be a condensed version.
- b. **Scanning of Files** – A new computer has been purchased to act as a server to store scanned files. We are in the process of setting up the computers and printer with the new the e-file software to begin the process of scanning all of the information in our file cabinets and storing the information on the server. After the files are stored on the server, they will be backed up every night by Carbonite which provides off-site storage facility for all of our computer information.
- c. **Zoning Change for Annexations** – It was suggested by Councilman Hutto that we ask the Planning Commissioners to consider a zoning change for properties that are annexed into the town. His recommendation is new annexations will come in at their present zoning subject to be changed by council's decision.

Public Comments:

Resident Mike Watts asked about the emergency reserve fund account and if a CD was the best way to invest the money. Mr. Watts suggested that instead of putting all of the funds into one CD, it may work out better to put the money into two different CD accounts with offsetting renewal dates. That would provide access for withdrawals at different intervals with less chance of withdrawal penalties.

Mr. Robert Clark said he would like to see positions that come available on committees be advertized and have residents apply for the positions rather than council just appointing individuals. This would give more of an opportunity for those interested in serving to be aware of openings on the committee.

Mr. Clark's second concern was the town making a donation to the committee for the charter school. He felt council should have thought about a contingency on that motion. The local committee is not an official entity for the school. It is like making a donation to an individual with no accountability or recourse of how the money is spent. He felt an itemized report should be provided by the committee as what the donation was used for.

Mr. Donald Flippen said he volunteers at CC Blaney and would like for council to make a donation to that school as well. Tom Hutto said that school is state supported and the committee for the charter school is not receiving any funding from the state until the state approves the school.

With no other comments Mayor Herrington thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.