

Town of Meggett Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 25, 2012

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Town Hall 4776 Highway 165

Meeting Called to Order

Call to order by:	Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty
Type of Meeting:	Council Meeting
Facilitator:	Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty
Note Taker:	Gail Seabrook

Roll Call

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

Prayer and Pledge

Prayer given by: Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty

Pledge led by: Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from previous meeting held on: May 31, 2012 and the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2012-01

Motion made by: Councilman Tom Hutto Seconded by: Councilman Tommy Butler
To accept minutes as written

In Favor: Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty
Councilman Tom Hutto
Councilman Tommy Butler
Councilman Matt Zender

Opposed:

Conclusion: Minutes were approved as written

Council Committee Reports

Building and grounds – Tom Hutto provide report for Mayor Buster Herrington

Three of the AC units at Meggett were stolen. The alarm company failed to put the alarms on the A/C units when the alarm system was installed. Due to their neglect, Attorney Gowder has reviewed the alarm company's contract as well as our insurance contract and informed council we do have some options. He is waiting to hear back from Mayor Herrington. The new replacement units will be relocated on the roof of the SCPA Building and the unit for Town Hall has been moved from the back of the building to the side of the building.

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Landscaping Committee – Tom Hutto

Councilman Tom Hutto presented the design for the landscaping of the back area behind Town Hall and the SCPA Building. The plan designed by John Tarkany Associate, Inc. included a brick walkway leading to a gazebo with the brick walkway extending to circle the gazebo. Also included was a formal garden, a garden with a water feature and a rain garden. Covered arbors are shown in the entry way to some of the gardens and also at one entrance to the gazebo area. Crape Myrtles line the entrance of the existing walkway between the Town Hall and the SCPA Building. The parking area will be extended along the side of the SCPA Building and the rear driveway will extend to provide access to this additional parking. Additional plants and trees will be added. Some of the existing trees will be removed to make way for the design features. Councilman Hutto indicated the project will extend over several years but now they have a plan to work towards. Teri Epting, a resident who serves on the Landscaping Committee, said the committee thought the design would not only provide beautiful landscaping but would be a great place for outside events and could generate income for the town.

Matt Zender asked if the sewer grinder station was to be moved since the design showed the location different from where it is presently located. Councilman Hutto explained that certain things shown on the design was taken from an old survey; only the back section of the property was actually surveyed. Some of the information reflects an older survey which did not show locations of certain items in their exact location since it did not reflect actual as-built locations. Councilman Zender also mentioned that the new location of the flag pole placed the flag pole in the vicinity of the existing sewer line. Councilman Hutto said locations could be adjusted to accommodate utility lines.

Mr. Bobby Shealy asked what the cost would be for the park. Councilman Hutto indicated the first step would be to get engineer drawings, tree removal, and grading. He did not have an estimate but thought that phase of construction would run about \$20,000. Mr. Shealy questioned what the total cost would be to get it to the point that it could be used for events that would have a return revenue. Councilman Hutto indicated it would probably take 3 or 4 years to have the construction of the landscaping to that point. Estimates would need to be received from landscapers. However he thought the cost would be in the range of \$300,000. Barb Watson felt the design was much too elaborate and questioned if the town could justify spending that kind of money in relationship to what they may gain in return. Angela Watts asked if the town could get any funding from Charleston County for the project. Ellie Brabham said the only grant money we could apply for is a small PARD Grant. It is however a very small amount.

Communications report - Keith McCarty

Mayor Pro-tem McCarty reported he has talked with someone about making the web page more responsive to questions that individuals may have. The individual he contacted will come and discuss with the town her recommendations for upgrades to the web page.

Grants and projects - Tom Hutto

Grant/Walnut Hill – Councilman Hutto said we submitted the application for a grant to make improvements to the Walnut Hill Property. It will probably be August or September before we know if we will be awarded the grant. Most of the work other than general maintenance will be on hold until we know if we are the recipients of the grant. However, we did move forward and approved the replacement of the roof on the cottage.

Wilson Road – Councilman Hutto said we sent a request to Representative Brown asking for his help in getting Wilson Road resurfaced due to the heavy traffic that is now detoured onto Wilson Road because of the weight limit on the Meggett Creek Bridge. Councilman Hutto asked Robert Clark if he had any information to share. Mr. Clark indicated that funds are not available for the resurfacing of Wilson Road and under the new budget, funding allocations for secondary road was cut. It is on the list for resurfacing when funds do come available. With regards to the bridge repairs on Highway 165 if funds are not appropriated for a new bridge, SCDOT will make the necessary repairs to the bridge. Councilman Hutto said he would continue to press the legislature to pass an increase in the gas tax to 5 cents so more money could be available for road repairs.

Finance report given by: Tommy Butler

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Bank Account Balance Comparison

Town Checking Account Bank Balance

One Month Comparison	April, 2012	\$425,467.67	May 2012	439,960.30	Increase	\$14,492.63
One Year Comparison	May, 2012	\$434,842.31	May 2012	\$439,960.30	Increase	\$5,117.99

Town CD Balance

One Month Comparison	April, 2012	\$53,461.23	May, 2012	\$53,461.23	No change	0.00
One Year Comparison	May, 2012	\$52,814.01	May, 2012	\$53,461.23	Increase	\$647.22

Town Wastewater Checking Account Bank Balance

One Month Comparison	April, 2012	\$81,264.90	May, 2012	\$85,291.18	Increase	\$4,026.28
One Year Comparison	May, 2012	\$64,539.66	May, 2012	\$5,291.18	Increase	\$20,751.52

Town Wastewater CD Balance

One Month Comparison	April, 2012	\$280,861.91	May 2012	\$280,861.91	No Change	\$0.00
One Year Comparison	May, 2012	\$276,960.91	May, 2012	\$281,861.91	Increase	\$3,901.00

Meggett 1925 Bank Account Balance

One Month Comparison	April, 2012	\$6,039.78	May, 2012	\$6,039.78	No Change	\$0.00
One Year Comparison	May, 2012	\$5,814.75	May, 2012	\$6,039.78	Increase	\$225.03

Utilities report - Matt Zender

PUPS – Councilman Zender said Mayor Herrington has not mailed the application form to join pups but he will give him a call and remind him.

Sewer Bridge Project – Councilman Zender said the bid opening will be held by CPW on July 24. He explained that the contract called for us to put a cost amount for the project for the bidding process. If the bids came in exceeding that amount, it would be kicked back to us to either accept the bid or reject the offer. This would hold up the awarding of the bid for at least 10 days. However, in order to avoid this holdup Councilman Zender suggested that Mayor Herrington attend the meeting of the bid opening and approve the amount or decline the amount to avoid any delay in awarding of the contract. The condition of the pipe is very fragile and any delay of replacing it could result in a break and spilling into the creek. Councilman Zender also mentioned that the engineer decided to go with a 6" pipe instead of an 8" to help increase the flow in this area that goes under the creek bed. The increase in flow would help prevent the build up in the line in this section. Council Hutto agreed and made the following motion:

Motion made by: Councilman Tom Hutto **Seconded by:** Councilman Matt Zender

Motion - To provide authority for the Mayor or person designated to represent the town to attend the meeting for the opening of the bids, and to have authorization to spend up to \$200,000 with consultation with the town's attorney and town's engineer as necessary.

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Discussion: Councilman Tommy Butler asked who came up with the cost estimate. Gail Seabrook replied it was calculated by Mickey Seabrook along with Gene McCall. Both are very knowledgeable in this line of work. Councilman Butler thought we should not make a decision at the meeting. It was explained by Councilman Tom Hutto and Keith McCarty that we needed to move forward with this project as soon as possible due to the deterioration of the sewer pipe and we should not hold up the awarding of the contract as long as the quote was within reason.

In Favor: Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty
Councilman Tom Hutto
Councilman Tommy Butler
Councilman Matt Zender

Opposed:

Conclusion: Motion was passed.

Sewer Taps – Councilman Zender inquired if Attorney Gowder had heard anything regarding the Taps for the four lots at Toogoodoo Farms. Attorney Gowder said he found out why he had not heard from Mr. Crook. He had retired but he said he left a message for the person who is his replacement and hopefully he will hear back from him soon.

Sewer Ordinance – Attorney Gowder said the ordinance is complete and copies have been sent to council members. It was decided by Mayor Pro-tem McCarty that we would wait to have the final vote until Mayor Herrington returned at the next meeting.

Charter School Update

Mayor Pro-tem McCarty said he received word today that the Charter School had received approval from the State. Their next step is to find a location for the school. They have looked at several buildings in the area but have not made a decision.

New Business:

Bricks on Ramp – Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty brought up the subject of how bad the bricks on ramp area were. He asked for council member Tom Hutto to get an estimate to replace them with brick pavers before someone was injured.

Public Comments:

Mr. Bobby Shealy said he read in the last minutes a news letter was going to be mailed out. He asked when the mailing would be ready to go out. Ellie Brabham said so far the only article she had received was from Tommy Butler. Tom Hutto asked Mrs. Brabham “if the articles were turned in within the next two weeks what would be the time frame to complete the news letter and mail out. She indicated by the end of July. Mr. Shealy said he thought the park information should be included in the news letter including the estimated cost. He feels the community should be aware of what council is doing especially when a large amount of money is involved.

Mr. Shealy also asked that council consider putting a sound system in meeting room so people could hear better. He felt the attendance for the meetings would improve if people could hear what is being said.

Motion made by: Councilman Tom Hutto **Seconded by:** Councilman Matt Zender

Motion – To get an evaluation for a sound system for the conference room in the SCPA Building and a proposal brought to council to vote on by council.

In Favor: Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty
Councilman Tom Hutto
Councilman Tommy Butler
Councilman Matt Zender

Opposed:

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Conclusion: Motion was passed.

Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty asked Ellie if she would look into the sound system as well as what could be done to improve the acoustics so the echo in the room could be reduced.

Angela Watts a new resident who just bought property on Ethel P.O. Road was in the audio business. The town may want to contact him for his recommendations as well as a cost estimate. She indicated she would get his business information and give it to Ellie.

With no further comments, Mayor Pro-tem McCarty made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tommy Butler. Motion was carried.

Submitted by Gail Seabrook