

# Town of Meggett Council Meeting Minutes

*Date: September 24, 2012*

*Time: 7:00PM*

*Location: Town Hall 4776 Highway 165*

## Meeting Called to Order

<b>Call to order by:</b>	Mayor Buster Herrington
<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Mayor Buster Herrington
<b>Note Taker:</b>	Gail Seabrook

## Roll Call

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Buster Herrington	<input type="checkbox"/> P	Matt Zender	<input type="checkbox"/> P
A = Absent	Keith McCarty	<input type="checkbox"/> P	Ellie Brabham	<input type="checkbox"/> P
P = Present	Tom Hutto	<input type="checkbox"/> P	Gail Seabrook	<input type="checkbox"/> P
	Tommy Butler	<input type="checkbox"/> P	Andy Gowder	<input type="checkbox"/> P

## Prayer and Pledge

**Prayer given by:** Mayor Buster Herrington

**Pledge led by:** Mayor Buster Herrington

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes from previous meeting held on August 27, 2012

**Motion made by:** Councilman Tommy Butler

**Seconded by:** Councilman Keith McCarty

**Motion:** To accept minutes as written

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

**Opposed:**

**Conclusion:** Minutes were approved as written

## MUSC (Research on health issues in the community)

Ms Singleton attended the meeting representing MUSC nursing program and spoke to those attending the meeting about health issues in the area. As part of their curriculum for the nursing program they were assigned a project to study health issues in this area and what health facilities are available for residents in the area. She indicated that most of the information they have acquired came from interviews with people in the area. They hope to set up a health screenings as part of their way to help educate area residents as well as be a source to study health issue that may be prevalent in the area. They also hope to focus if certain conditions in the area would be linked to health conditions that were more common to the area. A councilmember suggested that a good location for the screening would be by the Piggly Wiggly. That location would draw a lot of area residents. He also made the

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recommendation that in the health screening they test for diabetes. He felt that many residents in the area may not be aware that they have the condition.

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## **Charter School**

Mayor Herrington said the committee for the charter school was scheduled to meet with Charleston County School District to see if they could get R. D. Schroder School to use for the Charter School. They may still be in the meeting and that may be why no one is here tonight from the committee to give an update.

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## **Municipal Code**

Mayor Herrington informed council that information from the Muni Code was in their folder for review. Attorney Gowder said the regional representative from the Muni Code has expressed interest in attending a council meeting to provide information of their services and answer any questions council may have. They provide a service that reviews all ordinances and zoning information for the town and compile the data so it can be easily accessed. Mayor Herrington asked Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty to follow up and schedule a meeting with their representative.

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## **Council Member Reports**

### **Building and Grounds – Buster Herrington**

The cottage at the Walnut Hill Property has been cleaned and painted. The playground equipment in the park across the street has also been pressure washed. Catch basins will be added along the side of Town Hall hopefully next week to take care of the water problem going under the building.

Mayor Herrington said he received a call from a resident that was horseback riding on Church Flats Road and the horse had stepped in a hole and fell. The hole was caused by a washed out pipe. Mayor Herrington contacted Robert Clark with SCDOT and Mr. Clark had the pipe repaired and the hole filled.

The new audio system was installed today. Hopefully it will be easier for those attending the meeting tonight to hear.

A few weeks ago the alarm went off when an attempt was made to steal the A/C units again. One of the suspects was apprehended and one jumped from the roof of the SCPA Building and was able to escape. The A/C unit for Town Hall was rolled across the parking lot but Chris Wilson was able to repair the damage and reinstall the unit.

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### **Communications report - Keith McCarty**

Councilman McCarty said he has been unable to coordinate a schedule with the individuals that he has been in contact with to discuss updating our web page. Hopefully they will be able to attend our next meeting.

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### **Grants and projects - Tom Hutto**

Councilman Hutto hopes that by the end of the year, the funds from the LWCS Grant for the Walnut Hill property will be available and they can start with the list of projects that are planned with the funding. A preview of the park for residents of Meggett is planned for Saturday Nov. 3 from 12:00PM to 6:00PM. BBQ will be served for those who would like to come by while it lasts. Invitations will be sent out within the next week.

During the last meeting of the Land Plan Committee, the committee members talked about getting quotes for the engineering drawings for the project. This would include the topography survey and drainage. Councilman Zender asked Councilman Hutto how he felt about having the residents vote to see if they are in favor of the town spending that kind of money for the project; especially since the estimated cost was around \$300,000. Councilman Hutto said at this time we do not know what the cost will be for the figures we have were only a preliminary estimate. He also mentioned that the project could be done in stages through perhaps a 5 year period. He suggested we talk more about it when we get additional information. He indicated he was elected by the residents to make decisions and not put every decision on a referendum.

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Finance report given by: Tommy Butler

## Town of Meggett One Month & One Year Bank Account Balance Comparison

### Town Checking Account Bank Balance

One month comparison	July 2012	409,026.72	August 2012	421,680.09	Increase	12,653.37
One year comparison	August 2011	502,814.04	August 2012	421,680.09	Decrease	(81,133.95)

### Town CD # 1 Balance

One month comparison	July 2012	53,461.23	August 2012	53,461.23	No Change	0.00
One year comparison	August 2011	52,814.01	August 2012	53,461.23	Increase	647.22

### Town CD # 4 Balance

One month comparison	July 2012	75,000.00	August 2012	75,000.00	No Change	0.00
One year comparison	August 2011	0.00	August 2012	75,000.00	Increase	75,000.00

### Town Wastewater Checking Account Bank Balance

One month comparison	July 2012	89,587.86	August 2012	90,534.19	Increase	946.33
One year comparison	August 2011	68,546.71	August 2012	90,534.19	Increase	21,987.48

### Town Wastewater CD Balance

One month comparison	July 2012	280,861.91	August 2012	280,861.91	No Change	0.00
One year comparison	August 2011	276,960.91	August 2012	280,861.91	Increase	3,901.00

### Meggett 1925 Bank Account Balance

One month comparison	May 2012	6,039.78	August 2012	6,039.78	No Change	0.00
One year comparison	June 2011	5,890.75	August 2012	6,039.78	Increase	149.03

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### Utilities report - Matt Zender

#### Bridge project -

We will be unable to flush the sewer line prior to the relocation of the pipe due to malfunctions of Pump Stations 5, 6 and 7 in the Hollywood system. With these pump stations being down, the system is unable to handle the amount of waste water that would go through the line with the flushing process. The contract with CPW and B&C Utilities will be signed before Oct. 8, 2012. They have 60 days to officially sign the contract after the bid opening and that time frame will be up on Oct. 8.

#### PUPS -

Susan Wilson gave a presentation on September 5<sup>th</sup> of how we will handle locates when we go on line with Palmetto Utilities Protection Services (PUPS). Attending the meeting were Gene McCall, our sewer contractor with Clear Water Group, David Boyert, who will handle the locates for Clear Water Group, Councilman Matt Zender, and Gail Seabrook. Gene McCall has set up an e-mail account where locate ticket will be sent. When it is received, it will automatically distribute the information on the ticket to individuals that are on the list to receive a copy. The locate tickets will be handled by our sewer contractor, Clear Water Group.

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## Water –

Charleston Water Systems will be testing the water quality from several wells located in different areas. They will also be sending a letter and questionnaire to residents that live along Ethel P.O. Road, Quigley Road, Sebago Road and Legacy Lane to see if they are interested in getting public water. All information will be kept confidential. They have also asked that if you are not interested to please provide the reason such as you are pleased with your well water or perhaps the cost is too much to get city water. This will help them to see if they qualify for grant funding to help with cost. Councilman Hutto indicated that he and Mayor Herrington had tried unsuccessfully on two occasions to get public water.

Councilman Zender inquired from Attorney Gowder if he had received any update on the four sewer taps associated with the lots on Toogoodoo Farms. Attorney Gowder said he had not received any additional information since the previous meeting.

Councilman Zender asked council again to consider putting a faucet in the park area for residents of Meggett to have access to public water. His argument was that so many residents in the area have wells where the water quality is not suitable for drinking. Mayor Herrington said he still stood by his viewpoint that it would bring undesirables to the park area where children play as well as present a litter problem. Mayor Pro-tem McCarty asked if Councilman Zender had a reason other than not going to Hollywood to get water,

to place a faucet in the park. He indicated that the faucet in Hollywood is only about a quarter of a mile away. Councilman Hutto said unless Matt had documentation showing the well water in the area had levels of toxins above what is allowed he did not see a reason to place a public access water source for residents. Councilman Zender indicated that the salt content in most wells in the area is very high and could cause hypertension. Councilman Zender brought up the point that sometimes the faucet at the library is broken and often residents have to wait to be able to fill their containers. Councilman Zender made a formal motion to place a public water faucet in the park area for residents to have access to public water. No one seconded the motion. Councilman Hutto said he appreciated Matt's efforts in trying to get water down Ethel P.O. Road and the connecting areas and would support him in any way he could.

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## **New Business**

**Brick Walkway** - Mayor Herrington said he forgot to mention the brick walkway when he gave his report for building and grounds. The invoice for the brick to use on the ramp came to \$1700 including the shipping fee of \$825. Mayor Herrington felt the shipping fee was high and has check into another company for freight. They are due to arrive next week and Steve Coffin will begin the construction of replacing the bricks the following week. Steve has provided a quote of \$2470 which also includes replacement of other brick that are broken.

**No Smoking Ordinance** - Councilman Hutto asked that Attorney Gowder look into writing an ordinance for a smoking ordinance in Meggett. He indicated that Hollywood and Ravenel had passed one. Attorney Gowder asked Matt Zender to talk with Megan Hicks and ask her to send him any information she may have of smoking ordinances that have been adopted for his review.

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## **Public Comments**

Mr. Bobby Shealy was recognized and suggested a committee be formed to talk with residents in different areas of Meggett and compile a list of what needs and wants the citizens would like. Based on the feedback from the residents, council should use the input to work towards providing what the needs and wants of the community are provided it is cost efficient. Councilman Zender asked Mr. Shealy if he would like to head up the committee. Mr. Shealy said he would not be interested. His primary concerns focused on the needs of the residents along the Toogoodoo River. Councilman Hutto said they are always interested in what people want and also express his desire to eventually bring public water down to Mr. Shealy's area. Councilman Zender said he would talk with the contractor of B and C Utilities and get a price quote for the installation of an 8" water line. Councilman Hutto told Matt, "what you are getting into is when people find out how much it cost for hookup fees and to run the pipe to the house, it gets so expensive they can't afford it". Councilman Zender said in his conversations with Lydia Owens at Charleston Water Systems, they may be able to waive the connection fees. Councilman Hutto made mention that to lay a mile of pipe would run around \$275,000.

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This does not include the connection cost of getting it to the house. Councilman Zender expressed another positive note is the installation of the water line would help reduce homeowners insurance rates. Councilman Hutto said it is quite an adventure and expressed that he hoped Matt would succeed where he and Mayor Herrington failed.

Resident Grace Clark was recognized and she thought the idea of a public water faucet was a good idea, but also understood the concerns council had about it being placed in the park. She suggested that perhaps the Town could purchase a small piece of land away from the park area and use that as a water station for the public to use.

Councilman Hutto suggested that perhaps we could appropriate some funds to Hollywood to help maintain the existing water access and make sure it is kept in good repair. Ellie Brabham said when she had reported the faucet broken to Hollywood; they indicated they did not make the repairs. Most of the repairs have been made by residents that use the facility.

Mr. Shealy said he had not heard a valid reason not to put a water tap in the park area. Councilman McCarty said we have a tap at the library. Mr. Shealy indicated this location was in Hollywood and not Meggett. He did not feel that placing a water tap in the park would bring in undesirables just because it was a location to get public water.

Mayor Herrington thanked those attending the meeting and asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter. Councilman Hutto made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter concerning the renting of the SCPA Building. Councilman McCarty seconded the motion.

## **Public Meeting Reopen**

Mayor Herrington reopened the public council meeting. Councilman Tom Hutto made a motion to authorize Mayor Herrington working with the town's attorney to negotiate a lease modification for the SCPA Building to include the lease of the upstairs front room Building and the a joining small room to be included in the existing lease with Fluent Logistics. The terms of modification should be to limit the early termination clause, create a reasonable notification for the users of the building to make noise in preparation for events, the rate should be set in consideration that we will lose the use of the rooms even though we do not want to and that fluent logistics will vacate the premises for our annual Christmas Party and at least one other time during the year. The motion was seconded by Keith McCarty. All voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Gail Seabrook