

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 28, 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

Call to order by:	Mayor Herrington
Type of Meeting:	Council Meeting
Facilitator:	Mayor Herrington
Notes:	Ellie Brabham

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

Prayer and Pledge

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington recognized and welcomed a new resident, Ken Shilling. Ken and his wife are neighbors of Barb and Bill Watson on Ethel P. O Rd.

Minutes from previous meeting held on: November 26, 2012

Motion made by: Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Councilman Tommy Butler

To accept minutes as written

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

Opposed:

Conclusion: Minutes were approved as written

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Item # 5 Charter School:

Mayor Buster Herrington said that the **Lowcountry Leadership Charter School** is progressing very quickly. They had a lottery late last year and are now at maximum capacity, which is four hundred students. The Committee for the charter school received several recommendations for the position of Principal and unanimously chose Mache Larkin. The committee is meeting about every other week now and will start the renovations to the facility in the next month or two.

Item # 6 St Paul's Alliance:

Mayor Herrington stated that he had reviewed the last Alliance Meeting minutes. He said that council discussed some of the same issues at the retreat. Mayor Herrington will contact Mayor Baldwin of Ravenel and Mayor Heyward of Hollywood along with Councilman Tommy Butler to coordinate a meeting date.

Item # 7 Ordinance # 2013-01 Smoking in Public Places and Places of Employment

This is the first reading of the **Ordinance for Smoking in Public Places and Places of Employment** which Attorney Andy Gowder prepared for review. Mayor Herrington stated he had reviewed it early this morning and a little later this afternoon. He thanked Attorney Gowder for preparing the ordinance and informed council if they had not had time to review it, they would have time to make changes since this is just the first reading. Councilman Tom Hutto made a motion that we accept the Ordinance for Smoking in Public Places and Places of Employment, which was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty. Mayor Herrington asked that all those in favor of accepting Councilman Hutto's motion state so by saying "I". All approved, motion was passed.

Item # 8 Planning Commission and BZA

Mayor Herrington said that council had some discussion in their retreat in reference to the Planning Commission. As a result he contacted Chairman Bill Krucke and ask him to have a meeting set up to discuss future annexations/zoning. The Mayor asked Ellie Brabham if the meeting had been scheduled. Ellie stated that she was coordinating a date that would work for all of the Commissioners. He asked her to make it in February. Councilman Tommy Butler asked if we could look at annexing properties into the town with the same zoning they currently have. He asked if this was something that needed to be voted on. Councilman Hutto stated that we would have to go through public meetings and hearings to make those changes. He also stated this would be a good opportunity to make changes to other parts of the zoning that need some attention as well. Councilman Hutto explained to the audience that we have had circumstances in the past when someone wanted to annex into the town because our zoning was different than the counties. Other communities have solved this problem by keeping the zoning the same when the properties were annexed in and changed it at a later date. He further stated that as real estate picks up this could become a big problem in the future.

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Item # 9 South Carolina Produce Association Building Lease

Mayor Herrington said that our current tenants will not be with us throughout the end of the year. They are looking for another space to lease. Mayor Pro-tem McCarty stated that Eric Meyer would place the space for lease if we provide square footage, amenities etc. It is Mayor Herrington's understanding the tenants will be leaving in April; however Mayor Pro-tem McCarty said he has good information they will leave prior to April.

Item # 10: Council Member Reports

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington has filled the holes in the brick of Town Hall where the air conditioner pipes connect. He also filled holes in the small brick building in the back. He thanked Ellie Brabham and Trudy Herrington for cleaning the building out and putting away all of the Christmas decorations. He also thanked Barb and Bill Watson for all of their help as well as everyone else that helped with the Christmas decorations and Tree Lighting.

Mayor Herrington said that the Town of Meggett signs behind Town Hall and at the corner of Hwy 165 and Toogoodoo Rd are in need of repair or replacement. The strips are loose and the wood is rotting. He stated we would have to address this in the next budget year. Councilman Zender suggested we consider the bushes when addressing the Town of Meggett sign, since the way it is now, the sign is lower than the bushes and you cannot see what is up there.

Mayor Herrington added that he had been soliciting for bids on security cameras. He said that the bids he received were from \$1800.00 to \$2600.00. He had asked for a fourth bid but never received it, so he will stick with just the three. He suggested the low bidder come out and give us an idea as to where cameras should go and where they would be most effective.

Communications report given by: Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty

*Mayor Pro-tem McCarty said that last week he had met with the representative from **Municode**, Dale Barstow. Their afternoon meeting lasted about an hour and a half. He stated this company goes through our codes and knocks out all the inconsistencies and all the old and obsolete sections, completely updates it and puts it online so anyone can go through our codes at anytime. There will be a link on the Town of Meggett's website to Municode. After the initial cleanup they maintain it for a fee each year. We can update again at anytime. There is an upfront cost of \$8900.00 that covers all the people, lawyers etc. that have to go through it to get it updated to put online. They handle this for municipalities all over the United States. There is always a fear that the Mayor or Ellie will give someone information from our code that is incorrect and it will cost the property owner some money and they will look to us. If we do this there will be no questions as to the accuracy of our codes. Mayor Pro-tem McCarty said this is something we should look at while we are in the process of updating our website. Updating the codes is in the budget for this year and he feels we should move forward on it. The Mayor Pro-tem made a motion that the town should hire Municode to clean up our codes, this was seconded by Councilman Tom Hutto and approved by all other council members. The motion was passed*

Grants and projects reports given by: Councilman Tom Hutto

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Councilman Hutto said that we have been busy at the new park. He has put together an "Invitation to Bid" for a professional engineer to upgrade the existing roads and parking areas simply by making it beneficial for all weather so that if a hundred cars come through on a rainy day we would not have to hire someone to pull them out. He sent copies to Mayor Herrington, Ellie Brabham and Attorney Andy Gowder. He ask Andy if he would look over it and respond with any comments. The dock permit application should be submitted next week, it's almost done. That will be connected to the existing dock so that if people come up in their boat, they can tie onto it. At the recent BBQ, Councilman Hutto said he talked with a resident about the big oak tree that exploded in his front yard on Parishville Rd. It was struck by lightning and just fell apart in his yard, it was like Angel Oak big. The resident said he would donate all of the wood we wanted to the town if we could use it. He is going to bushhog around the tree. Councilman Hutto feels we could use some of the wood for the picnic shelters or the pavilion. We actually have people in the town with equipment that can go to his house and pick up the tree as well as woodworkers that could make it useful.

Resident Cherry Snead and many others have been planning the minimum needed **renovations so the cottage** could be rented. The cottage has a new roof on it, has been cleaned and is a non performing asset. State parks rent cabins for \$800.00 a week and Councilman Hutto feels once people see this we will have no problem keeping it rented. There are minimal things that have to be done like flooring and a few window air conditioners. om stated that we have received \$1000.00 from the **Blackmer Fund** to go towards the parks renovation and that all donations are tax deductible.

Finally, local folks at that end of town confirm that the **name of Walnut Hill has no bearing**, it was the name given by a developer who wanted to put sixty houses out there. In speaking with residents, Beth Smoak and Whit Boykin, of the area, the name Roxbury or Hicks Bottom would be the historical name for it. This was run by other members of the committee for the park and they prefer the name Roxbury. Councilman Hutto made a motion to officially change the name to Roxbury. Councilman Matt Zender asked if this would affect the grant since it is made out to Walnut Hill. Councilman Hutto stated it would not, it would just been a name change which is no big issue. We just notify them that the name has been changed to Roxbury. Mayor Herrington asked for a motion to change the name of Walnut Hill to Roxbury. Councilman Hutto made the motion, which was seconded by Councilman Tommy Butler. All council agreed, motion was passed.

Financial report given by: Councilman Tommy Butler

Councilman Tommy Butler stated that he had gone through all percentages for December and they all appear to be standard and nothing out of the ordinary. Compared with the previous month and the previous year checking account, the banking balance went down \$7,400 from November to December. The one year comparison went down \$30,000 but keep in mind we took \$75,000 out for CD#4. Actually our bank balance is \$45,000 higher than it was a year ago. CD#1 and CD#4 remain the same. The Wastewater checking account went up \$3000 from a month ago and right at \$25,000.00 from a year ago. The CD for wastewater has not changed and Meggett 1925 increased by about \$400.00. As far as the finances everything looks in good shape. Councilman Butler stated at present we have two \$75,000 CD's since a new one was purchased this month and once the \$53,000 comes up for renewal it will be converted to a \$75,000 CD.

Utilities report given by: Councilman Matt Zender

Councilman Matt Zender said there is a puddle of water at one of the taps at the corner of **Archfield** and Chinaback Lane. One of the residents reported it to Ellie and she called Gene McCall. Gene sent David Boyert to look at it and determine if it was something in need of repair. David said it looks as though a truck has run over the valve and it will need to be repaired. B&C will repair the valve and determine if it is on the town's side or if it is the responsibility of the homeowner.

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He stated that the sewer line at the **Meggett Bridge** should be completed today. When they cut the line open it had 8,000 gallons of stuff coming out but the inside of the pipe looked clean. Gene McCall said what's happening is pump station #1 from Metal Trades only pumps once a day and it takes 20 days for it to get to pump station #4. The pipe is acting as a septic tank and everything is being digested by bacteria. The affluent in the pipe is being digested and turning into sulfuric acid before it pumps into pump #4. The pipe is being eaten away by sulfuric acid; the pump itself is not being eaten because it is under water. It's pumping sulfuric gas down the line to pumps #5, 6 & 7. Matt asked Gene if we could put baking soda in the pipes to neutralize the acid. Gene came up with some suggestions as to how to do this but he has not come up with the exact cost. Councilman Zender stated that on the last page of the handout is a suggestion with associated cost. He further stated that Gene McCall said that since he is the engineer for Hollywood also he is obliged to tell them that Meggett is the culprit, that Meggett's system is causing their pumps to fail. He also said the pump at Metal Trades has to be checked. There is a small house at Metal Trades where they could put a metering pump with a tank outside and maybe once a month pour in three gallons of chemicals a day. Gene McCall will have to balance it as to how much chemical to put in there to neutralize the acid. It takes twenty days to go from Metal Trades to the pump station, so he will come up with a formula he thinks is right and add to the lines. If it works, fine, if not he will have to tweak it with a little more or a little less. Councilman Hutto said he came up with an estimate of \$5000 capital equipment to set up the system and then \$450 a month for chemicals, could we not just put water in the system so it runs more? Councilman Zender said that Hollywood will charge us by the gallon and the three Mayors will have to get together and decide how much they should charge. Councilman Hutto said that adding the water was just another option, because we have to pay a fee one way or the other. He further stated the problem is that we are creating sulfuric acid by not creating enough flow and by adding the water we could create this flow. Councilman Zender said that Gene McCall said that whoever put the system in may have been thinking there was going to be a thousand houses down there because we certainly don't need an 8 inch main. Matt suggested we put a 4 inch pipe in the 8 inch one but Mr. McCall said that would not work. Councilman Tommy Butler asked if they have records of how long this problem has been going on because the pipes have been down there for 30 years. Councilman Zender said that pump stations 4,5,6 and 7 have had failures and it has been tracked down to us. Councilman Hutto asked if it was tracked down to us or did he just coincidentally run into it while he was doing the sewer pump maintenance job down here? Matt Zender said that Gene McCall was surprised there was no sludge on the inside of the pipes. Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty said that what he thinks Tommy was asking is has these pumps failed regularly over the past 30 years, these pump stations, or is this a new phenomenon. He further stated if this is a new phenomenon then that does not make sense. Councilman Hutto said that Councilman Zender had done a great job in bringing this to council's attention however Mr. McCall better be very sure about his conclusions, very sure. If he feels an obligation to Hollywood as his client and he says Meggett is causing the problem, he needs to be very sure before he says that. Councilman Hutto further stated that he does not feel that Meggett in the long run is the only one creating this problem. He said that he does not want him saying that all of Hollywood's problems are the result of our one pump station. They have a lot of lines and a lot of pump stations, we may be contributing but that needs to be sized up before he states what he needs to do as a professional engineer. Mayor Pro-tem McCarty asked Councilman Zender to ask if Hollywood's pumps stations have been failing regularly over the past 30 years or if this is just a recent thing. Councilman Zender says a meeting will be set up soon with the three Mayors because Hollywood is going to start charging Meggett and Ravenel. Mayor Herrington said that he would look at the original contract Meggett and Hollywood signed on the sewer system.

Councilman Zender asked Attorney Andy Gowder if he had any information on the **taps** owned by the bank. Attorney Gowder stated that on Friday he called the Bank of Waltherboro again and was told by Mr. Huggins receptionist that he was out. He stated that his conclusion from that is that the bank is not eager to talk to the town or sell the taps. Councilman Zender said that if we could get the taps and more people tapped in this would increase the flow. Attorney Gowder stated we can't engage unless the bank will talk to us.

Councilman Hutto asked Matt if he had any feedback on the **water testing**. Matt said no he had not, in fact he had planned to go out on a Saturday to each house that had not mailed in their response but has not been able to. He said that he

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would try to get out this coming Saturday. He says that when he does visit these houses he can't just get in and out, they want him to visit. He further stated that he has had only one person say no that they did not want the water.

Item # 11 Upcoming Events

Mayor Herrington:

March 9th Oyster Roast at Roxbury Park from 1pm to 5pm. We will send a small newsletter out later this week to fill you in on the specifics.

April 13th LitterPickup, will also be cleaning out the flower beds and sprucing up around Town Hall.

April 20th April in Meggett Arts and Crafts Festival

Mayor Herrington said this concludes the regular part of the meeting and asked if there were any public comments.

Item # 11 Upcoming Events

Resident Robert Shealy stated that in reference to the Smoking Ordinance, in the elimination of the use of tobacco, also add; of chewing, spitting and dipping. Mayor Herrington said that could be included. He also asked if there were "No Trespassing" signs at the dock at Roxbury Park. He said if we did not have "No Trespassing" signs and someone should go down there and get hurt the town would be liable.

Resident Bill Watson stated that the contractors did a great job with the work done on the pipes at the bridge as well as dealing with the traffic. Councilman Tom Hutto thanked him for his comment and said we are glad to hear that.

With nothing further Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty made a motion to go into Executive Session in reference to a personnel matter, the motion was seconded by Councilman Tommy Butler. Executive Session ended at 8:05pm with no action taken. The meeting was adjourned.

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