

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 27, 2014

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

Call to order by:	Mayor Harry V. "Buster" Herrington III
Type of Meeting:	Council Meeting
Facilitator:	Mayor Harry V. "Buster" Herrington III
Notes:	

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

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Minutes from previous meeting held on: November 24, 2013 Council Meeting

Motion made by: Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hutto

Seconded by: Council Member Tommy Butler

In Favor: Mayor Buster Herrington
Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hutto
Council Member Tommy Butler
Council Member Matt Zender

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes were approved*

Low Country Leadership Charter School:

Mayor Herrington stated that things are going quite well. The teachers and children are in the new school. He encouraged those in attendance that had not had an opportunity to see the inside of the school to make an appointment to see it. Early last year there was a ground breaking ceremony. February 5 at 9am council has been invited for the official Ribbon Cutting. They finished map testing last Thursday and the Mayor's understanding is that it went well.

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Resolution: Support Local Quality of Life Tied to Healthy Marine Environment: Dean Foster

Resident Dean Foster thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to come before them to present this resolution. He stated that he has been a resident of Meggett for fifteen years. Dean stated that he has had a public relations and public advocacy agency in Charleston for the past twenty one years. Part of the work that they do in the low country is perform advocacy and public outreach work for marine environment and marine ecosystem issues, specifically federal fishery issues. They reach out to public groups that are involved in the environment, who are involved in fishing. They help educate them and take them along on issues. Often times they appeal to thought leaders, political leaders, such as our council to consider resolutions that are not specific by nature, fairly generic, about special places in the ocean that are known to be great spots for fish spawning, great fish habitat, and places that not only by supporting fish, also support our local economic engine that's tied to fishing; anything from tackle shops, to commercial fishermen to chefs in restaurants. It's vitally important that we always look to create a healthy marine ecosystem. He stated that he made a real connection with the announcement of the new park that has become a part of the town. A town, in many cases is judged by its ability to set aside special places for the environment and for land animals. That is the case with land parks, many times there are special places just like that under the water we don't see that also serve more or less as underwater parks. One of the reasons he wanted to bring this issue to Meggett and to other coastal communities in SC is because we are surrounded by the water and we have a rich history and culture that makes its living from the water.

Mayor Herrington thanked Dean and asked if there were any questions or comments. Council Member Tommy Butler made a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto. All were in agreement; resolution to Support Local Quality of Life Tied to Healthy Marine Environment was adopted.

Election Commission:

Mayor Herrington stated that there are three members on our Election Commission; Chairman Bobby Shealy, members at large, Dr. Richard Unger and Brenda Gibbs. Brenda has not been able to serve in quite some time due to health reasons. The Mayor added that while council is looking for a replacement for Brenda, he would also like to find someone to replace the chairman, Mr. Shealy. He added that he would speak with Dr. Unger and ask if he would be willing to step up as chairman and if so they would only need to replace the two seats. He said that this is something that needs to be done quickly and if council has any suggestions to please let him know since our next election is coming up in 2015. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that if anyone present would be interested to please let council know. He further stated that there was compensation for the position. Administrator Ellie Brabham said that the positions on the Election Commission are voluntary, only those that actually work the election are compensated. She also added that the Chairman and two Commissioners usually each spend a few hours at different times during the day at the polling place with the Chairman usually there when the votes are counted. The Mayor Pro Tem stated the qualifications for the Election Commission is; must be a register voter and a resident of the Town of Meggett. His preferences are someone well respected in the community, silent on whom they want elected and someone that would see that things are conducted properly. Mayor Herrington stated that if anyone in the audience is interested to please let council know. He also added that the positions would be put in the Meggett Messenger.

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Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

The repairs to the floors in the bathroom area in Town Hall have been completed. The back area is ninety nine percent complete, with the only thing left to do is the replacement of the refrigerator. That will be done shortly. Another piece of the cedar tree fell after the last storm and it has been removed. The Mayor stated that he is still working with AC Electric about the lights in the town center and hopefully will have some information in the next few weeks. The pole at the beginning of the road by the town sign that holds our meter box and breaker panel has been replaced. The hardware was taken off of the old pole and put on the new pole; the old pole has been removed. The huge pole that is by Ernest Rentz on the small piece of property which is owned by AT&T will be removed in the next few weeks. AT&T has a contract with a utility company to remove it. Council Member Matt Zender asked if we were going to replace or repair the town sign at the corner of Toogoodoo and Hwy 165. Mayor Herrington stated that we had contacted Roberts Sign Company, but the quotes we received were much more than we wanted to spend at the time. The oval part of the sign is in much better shape than the plywood part that holds the replaceable letters. They will give us a quote on replacing the posts for taller posts and adding two more lines for the replaceable letters.

Grants and projects reports given by: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto said that we are still working on the projects at Roxbury Park. He stated that we are waiting on bids for the smaller picnic shelter and are making a lot of progress on the trails and walkways. He also added that he is happy to report that we are getting a lot of attendance on the weekends and are getting request for it to be open longer. We are going to put up a kiosk to display the rules for the park, and an updated map. On the subject of parks, the Mayor Pro Tem stated he had talked with Mayor Heyward of Hollywood and she is going to have someone attend our council meeting to fill council in on what Hollywood's plans are for the parcel they have just purchased in the Town of Meggett.

Council Member Matt Zender asked if the repairs to the house at Roxbury Park have been finished and is ready to rent. Mayor Herrington stated that he had talked to our plumber and he has ordered the materials to replace the faucets and the hardware on the two bathroom tub and shower units and the sinks. He will replace the one toilet in the left hand bathroom, the two valves in the hot water heater room downstairs and repair the outside faucet on the back wall. That should be done within the next four or five days. The new bedding and couches are in the house. Council Member Zender asked if he had come up with a rental rate. Mayor Herrington stated since that is a financial matter, he would like to discuss that during council's retreat next month.

Communications report given by: Council Member Keith McCarty

In Council Member McCarty's absence, Mayor Herrington stated that we will have a few Web Designers make their presentations to the town for the new website at the February meeting. Attorney Andy Gowder stated that he and Keith had met with the representative from Municode by telephone in December. They had a good session and updated. Attorney Gowder said that they went through all the sections of the code that will be posted on the website and are using this as an opportunity to recodify or tighten up the code that we already have in just having the numbering be uniform and taking out some obsolete sections and things like that. The next step is that the Municode representative will present Attorney Gowder with a rough draft that is redlined which he will review. He will make a recommendation to council to review it and then adopt it. Once that occurs and recodification occurs then it will be ready to post on the website. Andy added that hopefully we should have that within the next quarter.

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Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Quick summary for the calendar year 2013; January 1, 2013 balance, in the operating bank account and CDs, we had \$508,736.00, and in December 2013 we had \$516,569.00. For the year, our bank account went up \$7,800.00. During the year we purchased an extra \$75,000 CD in January and in April we added \$21,000 to the \$53,000 CD we had to bring it up to \$75,000. We have three \$75,000 CDs that are spread out throughout the year. The Wastewater account and CD in January 2013 was \$382,000 and in December 2013 it was \$345,000. During the year we had a \$51,400 expense relocating the sewer lines at Meggett Creek and we also had a \$9,700 repair to the pump station. The Meggett 1925 account went from \$6,500 to \$9,500. From the last meeting the only out of the ordinary expense was the 5 year review maintenance to the elevator we were unaware of and did not budget for.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

The water main on Wilson Road is completed. Gene McCall talked with Dorchester and they are not happy with their Hydrogen Sulfide Filtration system. This could be due to the loss of the original person in charge, then the loss of the second who did not maintain the system properly. Gene has found another system that is being used in Mt. Pleasant. Pete Duty, the representative for the Eco Verde system, says we can try it out for three months. It uses another method of removing the Hydrogen Sulfide. Gene will look at the system once he gets a good contact at Mt Pleasant.

With the pending ice storm, I asked Gene if he had generators that would keep our system and Hollywood's going if we lost power. He said Hollywood and Ravenel had generators that he could borrow to handle pump #1 at Metal Trades. He will have to check to make sure the plug is the same as used for Hollywood.

Council Member Zender stated that he had asked Robert Clark to give us an update on the paving of Wilson Road and the Meggett Creek Bridge.

Robert Clark

Robert Clark reported that CPW has completed the water main project on Wilson Rd and SCDOT's contractor should start the paving project in March. He said that for the Bridge project, DOT has an April letting and they have thirty days to make an award. Will probably be June or July before work will begin.

Public Comments:

Council Member Annette Sausser of Hollywood addressed Council in reference to the Hollywood Park. She informed council that Hollywood had just obtained the Gillispie property which consists of 110 acres. She stated that they intend to make it an Equestrian park and want it to be something that everyone in the area can enjoy. Council Member Sausser further stated that they could use some ideas from this council and residents in the surrounding areas. She said some ideas they have are for bicycle routes, churches to use for Homecomings, family reunions, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for camping. They would also like to see the schools get involved with educational field trips, identifying plants etc., building bird houses, and with the small marsh area they could learn about conservation. She stated that there are two buildings on the property as well as a barn with eight stalls. The barn also has a bathroom. She added that in this area there are over a thousand horses and they would like to provide the owners a place to ride. She stated that the park is open to the whole community so that everyone can enjoy it. There is a lot of open area as well as wooded areas. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto asked when the park would open. Council Member Sausser answered that they just signed the contract last week and have no date yet. They agreed to give the Gillespie's three months to move. Resident Angie Watts asked if there would be a green house or garden. Annette said there was a senior citizens group that may be involved in that. Council

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Member Zender asked if there was city water or sewer on the property. She said that there was not but the water was very good. She also stated that they will probably have a caretaker on the property. Angie Watts asked if they were going to have picnic shelters. Council Member Sausser stated that there is a very large open shed. Mayor Buster Herrington thanks Council Member Sausser.

Mayor Herrington asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto and seconded by Council Member Tommy Butler.

Submitted by Ellie Brabham