

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 30, 2014

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
Notes:	

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

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Minutes from previous meeting held on: June 30, 2014 Council Meeting

Motion made by: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto

Seconded by: Council Member Tommy Butler

In Favor: Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Hutto
Council Member Tommy Butler
Council Member Matt Zender

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes were approved as written*

2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget – 2nd Reading and Adoption :

Mayor Herrington stated that this was the second reading and adoption of the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget of which we just finished the Public Hearing. The Mayor asked if council had any comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto asked Ellie Brabham if he was correct in stating that this past year we spent less than we budgeted as we have many years. Ellie stated that was correct. He also asked if with the income we receive by the end of the month we will end up with revenues in the bank including CDs around 600,000.00, which is highest of all time. Ellie stated that was also correct.

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With no other comments, Council Member Tommy Butler made a motion that we adopt the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto seconded the motion, all approved and Budget was adopted.

Meggett Creek Bridge :

Mayor Herrington asked Council Member Zender If he had and update on the bridge since Robert Clark was no in attendance. Council Member Zender stated he had talked with Robert a few days ago and there was no change. Robert expects everything to be handled by late fall.

Landscape Contract :

Mayor Herrington stated that the contract with the current landscaper has expired and we will put this out for bid later this week or next week. He also stated he had rewritten the scope of work to make it clearer who paid for what, pine straw etc. Council Member Zender asked if the town would be responsible for the area around the blue house. Mayor Herrington stated the tenant would be responsible for that.

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington stated that a Greenbelt program came out and inspected the property and everything was fine. They asked that the town put up a sign stating that Roxbury Park was purchased with funds from the Greenbelt portion of the Transportation Sales Tax. That sign is in and the Mayor will have Ken Carmen put it up this week.

The town purchased a Kawasaki Mule for Ken to use as transportation around the park.

Both garage doors have been replaced on the cottage which is the same color as the roof, dark green. He met with Erica Schaffer a few weeks ago at the cottage and did a walk through. The town wishes to get the cottage more renter friendly. It will be deep cleaned next week. Erica has purchased new curtains, curtain rods, linens, and kitchen ware which will all be put in place once it is cleaned.

The Mayor stated he has had three calls for tentatively renting the cottage for October and November. Two of the events will be weddings and one will be a family reunion. The first wedding was held last weekend which went well. Council Member Hutto asked if the rate would remain \$1000.00 for the weekend plus a deposit. The Mayor stated it would. He also added that residents would get a 20% discount. Council Member Zender asked what the rate was for a week. The Mayor stated \$975.00 with a \$50.00 cleaning fee.

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

We should receive the letter allowing the town to begin work on the playground from the PARD grant very soon. At that time we will replace the ground cover and look at putting a handicap ramp on the picnic shelter.

Communications: Council Member Ketih McCarty

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Council Member McCarty stated that the town had granted the contract for the new website to Jerry Rose, but he has not contacted Jerry to begin on the website yet. He added he would give him a call this week.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Butler stated that he did not have all the information he needed to give his report, so he would give the April report along with May's at the June meeting.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

The inspection of pump station #1 has been completed by the Clearwater Group with no problems found. Stations 4,6 & 7 also passed inspection. Pump station #5 by Youman's had a power failure in mid April and had a back flow to the Charter School during a rain storm. Part of the problem is the high flow of rain water into the system. The problem starts at pump station # 4, the one the town flows into. The inflow of rain water is not from our system, but rather the other Hollywood stations that feed into #4.

Council Member Zender stated that council should go into Executive Session to discuss the Clearwater contract. Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto said that he already knows about Hollywood not extending the contract and their wanting to maintain their system. Therefore we can discuss the issue in open session. With that Council Member Zender continued. He stated that Gene McCall with The Clearwater Group advised that Hollywood is not renewing the sewer contract which expires in June. If this is the case he will not renew the Town of Meggett's which expires August 1, 2014 or Ravenel's which expires December 1, 2014.

Hollywood wants their own sewer staff to maintain their system. David Boyert has applied for this position, and if he gets it the Town of Meggett will probably be out in the cold. Council Member Zender asked David if he could also maintain the Town of Meggett's small system. David said that it may be a conflict of interest and he pointed out that Gene McCall owns all of the equipment and keeps a 2 million insurance policy and bond to cover any problems. If he is working outside of Hollywood with Hollywood equipment and has problems, he is sunk. If David does not get the job, the costs may not make it worth his while; truck, insurance, bond and all of the equipment that Clearwater has to start his own company. Council Member McCarty stated that he doesn't want an employee of another town handling our sewer. Council Member Zender added that Mayor Herrington thinks that he can talk Charleston Public Works (CPW) into taking over our system. Council Member Zender stated that CPW previously told him "no way", sewer is a lost investment; you get out of it what goes into it plus a lot of costs. Plus Hollywood would have to give up their system, which could be a money maker for them i.e. special grants? Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto said that Hollywood is under water with their system and he did not know of any grants, but he would check. Council Member Zender added that we would probably have to give CPW our sewer savings as well if they took it over. Council Member Keith McCarty said he would gladly give them \$359,099. Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto said that Jackie (Mayor of Hollywood) says she is upside down with the sewer. He also stated she feels she can fall back on CPW sooner than she can fall back on Clearwater.

Attorney Andy Gowder asked if we are comfortable that there are no other companies the town could contract. The Mayor Pro-Tem stated that there is Pedersen. Council Member Zender stated that we need to find a new contractor if we can't make this work out in a hurry.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto said that we could contract Hollywood to maintain our system rather than get a local contractor to do the job. He also added that he has never been impressed with Gene McCall, he has never been in a meeting with him or even met him. He doesn't feel Meggett is the primary culprit of producing the sewer gas and Jackie doesn't feel she is getting a good value for the money. Council Member Zender responded that since it (sewer) is his responsibility there is really no reason that the Mayor Pro-Tem would have had any meetings or contact with Gene. He further added that he

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has had many meetings and countless phone calls with Gene McCall. In reference to our being the primary culprit to the hydrogen sulfide problem, Gene McCall was misquoted. All sewers produce sewer gas.

Council Member Keith McCarty said it would be bad business to contract with Hollywood, a separate municipality, to maintain and control our system. The problems that come up could be a real headache.

Council Member Zender said if we remember the spill at Metal Trades, the cost could have been much higher if Clearwater did not have a pumper truck and the right equipment to quickly clean up the mess and fix the problem (the stuck valve). He added if Hollywood thinks they will save money with their own in house maintenance, they have probably not looked at the cost of equipment, insurance and bond, plus any other items. The Mayor Pro-Tem stated that Jackie is a charming lady and he is sure she can work something out. Council Member Zender asked the Mayor Pro-Tem if he had talked with the Mayor of Ravenel. He stated that he had not. Council Member Tommy Butler asked when our contract expires. Council Member Zender replied on August 1st. Council Member Butler stated that we really needed to do something real soon. Council Member McCarty added that the Mayors of Meggett and Hollywood need to talk.

In summary Council Member Zender stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto will talk to Hollywood to see if they will be willing to maintain our system, the cost, insurance, bond etc. and Mayor Herrington will talk with CPW to see if they will take over our system. If neither of those two works out, the town needs to see if there is a local company that will take on our system.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto asked to amend the agenda for the 1st Reading of the Fiscal Year Budget. Council Member Keith McCarty made a motion to amend the agenda, which was 2nd by Council Member Tommy Butler. Mayor Buster Herrington joined the meeting at 7:50pm. Motion was made by Council Member McCarty for approval of the 1st Reading. Council Member Matt Zender disagreed due to not being given a copy of the budget for review plus he had questions about the budget. The motion was dismissed. A Budget Workshop and First Reading were scheduled for June 3rd at 7pm. The June council meeting was moved from June 23rd to June 30th.

Public Comments:

With no public comments, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Ellie Brabham