

# TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Date: March 25, 2013      Time: 7:00PM      Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165*

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<b>Call to order by:</b>	<i>Mayor Harry V. "Buster" Herrington III</i>
<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	<i>Town Council Meeting</i>
<b>Facilitator:</b>	<i>Mayor Harry V. "Buster" Herrington III</i>
<b>Notes:</b>	<i>Ellie Brabham</i>

<b>Roll Call:</b>	<i>Mayor Buster Herrington III</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<i>Councilman Matt Zender</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> P
<i>A = Absent</i>	<i>Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<i>Attorney Andy Gowder</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> P
<i>P = Present</i>	<i>Councilman Tommy Butler</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<i>Ellie Brabham</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> P
	<i>Councilman Tom Hutto</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> P		<input type="checkbox"/>

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*Due to Mayor Herrington's Laryngitis, the meeting was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Keith McCarty*

### Prayer and Pledge

**Prayer given by:** *Mayor Pro-Tem Keith McCarty*    **Pledge led by:** *Mayor Pro-Tem Keith McCarty*

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**Minutes from previous meeting held on:** *March 25, 2013*

**Motion made by:** *Councilman Tommy Butler*      **Seconded by:** *Councilman Tom Hutto*

*To accept minutes as written*

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

**Conclusion:** *Minutes were approved as written*

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**Item # 5: Charter School:**

Giving the report for Mayor Herrington, Ellie Brabham stated that everything is moving forward nicely, teachers are being interviewed and the sale of the building was finalized today. They are still taking applications which can be found on the school's website at [www.lowcountryleadershipcharterschool.org](http://www.lowcountryleadershipcharterschool.org).

**Item # 6: Upcoming Events :**

April 13<sup>th</sup> the town will have a Litter Pickup Day in preparation for the April in Meggett Arts and Crafts Festival on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We have had a good response for volunteers. The pick-up will begin at 8am and lunch will be served around 12pm. The volunteers will clean several roads and around the Town Hall and SCPA Bldg. April in Meggett Festival will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>, still need items for the Silent Auction and volunteers for the festival as well as help to setup road blocks on the morning of the festival and remove them after the event.

**Item # 7: Council Member Reports**

**Building and Grounds: Mayor Herrington**

Nothing new to report this month.

**Communications report given by:** Mayor Pro-tem Keith McCarty

We are hoping to have everything sent to Municode and have it up and running soon. Once that is complete we will begin work on the new website. Attorney Andy Gowder stated that all of the town's Ordinances will be on the Municode website and the Town of Meggett's website will have a link to it. Once this is done everyone will be able to look at any Ordinance the town has by going onto the Municode site from the town's webpage.

**Grants and projects reports given by:** Councilman Tom Hutto

The Oyster Roast at Roxbury Park was successful. Donations received exceeded expenses.

As discussed last month, Meeks Construction was low bidder to upgrade the roads at Roxbury Park. Meeks will improve the existing entrance road by adding gravel and sand, as well as, building the parking area. Once the roads are upgraded they will be able to withstand heavy rains and traffic. Meeks Construction began last week and are moving forward. A floating dock will be added to the current dock pierhead. It will be built and brought to the location. The DHEC-OCRM permit application has been submitted, and OCRM has issued the public notice.

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*Councilman Hutto stated he had received a call from the Department of Natural Resources stating they had received the town's public notice. They feel that Roxbury is a good idea and would qualify for a fund for "public access to water". Charleston County has funds set aside for this that offers a 50% reimbursement. They feel that Roxbury Park would definitely qualify. Should we get this grant, it should save us another 40 to 50 thousand dollars. Along with the grant we already have from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the waterfront improvement at Roxbury should cost the town essentially nothing.*

*The US Corps of Engineering is trying to make a determination if the interior ponds are jurisdictional or not, since they used to be part of Toogoodoo Creek before they were dammed in the 1960s. They are in the process of writing us a letter of approval to build the planned additions. DHEC-OCRM has already made a determination that they do not have jurisdiction of the ponds.*

*Improvements to the garage are very close to being finished. The next project will be renovation of the cottage so that we can rent it out. The cottage needs new flooring throughout, three window air conditioner units, and a ceiling fan on the porch. These additional renovations to the house should be under \$10,000.*

**Financial report given by:** Councilman Tommy Butler

*The checking account is up \$27,000 from last month. As far as expenditures there is nothing out of the ordinary, except the Oyster Roast and our contributions covered that. Councilman Butler said that he would like to ease some residents concerns of the towns over spending by stating that our checking account has more than doubled over the last few years even with the projects that the town has undertaken. From May 2004, when he came on council, the checking account was \$127,255.60 as compared to February 2013 which is \$530,202.83.*

**Utilities report given by:** Councilman Matt Zender

*Councilman Zender stated that he and Mayor Herrington had attended a meeting with Gene McCall of the Clearwater Group. They discussed replacing pump station #1's emergency relief valve. Gene stated the cost would be around \$13,000 to replace and would take two weeks to get the valves in. Charleston Water Systems is going to supply a flush to get the air bubble out of the sewer line. He further stated that we have the same problem that every sewage system in the country has with Hydrogen Sulfide combining with Oxygen and turning into Sulfuric Acid. This causes corrosion to the system.*

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**Item # 8: Andy Anderson- Special Presentation –Water**

*Mr. Andy Anderson made a presentation to council and attending residents on public water vs. well water. He discussed chemicals that are found in both public and well water, and measures that are taken by CPW, municipalities and well drillers to provide safe drinking water. He explained EPA limits for different chemicals which may be found in public water and well water. Mr. Anderson further explained that our deep aquifer starts between Orangeburg and Columbia, works its way down, and comes all the way to the coast. The reach off of the coast is the reason our deep wells have salt in them. He stated that Reverse Osmosis is the solution for removing salt from deep well water to provide good drinking water. He has used Reverse Osmosis for many years in his home and added that it produces very good drinking water. Mr. Anderson also mentioned that for those with shallow wells that contain chemicals which cause staining, a filtration system will take care of that problem. He informed those in attendance that water from deep wells is not the best for irrigation because of the salt content, but can be used. He also mentioned that Clemson has a salt water tolerant plant list available to the public.*

*Resident Angie Watts stated that her yearly water bill is extremely high, with the majority of it for sewer. She asked Mr. Anderson if she would be allowed to have a well put in and disconnect from public water. He suggested she contact CPW and if that is not allowed, he recommends she put in some type of filtration system which would take care of anything she is concerned with in her public drinking water.*

*Councilman Hutto thanked Mr. Anderson for coming out and talking to council and residents, but also stated that any views Mr. Anderson expressed are not necessarily the views of the Town of Meggett.*

**Item # 9: Public Comments**

*Resident Ann Chittum asked who replaces the lights in the town center of Meggett. Ellie Brabham stated that AC Electric handles that for us. There is a problem with some of the lights that they have not been able to correct. Also special bulbs are ordered for the lights. Councilman Hutto added that we will be removing half of the lights in the near future.*

*With no other comments Mayor Pro-Tem McCarty closed the meeting.*

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*Addition to minutes: Councilman Zender asked that the following be added to the minutes.*

*Mayor Herrington asked if anyone had any questions or additions to the minutes of the March 25, 2013 meeting. Councilman Matt Zender stated the comment was made last month about cows wandering into the marsh and doing what cows do. He asked Councilman Tom Hutto if he would explain what he was referring to, eating grass or what. Councilman Hutto stated that, as well as using the bathroom. He further stated that causes increase in bacterial contamination in the creek which is believed by the National Resources Conservation Service, formally the USDA Soil Conservation Service, to be one of the primary factors causing many of the oyster beds in Toogoodoo's Creek to be closed as a result of poor water quality due to high bacterial contamination. Councilman Zender said and this is due to cows and not failing septic systems? Councilman Hutto said they have not actually done speciation that he is aware of on the actual fecal cult from samples, however there is the urgent potential of failing septic systems, and the direct injection, or the foxmoor injection, of manure in the creek is believed, and found to be in other evaluations such as Isle of Palms to be a greater contributor than septic systems, also this was found to be the case in some studies in Beaufort county. Councilman Hutto said he was not involved with this particular one, but yes failing septic systems are not typically as bad. Everybody here tonight who has a failing septic system or uses the bathroom in the creek, raise their hand, hundreds of cows or some number of cows are doing that. Councilman Zender said he has done some research on cult farms that specifically, 157 and that said cows have a very unlikely chance of having that in their fecal. He said he had looked on the web and google and cows with Ecoli are cows that are fed grain, the cows here eat grass because their digestic systems are base verses as if they eat grain they are acidic. Mayor Pro Tem said he thought we were considering the minutes of the meeting. Councilman Zender said he just wanted a clarification. The Mayor Pro Tem said let's just stick to our schedule and if you want to bring it up later, you can. Councilman Zender said he just wanted to state that cows in the marsh don't equal ecoli. Councilman Hutto said if you want to take that up with the National Conservation Resource services and the USDA have at it. He further stated he was conveying what he had found to be the case in other areas and what has been brought to our attention by the USDA in their application of this grant. He said he would be happy to give Councilman Zender the name and number of the folks he can call there. Mayor Herrington said the question on the floor is have you reviewed the minutes. Mayor Pro Tem McCarty said he would make the motion to accept the minutes. Councilman Zender said with that correction? Mayor Pro Tem McCarty said he did not see anything about cows in the minutes. Councilman Zender said I know, neither did I, but it was mentioned. Mayor Pro Tem said I think a lot of stuff was, but I don't care if you want to put something about cows in the minutes. The Mayor Pro Tem said he would like to make a motion to approve the minutes with Mr. Zender's comment about cows added to it. Councilman Hutto said, cows crapping in the creek is okay. **Councilman Zender said I did not say that.** Councilman Hutto then stated I would be happy to make a motion to amend the minutes with the statement that Mr. Zender thinks it's okay for cows to crap in the creek. Mayor Pro Tem said alright Matt. Mayor Herrington said now we have a motion to accept the minutes as written with the exceptions noted do I have a second. Councilman Tommy Butler seconded the motion.*

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