

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 28, 2013

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:	Ellie Brabham

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

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

OATH OF OFFICE FOR ELECTION ON MAY 7, 2013

Mayor Buster Herrington congratulated Tommy Butler and Keith McCarty and asked them to stand for the Oath of Office. Both council members repeated the oath after the Mayor and were sworn in for four more years of service to the Town of Meggett.

*The previous **Mayor Pro Tem**, Keith McCarty nominated Council Member Tom Hutto as new Mayor Pro Tem. This was second by Council Member Butler. All approved. Council member Hutto accepted the position and stated that he would be honored to serve in this capacity, but feels this office should rotate between council members every two years.*

Minutes from previous meeting held on: April 22, 2013

Motion made by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Council Member Tommy Butler

In Favor: Mayor Buster Herrington
 Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hutto
 Council Member Tommy Butler
 Council Member Keith McCarty

Opposed:

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Conclusion: Minutes were approved with a request from Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto that the statement made by Matt Zender in reference to cows is put back in.

South Carolina Rural Water Association:

Mayor Buster Herrington stated that we would bypass this report because the gentleman that was to attend had a conflict that he was unaware of. Mayor Herrington further stated that this company is affiliated with DHEC and they offer a service that maps sewage and water lines on GIS at no charge. He also added that we have already paid another company for doing some of this mapping, but it has not been completed.

First Reading of Ordinance 2013: 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget

Resident Tom Sutton asked if the town was spending \$75,000 on the park in this budget. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that we would be spending around \$90,000 with a match from our grant. The Mayor Pro Tem explained that we would be spending around \$10,000 to get the cottage repaired so that it can be rented. Once this is completed we are looking at \$10,000 to \$15,000 of income yearly from rentals. This large amount is a onetime expense to put in the picnic shelters, the signs, docks, and fishing piers. He further stated this is not a \$90,000 a year item once it is all completed. With no further comments, Mayor Herrington asked if there was a motion to accept the first reading of the Ordinance.

Motion made by: Councilman Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto

In Favor: Mayor Buster Herrington
Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hutto
Council Member Tommy Butler
Council Member Keith McCarty

Opposed:

Lowcountry Leadership Charter School:

Mayor Herrington stated the last day of St Paul's Academy was last Thursday, so they are busy renovating. The construction is beginning the demolition phase. The inside is also being cleaned out from old books etc. Mayor Herrington added that he attended the ground breaking ceremonies a few weeks ago, which was very nice, and that they would be sending out updates on the progress of the school.

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Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington stated that the upgrade of the water tap at the library has been completed. He added that the Town of Meggett opted to help the Town of Hollywood with the improvement of the water tap at the library. Instead of a single faucet, there are now three. The cost of the upgrade was \$674.00

The water fountain ordered for the park should be here tomorrow or Thursday. He also stated that Stevens Towing Company is celebrating 100 years this year, starting out as Stevens Line Company. They have provided many jobs for people in this area over the years. Because of their input into the community, the town is dedicating the new fountain to Stevens Towing on June 15th. The Mayor invited everyone to attend and said there would be more information as we get closer to this date.

As part of the Building and Grounds update, tonight is the night council will be opening the bids for landscaping around Town Hall, SCPA Bldg and the town sign. Four bids were received. The first is from Lawnboys, LLC from Ravenel, with a bid of \$9,000. annually; second from Cleland's Custom Solutions of Hollywood, with a bid of 10,840.00 for the year, third from BNCNTRY Landscape Maintenance of Hollywood with a bid of \$14,400.00 annually and the fourth is from Lowcountry Greens of Summerville with a bid of \$10,400. Lowcountry Greens and Lawnboys, LLC were in attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto made the motion to accept the low bid. Mayor Herrington stated he would like a motion contingent on the low bidder being able to provide the appropriate paperwork in reference to insurance. The Mayor Pro Tem restated his motion to accept the low bid contingent on proof of insurance and if they did not have it then make negotiations with the second low bid also contingent on proof of insurance.

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 Keith McCarty

Opposed:

Communications report given by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Council Member Keith McCarty stated that we will be doing an upgrade on the website in this coming year. He has talked with several companies over the past year and asked in addition to these companies if any of the audience knew someone they could recommend to please let him know. He stated that we would like someone that is good and somewhat reasonable. This past fiscal year we have been working on getting Municode up and running and now we can move on to upgrading the website.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto reports that the roads going into Roxbury Park are finished. He stated that he had visited after a rainy spell and they are holding up very well. He further stated that Meeks Construction did an excellent job. We have received the permit from the Coastal Council to add a float to the existing dock on the Toogoodoo Creek. We anticipate the Corps of Engineers giving us the green light on the other permit as well. A bid package will be put together for bids on the installation of the floating dock. After the float we will begin putting the fishing platforms in over the two ponds. The trails are completed. He said he had received a call from Natural Resources for additional funding for those same items in the amount of \$40,000 to \$50,000. The USDA Soil Conservation Service also has a grant to improve water quality in the creeks in and around Charleston County.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto also stated that rental of the cottage will hopefully bring in \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year. He added the cottage would be available for the residents of Meggett and the greater Charleston County. The Mayor Pro Tem further stated we will come up with a rate schedule which would include a discount for the residents of the Town of Meggett.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Councilman Tommy Butler reports that in April all expenses were customary expenses other than the \$64,000 spent on Roxbury Park. However our budget year is coming to an end and we will get 50% of that back from the grant, \$34,000. He added that we only brought in \$5,700 in April but will get the bulk of our money in June. Administrator, Ellie Brabham stated that in June we get the Scana franchise check which should be over \$50,000 and a large check from MASc for Business License. Normally we receive the Scana check on June 30th.

Utilities report given by: Mayor Buster Herrington for Council Member Matt Zender

With the absence of Council Member Matt Zender, Mayor Herrington read his report for Utilities.

Pump Station#1, Due to road cave-ins and other more pressing problems with Charleston Water Systems our modification to pump station #1 has been delayed. We are not having problems with this pump at this time. After the change in the plumbing at pump station #1 the system will be flushed to drain out any air trapped, this both for the city water and the sewer. It is expected that work will begin in two weeks barring any problems.

Pump Station #4, Hydrogen Sulfide, Gene McCall and Council member Zender will be going to see the installation of the Acid Filtering in Mt Pleasant, timing to be determined. Mayor Herrington added that we will follow up on this.

The Fountain Tap, Mayor Herrington informed council this is relating to the fountain across the street. Kin Hill of CWS said no to any funding for a drinking fountain. Mayor Herrington stated we did not ask for any financial support. Council member Zender's report further stated the concession he granted last year was for a water tap and not a fountain. The two plates in the park are for the control of the water main and cannot be used for a tap. If we want a tap for the fountain it will cost \$2920, we can pay it off in monthly installments if we choose. The meter will be established for irrigation which would not include a sewer charge. If we want to get the tap we will have to pay \$530 up front to get the work order started.

Mayor Herrington stated that what Council Member Zender is referring to in tap fees is that our sewer line is on this side of the highway and the water line is on the opposite side. The meter is on this side. CWS wants us to pay \$2920 in tap fees

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plus some other stuff just to get water to the fountain and I am working on something that will hopefully eliminate that from happening.

Public Comments:

Resident Ken Schilling of Ethel P O Road asked council who maintains Flounder Lake. There is algae growing in the lake and it looks terrible. Mr. Schilling stated he had talked with someone at the BelleVista HOA in reference to this in the past but was not well received. He, as well as the other neighbors on Ethel P O that border Flounder Lake, have been denied membership in the HOA and no one in the HOA will talk with them about this issue. It is understood that the residents of BelleVista have control of the lake and maintain it when they feel it is necessary. The Schillings and the Singletarys, who were also in attendance, do not feel that a few people should had control of the lake; everyone that lives on the lake should have some say so as to how and when it is maintained. They also feel everyone along the lake should have a financial responsibility as well. The lake is unsightly and directly affects their property values. Council Member McCarty stated that this may be a legal issue. They may need to consider hiring a lawyer since the condition of the lake does indeed greatly affect their property values. Mayor Herrington said that he would give Mr. Schilling some phone numbers after the meeting for someone to contact in BelleVista.

Resident Harry Herrington stated he wasn't in the meeting when the copper roofing was discussed but just wanted to point out that a lot of the older buildings that were in the town are no longer here because they were not taken care of. He feels that the copper roofing is an asset to buildings and will help preserve them for many years to come. He also feels this was a good decision.

Resident David Smoak thanked council for the Oyster Roast at Roxbury Park and stated he hoped the town would continue to have such events. He also thanked the town for sponsoring the craft show again this year. He further stated even though the weather was bad, we had a good crowd and it was an enjoyable day.

Resident Angie Watts asked if we would ever have a small Farmers Market out here. Mayor Herrington stated that we had several discussions in reference to that when we were considering rebuilding the packing shed. That was part of that plan, however we have nothing planned for the immediate future. He further stated he feels a Farmers Market would be a wonderful idea and maybe we can incorporate it when we do the next phase of improvements to the back part of the town property.

Mayor Herrington stated that going back to the comment on the roof, our goal is not for next week, everything that we talk about is where do we want to be in 5, 10, 25 or 100 years. That is why we are doing the projects we are doing. The town spent a lot of money doing the walkway in 2003. In 2011 it almost fell down because the structure was not done correctly, so when we fixed it we decided to fix it so we wouldn't have to worry about it again in our lifetime. Then we go back to Roxbury Park, it is a lot of money, but we have been able to obtain some funding to offset those cost and we have gotten so much positive feedback from the residents who have been there. The Mayor further stated he feels we are going about this in a very controlled manner and we are very calculating in the way we are handling those funds. As you can tell from our budget, we are at an all time high in our savings accounts and our CDs. While we have been spending some money we have been accomplishing some very neat things. He added that if anyone has any questions about our funding and how we are spending our money to please feel free to ask.

*Mayor Pro Tem Hutto stated that he had forgotten to mention something that needed to go under **New Business**.*

He stated that Mr. Huffstetlers property on Toogoodoo Rd will be divided into 5 lots. The Mayor Pro Tem has a concern because there is a cemetery on that property and when Mr. Huffstetler was alive, he passed away last year, he would not

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allow the relatives of the deceased to visit the graves. He asked if we have a duty as a council to state when this subdivision comes in to say to Charleston County there is an Archeological site back there and you need to know where it is. There are a lot of these cemeteries sprinkled around and they are a lot larger than they look. Council Member McCarty stated that he did not think someone should be able to deny anyone access to visit relatives graves. Mayor Herrington asked Attorney Andy Gowder if he would look into this. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto said that he would call the county and tell them to hold up on this subdivision until our Attorney has had time to handle this for council.

Mayor Buster Herrington adjourned the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He also invited them to stay and enjoy the cake in celebration of Tommy and Keith's re-election.

Respectfully submitted by Ellie Brabham