

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: *November 25, 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:	

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

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Minutes from previous meeting held on: October 28, 2013 Council Meeting

Mayor Herrington stated that he had a small correction to make to the October minutes. On page three, middle paragraph under Building and grounds, on the last section that begins with the floating dock, the sentence that stated we have a new sign for the park should read Mayor Herrington instead of Council Member Tommy Butler.

Motion made by: Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hutto to approve minutes with the correction

Seconded by: Council Member Keith McCarty

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

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes were approved with correction*

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 25, 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

Charleston County Community Services/ Urban Entitlement Program/ Johanna Murray:

Ms. Johanna Murray stated that the Urban Entitlement Program is direct funds from HUD that come into our area. Different entities, towns, cities, and mostly non-profits write grant applications and submit them to Charleston County Government. The applications are evaluated by a board that submits them to Charleston County with their recommendations for funding. These are HUD funds, and every five years they go out into the communities and do surveys, focus groups etc to determine what the citizen's feel that the top priorities need to be for our area. This upcoming year is the fourth year of the five year plan and the top two priorities in this five year plan for Charleston County as a whole are sub-standard housing rehabilitation and infrastructure (infrastructure upgrading of wells, sewer systems, water and sidewalks). She further stated that a lot of the applications that have been submitted and a lot of what is being funded primarily cover the two priorities. Ms. Murray said it is that time of year again and grant applications will be out the first week of January. Everyone usually has about four or five weeks to get applications together and submitted. She added that Tom Hutto represents Mayor Herrington on their Community Development Advisory Board for the Town of Meggett. She then asked if there were comments or questions. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto stated that they get four to five million dollars in grant applications and of those usually one to one and a half million get funded. He also added that preference is given to low to modern income communities. Ms Murray stated that these funds are set aside for those that meet a federal income guideline for poverty. The Mayor Pro Tem said that the Town of Meggett is very blessed because we are not a low to moderate income community and we would not be a candidate for these funds unless we had an unusual circumstance. He also added this is a great problem to have. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto stated that the amount of funding that comes to Charleston County to share has gone down every year and with that the criteria for grant award has gotten to be much more stringent. With no further comments or questions, Mayor Herrington thanked Ms. Murray for being at the meeting and making this presentation.

Low Country Leadership Charter School:

Mayor Herrington said that he had received a guided tour of the school this past Friday and that they are extremely close. The school has received approval on its OSF inspections as of last Monday. There is a series of inspections that will take place this week and next week. They are scheduled to move in and have their first day of school in the new facility on December 9th.

Charleston County Bar Closing Ordinance:

Mayor Herrington stated that in the last year, the county has adopted a county wide Ordinance that will prohibit bars from being open past a certain time. The town is included in the ordinance even though we have no bars. He asked Mayor Pro Tem Hutto if that was correct. The Mayor Pro Tem stated that the unincorporated areas, the towns, can pass a similar one or not. He added that some people would like to keep bars open all night. The concern per the Mayor Pro Tem is that people may come here and want to have bars and stay open all night because we have no ordinance to the contrary. He further added if we want to be in line with the county or be more restrictive, that is something we would want to discuss. Mayor Herrington said the county asked if we would want to adopt a very similar ordinance or have a mirror image of the ordinance that they have. He told the county that council would discuss this and was sure that we would do something before this happens. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto asked how we would go about this. The Mayor stated that to pass an ordinance we would have to have a motion, a second reading and a Public Hearing. He also added this is not something we can do by resolution. Mayor Herrington said that council would wait until the first of the year, after they have had an opportunity to review how Charleston County's ordinance reads.

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 25, 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

Fire Station:

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that St Paul's Fire Station is in the planning process of building a new station at the corner of Ethel Post Office Rd and Wilson Rd. He asked if anyone had received an update on the status of this from our representative. Mayor Herrington said that one of the Fire Station officials stated that they have put the job out for bid and would have it completed in 2014. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto said that he thinks the plan is for them to use the existing mobile home and to build a very modest Fire Station.

Poplar Grove:

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto wanted to add this to the agenda to make everyone aware of what is going on in the area. He said that there is still seven hundred acres in Poplar Grove that is undeveloped that was not included in earlier deals. There was a proposal to have it annexed into the Town of Hollywood and zoned up to 7 houses per acre. This would cause tremendous problems trying to get out of Davidson Rd and generate a lot of traffic from here to town. This would affect both the towns of Hollywood and Meggett. The Mayor Pro Tem also added that The Town of Hollywood voted down the development agreement but still has to decide whether to annex the property into the town.

SCE&G:

Mayor Herrington stated that he has had several phone calls over the past few weeks with Troy Jeffcoat with SCE&G. They are going to begin another round of limb trimming in our town and the surrounding towns to keep the limbs off of the power lines. There has been a lot of resistance from some of our residents over the past years when they have done the trimming. There is a question of how far they should trim them and how little they should trim them. SCE&G has had one meeting and have arranged another next week with the Mayor. He said that they have a new procedure they are going to use to do the trimming and how to address the concerns and complaints of the residents. Council Member Keith McCarty said that he has a problem with this because downtown the power lines are run through the oak trees and out here they destroy the trees. Mayor Herrington said that he has had numerous calls about the same thing but SCE&G will tell you if they do not cut them and they fall on the line, then the line is down. Council Member McCarty said he does appreciate being able to turn on the lights when he needs them, but they absolutely destroy trees out here and other areas of the county. He added that you can go into some nice neighborhoods and they do not touch them, they just run the lines right through the tree. Mayor Herrington said that he hopes SCE&G will have a better way this time around and he would let council know after the meeting with them.

Purchase of Property TMS# 192-00-00-044:

Mayor Herrington stated this is the parcel next to Town Hall with the blue house on it and an additional acre. We have had the property appraised and have made a tentative offer to the property owners. The town cannot move forward with this until there is a resolution from this council authorizing him to move forward. He asked for questions and concerns. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto said he would like to propose a resolution be drawn up by the Town Attorney authorizing the Mayor to move forward with negotiations and that the price for the purchase of the property not to exceed the appraisal price or \$100,000.00 max (if that is less than the appraisal price). Council Member Matt Zender asked if we know what the appraisal price is. Mayor Herrington stated that the appraisal price is \$125,000. Council Member McCarty seconded

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 25, 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

the motion. With no further discussion Mayor Herrington asked that all in favor of his entering into a contract not to exceed \$100,000.00 to purchase property TMS # 192-00-00-044 signify by saying I. All were in favor.

Christmas Tree Festival and Lighting:

Mayor Herrington announced that the Christmas Tree Lighting and Festival would be held on December 7th. The festival will begin at 10am and last until 3pm and the Tree Lighting will begin at 7pm.

Planning Commissioners Meeting and Schedule:

The first Planning Commissioners meeting was held about a month ago for the 5 year review on the Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor talked with the county and dates that work for Andrea Pietras for the next meeting are Jan 13th and 20th which are both Mondays. He asked for the meeting to be scheduled with the Commissioners and the County since none of council had a conflict.

Status of AC Theft Case:

Mayor Herrington said that he had no new news in reference to the air conditioner theft since about five months ago. He further stated that there has yet to be a trial scheduled and the gentleman that was apprehended is out on bail and is awaiting trial. Council Member Matt Zender asked what happened to a speedy trial. Council Member Keith McCarty stated that it is about an eighteen month window. He added that this is not a high priority case, rapists, murders and child molesters are at the top, but it will work its way up.

Hollywood Park in Meggett:

Council Member Matt Zender asked if the sale of the park had gone through. Council Member McCarty said that he had talked briefly with Mayor Heyward of Hollywood at the Grand Opening. She said it was not a final thing yet, that they had a lot of work to do. He added that she did not seem discouraged by any means, just had more work that needed to be done. Council Member Zender said that he wished that Hollywood would at least let the Town of Meggett know what they have in mind, is it going to be a passive park or what. Mayor Herrington said that the word he has from Council Member Sausser is that their goal is to make it an equestrian facility with other venues like a passive park with trails, things like that. He also added for parties and weddings but emphasis on equestrian. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto said that the property is set up for horses now.

Resident Bobby Shealy asked if it was legal for Hollywood to purchase property in the Town of Meggett. Mayor Herrington stated that anyone can purchase property in our town. Mr. Shealy asked if they had to have approval from the Mayor of Meggett. Mayor Herrington answered by stating, not to purchase it. Council Member Tommy Butler added that it will come under our zoning.

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

The Pavilion has been pressured washed in preparation for our Tree Lighting. The SCPA building porch has been pressure washed and will be painted next week. The Town Hall closet has been completed except for the painting; the

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 25, 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

priming was done today. Mayor Herrington reported that the recent storm broke the top out of the large cedar tree behind Town Hall and he had the top removed and hauled off. The fountain in the pond is still out of order. The Mayor stated that he has ordered a part for it and hopes to have that in next week. SCE&G put a new pole in behind the Meggett town sign. The meter box will be removed from the old pole next week and placed on the new one.

The silver metal building in front of Ernest Rentz's yard is property owned by AT&T. Mayor Herrington stated that they have been around and around on who is responsible for the old pole in front of the building that does not have any wires on it. The Corporate Office in Atlanta sent someone out to inspect it and said it did not appear to be theirs. However, after Mayor Herrington's telling the representative that AT&T is paying taxes on it and a phone call to the office, he said it did belong to AT&T and they would remove it shortly.

AC Electric will give us an estimate on removing the street lights through the town center that we want removed and repairing the ones we want repaired. The Mayor hopes to have these estimates next week.

The Mayor thanked Barb and Bill Watson and Phyllis and Ken Schilling for doing the Thanksgiving decorations at the Town of Meggett sign. He also said thanks to David and Rebecca Singleton and Trudy Herrington and any others that have been working around Town Hall and the SCPA Bldg getting ready for the Tree Lighting ceremony.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto said that we had a beautiful opening for Roxbury Park a few weeks ago. He stated that we had a lot of volunteers and thanked everyone for their help. The float on the dock has been completed and now we are waiting on bids for the first picnic shelter in the parking area. The park is now open every Saturday and Sunday from 8am – 6pm.

Communications report given by: Council Member Keith McCarty

The Web Designers will make their presentations to the town for the new website at the February meeting.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

For October 2013, the town's checking account went down \$18,000. We spent \$27,000 for the upgrades and dedication at Roxbury Park. We spent \$2000.00 on the appraisal on the property we are looking to buy and \$2000.00 on the dehumidifier and the kitchen upgrade in Town Hall. These were out of the ordinary expenditures. We will however get 50% of the money spent for upgrades on Roxbury Park back, which is around \$13,000. The Wastewater account went up \$6000.00 and the Meggett 1925 account stayed the same.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

The main is in on the Wilson Road project. They have pressure tested it, flushed it and now they are sterilizing it. After it is sterilized, it will sit for a week, they will flush it twice, let water sit in it for another week and take a sample and send to DHEC for approval. If DHEC does not approve it, they will sterilize it again. They are hoping to get all of the work done including reconnecting the houses by the second week in December. The Hydrogen Sulfide problem continues. Gene McCall finally got a cost estimate for \$25,000 and another \$10,000 for installation on this latest equipment. Mr. McCall feels we should wait until the patent expires in 2014. He will look at the system Dorchester County has and see if he can build one for the town. He also added that he thinks it's going to be a higher maintenance program than he thought previously.

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 25, 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165

The paving will not be done on Wilson Rd until March of 2014 because of the weather conditions; January and February are our rainy months.

Mayor Herrington asked the status of removing the poles at the bridge, so the bridge can be replaced. Council Member Zender stated that SCE&G said the poles are in the right of way and it will cost \$25,000 to remove them. Robert Clark with DOT says that money is not in his budget so he has to wait until he get the funds approved for the bridge and he will include the cost of removing the poles. Council Member Tommy Butler said that it would be nice to have the bridge completed prior to paving of Wilson Rd so that they did not tear up Wilson Rd with the heavy trucks. Council Member Zender stated that once the road is repaved it will be a much more solid road than it is now, it will be rated for heavy trucks.

Public Comments:

Resident Bobby Shealy stated his concern that the property Hollywood is going to purchase will be treated as privately owned. He asked if they have to abide by Meggett Ordinances since it is owned by Hollywood. Mayor Herrington stated they would have to meet all of our UDO requirements as well as our ordinances. Attorney Andy Gowder added that they would be treated as a private owner. Council Member Zender said it would have to go before the BZA for any changes. A resident asked where the property is located. Mayor Herrington stated that it is the Gillispie Track; the back is on Toogoodoo Rd and the front is on Hwy 164 by the Migrant Camp and the old EMS station. It is a little over 200 acres.

With no other comments, Mayor Herrington made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal contractual matter.

Council returned at 8:03pm. Mayor Herrington stated that no decisions were made and asked for a motion to dismiss the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto made a motion to dismiss which was seconded by Council Member Tommy Butler.

Submitted by Ellie Brabham