

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 22, 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:	Ellie Brabham

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

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Motion for Approval of Minutes from previous meeting held on: August 25, 2014 Council Meeting

Motion made by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Seconded by: Council Member Matt Zender

In Favor: Mayor Buster Herrington
Council Member Tommy Butler
Council Member Matt Zender

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes were approved as written*

MUNICODE:

Mayor Herrington stated that Ordinance 2014-02 was read at the August Council Meeting and asked for a motion for approval of the Second Reading and adoption of the Ordinance. Council Member Matt Zender made the motion which was second by Council Member Tommy Butler and approved by all. Motion was passed and, Ordinance 2014-02 was adopted.

Lowcountry Boil – Roxbury Park:

Mayor Herrington reminded everyone that on October 18th the town is sponsoring a Lowcountry Boil at Roxbury Park. This is a fundraiser for improvements to the park. He stated that tickets are on sale online on the Robury website or in the Town Hall. The Mayor added that the tickets are \$25.00 per couple, \$15.00 for Individuals and children over 13 and that

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ticket prices would be going up after October 1st. Council Member Tommy Butler asked if we would be serving hamburgers and hotdogs as well. The Mayor stated that we would.

Meggett Creek Bridge:

Mayor Herrington asked Council Member Matt Zender if he had heard any news on the Meggett Creek Bridge. Council Member Zender stated that he had talked with Robert Clark with SCDOT on Friday and it is still on a high priority list but they do not do a one, two, three order. Robert is hopeful that it will be scheduled for the first part of next year.

Business License Fees:

The Mayor stated that the town is looking into the process of using Debit and Credit cards for Business License fees but card companies charge a fee for the transactions. He has asked Town Attorney Andy Gowder if the town can charge a fee to cover the cost that we are charged for each transaction. Council Member Tommy Butler stated that Charleston County passes the fee on to residents when they pay property taxes with a card. Mayor Herrington said that allowing card use is a courtesy but at the same time takes away from our revenue. Council Member Matt Zender asked how much the fee would be. Council Member Butler stated that it averages 2 to 3 percent depending on the card. Mayor Herrington said that some municipalities, for example, charge \$35.00 for Business License if the card is used, if the customer pays cash, the license is \$32.00, which works out to about 3%. We could offer a discount for cash and flat fee for credit card. With council's approval the Mayor will get Attorney Gowder to draw up the paperwork for the town to move forward in accepting credit and debit card payments for Business License.

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington stated that most of his report is in reference to Roxbury. The roof and doors have been installed on the picnic shelter. Rentz has put soil around the shelter and did some grading to get the water running away from it. The poles and decking of the bridge across the peninsula pond have been installed. The poles have been installed on the walkway through the low part but the decking has not. The Eagle Scouts have been there two or three weekends in a row and they have the little 16 foot bridge across the big canal, which was part of their project, completed. They are also working on the front part of that same ditch, on the end by the hayfield driveway. The scouts are leveling that off so when you come off of the four way intersection, you can turn right and walk down that ditch and cross on the other end. Council Member Tommy Butler asked about the scum (Duck Weed) in the pond. The Mayor stated that we do need to do something about it. On some days, when the wind blows it is only on one end, but other days the pond is completely covered. Mayor Herrington stated that the avenue going into Roxbury has been bush hogged and a bunch of limbs and debris has been hauled off. This past weekend, the Mayor put in the smoke detectors, the TV, and repaired towel racks in the cottage and plans to repair two lights in the garage area before the upcoming function.

The water line beside Town Hall has been bored underground across the road to the park and we are waiting for the Dept of Transportation to come out and do the final inspection. Once that is done the plumbers are lined up to come out and trench where the fountain will be.

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Council Member Matt Zender inquired as to why the cherry picker was in the town center area last week. Mayor Herrington stated that Chris Wilson was doing work on the air conditioner in the SCPA Bldg. The compressor went out on the unit that controls the front part of the upstairs of the building. The Mayor stated that he had also asked Chris to clean out the gutter on the back of the building.

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

Mayor Herrington stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto is not here for updates on Roxbury.

Council Member Matt Zender asked how we were coming along on the right-of-way the town is planning to purchase. He stated that he is having second thoughts. It's a long way from 174 inland and it refers to Barrelville Rd which is owned by the Fisk brothers, and doesn't know if we have access to it. He asked should we purchase something for \$100,000, even if we get the matching funds, on something we can't even access. Council Member Zender further added that it is not in Meggett and there is no chance of us to ever annex it. Mayor Herrington asked Council Member Zender to keep that paperwork and at the next council meeting Council may have an update from Attorney Andy Gowder. The Mayor stated that Attorney Gowder had sent several letters to them. Council Member Zender also asked if the legal fees for this are covered under our contract. The Mayor stated that they are. The Council Member added that his understanding is that there would be no repairs on the bridge, but the paperwork states that the bridge is dangerous so repairs would probably need to be done. He further added that he would rather take the 100,000 and buy more property around the Town Center, like the lot next door.

Communications: Council Member Ketih McCarty

Council Member Keith McCarty was not in attendance to give his report.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler:

Council Member Butler stated that the town's checking account went up \$7,900 since last month. He added that the CD's did not change, the Wastewater account went up \$4,400, and Meggett 1925 did not change. The only out of the ordinary expenses were money being spent at Roxbury on the shelter and walkway.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

Council Member Zender asked Mayor Herrington if he had heard anything from Charleston Water Systems. The Mayor stated he and Attorney Gowder had met with them. Ken Hill of CWS stated that they are not interested in taking our system back as of yet, but we are in the process of talking about some other avenues. He added that the town has asked to hire them as our contractor but that has to go before their board and we are waiting on an answer. In the meantime the Mayor stated he has a verbal contract with a local contractor and should have the signed paperwork by the end of the week for major repairs, day to day, week to week, and month to month maintenance. Council Member Zender asked if this contractor was to take the place of Gene McCall, and if this had gone out for bid. The Mayor said that they will replace Gene McCall but this was only temporary and had not gone out for bid. Mayor Herrington added that he had given the contractor a copy of Gene McCall's contract and theirs would be similar. However, the Mayor said he had added a section to include the PUPs locates. He stated that we get calls or emails from PUPs regularly with locate requests from Real Estate Agents to someone planting flowers and most recently Charleston Water Systems. Mayor Herrington stated that he had sent a letter to Columbia and copied PUPS on it. He added that we have to have accountability from the person who is calling in for the locate. He further added there is nothing to prevent them from calling in ten times a day. Mayor Herrington added that he wants people to call in for locates but not on frivolous stuff such as real estate signs and moving plants. Why should the town be responsible for a realtor putting up a sign? Council Member Zender asked if we

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could charge them. The Mayor said that was also his question. He understands someone putting in lines, fiber-optic etc but not for a private deal. Mayor Herrington then explained to council that he and Ellie have to read each report that comes in to make sure it is a property in the Town of Meggett requesting the locate. Many times we have found that locates charged to the town were not even in our town.

Council Member Zender stated there may be some good news for us, Palmetto Rural Coop Telephone Company, out of Walterboro, has run a fiber-optic line down Hwy 17 to Hwy 174, branched off at Hwy 162 and kept going down Hwy 174 to Little Britton Rd to the tower on Roy Smoak's property. They are picking up the cell tower there, so there will be better reception for AT&T and Verizon, as well as the Fire Station. The other line goes up Hwy 162 and they have picked up the four schools in that area. The main reason they ran the fiber-optic is because the schools were looking for better service. Comcast and Frontier were not interested. Palmetto was able to get a grant to run the lines the forty miles to this area. The plan is to continue all of the way up Hwy 162 make a turn and go all the way down Hwy 17 and pick up the school on the other side of Hwy 17. They made the application to the FCC to do business as well as residential. They expect that to be approved in the next month or so. They would like to come to the council meeting sometimes the first of next year to see what kind of interest we have. Council Member Zender stated that he is very much interested and maybe we could have them make a presentation to the three towns, Hollywood, Meggett and Ravenel. Mayor Herrington asked if this is their own line or are they piggy backing on another line. Council Member Zender said that it is their line. He added that Palmetto also received grant money for the schools and fire department but for businesses and rural they would be on their own, so they would need participation. He further stated that the cost is \$28,000 a mile to run fiber-optic. Council Member Tommy Butler said he didn't know why it should cost that much, to which Council Member Zender stated with permits and locates etc. it adds up. Maybe in the more densely populated rural areas we will finally get some decent phone and internet service. He added that he would keep council apprised of the progress.

Council Member Zender stated that in the Meggett Messenger, Jody Crosby stated in her article that you always have to get a building permit, but that is not correct, you do not for anything under \$2500 in the Town of Meggett. The Mayor stated that Jody evidentially is unaware of the \$2500 ordinance the town has, but he will clarify that with her.

With nothing else Mayor Herrington asked if there were any public comments.

Public Comments:

Resident David Baer asked if the Mayor could recap the history of the Meggett Creek Bridge so that he would know what was going on. Mayor Herrington stated that about two and a half years ago the Dept of Transportation (DOT) asked us to remove our sewage lines which is on this side of the road and asked Charleston Water System to remove the water line which is on the other side. CWS and the town used the same contractor to remove the lines which was done in a timely matter. DOT had the money appropriated for the bridge but a storm hit which took a lot of the money for those repairs. There was also a power line issue. Some of the power lines had to be removed in order to get a crane in which they had not allowed for in their budget. Council Member Zender stated that DOT and SCE&G were in a disagreement over who owned the right of way. SCE&G said it was their right of way and poles and DOT would have to pay another \$30,000. That has also held it up, so now the town is patiently waiting on DOT. It is high on the priority list but there are a lot of other bridges in SC that are in tough shape also. He added that we are at the top of the list and hopefully will have the work done this January or February because there is a weight restriction on the bridge now. In answer to a question from the public as to what would be done, Mayor Herrington stated that it will be a completely new bridge. It began as just a repair but they have decided to completely replace the bridge.

Resident Gale Smoak asked if the proposed bridge would be higher than the current bridge. Council Member Zender stated it wider and stronger, maybe a little higher, but not much. She added that there are no signs going down

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Toogoodoo Rd stating that there is a detour away from the bridge. The Mayor stated that the sign comes and goes, some days they will have it up and some days not.

Resident Linda Baer asked about the availability of sewer taps. Mayor Herrington stated that when the sewer system was installed we were allotted so many gallons of flow which equated to 167 taps. These taps were sold quickly. Some people bought more than one in hopes of developing their property. Since that time we have about 31 tapped into the system. Two of those are Medal Trades and Stevens Towing. There are 50 taps that are now bank owned. The town has a standing order to purchase them back should the bank decide to get rid of them, but they have not budged on that. Council Member Butler stated that Charleston Water limited the amount of flow that we could have so we are not able to acquire anymore taps. Mrs. Baer asked if the whole road has to be tapped in. Mayor Herrington stated that it did not, however if the line runs in front of your property and you are able to get a tap, you can tap into it. He further added that a lot of the taps that are owned are attached to a TMS number that does not even come close to the sewer line. Council Member Zender stated that we do charge a monthly fee just for holding the taps. We had hoped that would sway some of these tap owners to be sell them back to the town but that has not happened.

The Mayor thanked David Singleton for the great job he is doing cutting the grass.

Meeting was closed by Mayor Herrington at 7:40pm

Submitted by Ellie Brabham