

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 23, 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	P	Matt Zender	P
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

Minutes from previous meeting held on: August 26, 2013 Council Meeting

Motion made by: Mayor Pro-tem Tom Hutto

Seconded by: Council Member Keith McCarty

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

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes were approved*

Lowcountry Leadership Charter School:

Mayor Herrington stated that the Lowcountry Leadership Charter School facility is not completed yet. They have negotiated a sixty day lease to house the students at the R D Schroder facility. The first two days of classes were held at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, but all classes have now moved into the school. Council Member Matt Zender asked who is responsible for paying the rent for these sixty days. The Mayor stated that the developer will be paying this bill.

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Meggett Property around Town Hall:

Council member Keith McCarty proposed that the town consider purchasing the property at the corner of Hwy 165 and Coastline Rd. He feels that the town should purchase all properties within the vicinity of the town center. This will give the town control of how land is being utilized in and around the town center. He added that he thinks the house sits on one acre but the same owner has a parcel of property behind the house and the town may be able to obtain a piece of that to increase the size of the property. Council member McCarty said the town could probably purchase the property with the added piece for a little over \$100,000. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto suggested we have it appraised to make sure of its value before making a decision. Mayor Herrington asked Council Member McCarty if he would like to make a motion to have the property appraised.

Motion: To contact an appraiser to appraise the property near Town Hall on the corner of Hwy 165 and Coastline Rd.

Motion made by: Council Member 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 Matt Zender

Opposed:

Conclusion: Motion was approved

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington reported that the security cameras have been installed in Town Hall. One has been placed in Town Hall, two in back of Town Hall to cover the side driveway and the SCPA bldg, and one on the front porch. The monitor is in Town Hall. Chris Wilson installed a moisture barrier and dehumidifier under Town Hall. The rear door of Town Hall has been replaced; it had begun to warp and was scraping the floor in the kitchen area when opened. The subfloor in the bathroom and kitchen area has been repaired, the tile has been installed, and the plumbing repaired. We have the new cabinet for the kitchen which will be installed once we receive the counter top later next week. Council member Zender asked if the tile was going to be put in the closet. The Mayor stated that once the kitchen and bathroom were finished everything would be moved out of the closet and it would be tiled.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that we had received prices for completing the dock and would make a decision on those soon. This past weekend an ad was placed in the paper for bids on a small picnic shelter for Roxbury Park. Those

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bids have to be in by October 10th. We have received reimbursement for the road repair and parking area construction at Roxbury Park. The official opening of the park is still scheduled for November 9, 2013.

Communications report given by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Council member McCarty reported that he is in constant contact with Municode and they keep telling him everything will be complete in a few more weeks. He has talked with four Web Designers that will submit proposals for the new website. He proposed that council have a workshop and have each company do a presentation. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto suggested maybe we could get a proposal from each one ahead of time and will be able to narrow down exactly which one the town would prefer. Council agreed to have a workshop on a week night to meet with the Web Designers.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Butler stated that the town's checking account went down \$6500 and the Wastewater Checking account went up \$1100. The only expenditures coming out other than customary were \$1779 spent on the kitchen and bathroom for Town Hall, \$1920 for the shell sand placed in the park across from Town Hall, the annual maintenance contract for the elevator, which is just once a year, and \$5479 at Roxbury Park for the floors in the cabin and millwork. He added that it is customary for us to have the majority of the expenditures at the beginning of the year and receive the higher revenue at the end of the year.

Mayor Herrington asked Attorney Andy Gowder if the bank was still holding the sewer taps. Attorney Gowder stated that they were and they have not responded to his attempts to contact them. They are however paying the quarterly tap fees imposed by the town.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

Council member Matt Zender reported that Gene McCall is working with a company in Illinois to determine what size machine will be needed to handle our hydrogen sulfide issue. He says that the cost will be around \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the actual machine. If we have to have a tank, he is not sure how much the tank, filling it and pump line will be. Other than that there is nothing new. He stated he has asked Robert Clark with SCDOT to give an update on the Meggett Bridge as far as getting a new one or getting it repaired. He stated he had also talked to CPW on replacing the water lines on Wilson Rd. They will be putting in a new 12 inch line and anticipating laying 100 ft a day. They will be laying pipe under water, which is a difficult job. It looks like it will be December before that section of the road will be done.

Robert Clark

Wilson Rd reconstruction – The contractor was ready to move in to start work in September but CWS notified us that they were also beginning reconstruction of their water line in the same section of road. They are not looking to be done until December so we would miss this construction season. Our contractor rearranged his schedule and now anticipates moving into this road in March (the beginning of next construction season). The work will be a reconstruction of the road base by reclaiming the base and modifying it with cement. Then hot mix asphalt will be placed as a riding surface. This process creates a very stable, long term road capable of carrying all types of traffic.

SC 165 bridge over Meggett Creek- this bridge was identified for inclusion in a bridge construction program using newly allocated monies from the Legislature. Since the SCDOT follows Act 114, we must prioritize all projects based on legislatively directed a criterion which is then placed in a statewide list for Commission approval. Our district's candidates have been analyzed, reviewed by HQ personnel and prioritized. They are presently working on other

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candidates from different areas and the entire state package should go to the Commission in October for approval. Once the approval is obtained, then the specifications will be finalized and advertised for bids. If the tentative schedule holds, projects should be started the first part of next year. In the meantime, our bridge inspectors are watching the bridge on a routine basis for any significant deterioration.

Council Member Zender asked if council could discuss the Hollywood park. Mayor Herrington stated that he had received a call last Thursday from Kathy Ruff informing him that Hollywood had requested funding for a 210 acre parcel off of Hwys 162 and 164, the Gillespie Tract, which is located in the Town of Meggett. They have received preliminary approval from the Charleston County Finance Committee for Green Belt Funding to purchase the property for an outdoor recreational type park. He stated that Mayor Heyward of Hollywood apologized for not informing the town of their intentions. It still has to go before Charleston County Council but does not appear thus far to be any opposition. Council member Zender asked if they would attempt to annex the property into Hollywood. Attorney Andy Gowder stated that it is almost impossible to annex property from one municipality to another. He stated that it is hopeful that both towns will be able to work together on this project. He further stated that the Town of Meggett will not be responsible financially for its upkeep. Council member Tommy Butler suggested that Hollywood should come before the Meggett council and let the town know of its intentions for the park.

Public Comments:

Resident Angie Watts asked if Meggett will still have a park. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto said yes. It was explained to Mrs. Watts that we have Roxbury Park and Hollywood along with this new park, which is in the Town of Meggett, also has Wideawake.

Resident Barbara Neale expressed her concerns for the Halloween event, Skinful Halloween LLC, that has been scheduled on Oct 26th in the Town of Meggett. She stated it has been in Charleston and James Island in the past with a fatal accident after one of the previous year's events. She further stated the website promotes the event as a night of debauchery, drinking, nakedness etc. In the past the event has had 2500 visitors and this year it has been issued a business license by the Town of Meggett. She is concerned for the safety of the citizens, loud music, traffic on Toogoodoo Rd, etc. Mrs. Neale asked why the Town of Meggett would issue this establishment a business license. Ellie Brabham, Town Administrator, replied to Mrs. Neale by stating that she issued the license under the impression that this event was similar to the Halloween Extravaganza held by St Paul's Academy in previous years. She was told it was a charity event and there is nothing in the town's ordinances that prohibits the town from issuing a license. Mrs. Brabham further stated she was not aware of the type of business it is, since it was not presented to her in that way. Attorney Andy Gowder said that the town does have a noise ordinance they would have to abide by. He also added that the company should have applied for a zoning permit before purchasing a business license since that property is not zoned for such an event. Since they did not, the business license is void. He further stated that there are three permits that Charleston County requires for such an event. Resident Eric Meyer, a member of Charleston County Planning Commissioners, stated that they could not keep up with all of the problems from this event in the past.

On a different note, resident David Smoak stated that he has been involved with the Exchange Club since 1972 and invited those in the audience to attend. He added that the Exchange Club is definitely a charity event and all proceeds go back into the community. One of their main purposes is prevention of child abuse. Resident Angie Watts asked if women were invited. Mr. Smoak said absolutely, they do have women members and the club meets the first Monday of every month.

Resident Ken Schilling said he read in the minutes about a 24 hour protection policy in regards to one of the grants and wondered what happened where that grant was concerned. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that to apply for that particular grant, Roxbury Park would have to remain open 24 hours, 7 days a week. He stated that we were not prepared to remain open 24/7 at this time, so the town withdrew their request.

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Mr. Schilling expressed his concerns to Council member Matt Zender about the numbers continually going up on the new sewer system. He said previously it was \$14,000 and tonight it is \$15,000 to \$20,000. He also feels the town should not be the first to try a new system from a patent that has expired. Council member Zender stated that there is one in Dorchester County. He and Gene McCall plan to see how it works and what the cost will be. Council member Zender stated that to rebuild the pumps is extremely expensive. So far we have been very lucky because Hollywood has been paying for all repairs. The pipe is oversized and it takes 20 days for the affluent to go from Metal Trades to pump station 4, the whole digestive process takes place in that pipe. When it gets to pump station 4 and pours down to the dry wall, hydrogen sulfide is released and turns into sulfuric acid. It eats the pumps, the pipes, the walls etc. He added that we are not going to buy something unless we know it works, we need to do something now because current issues cannot wait until 2014.

With no other comments the Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter.

Council returned from Executive Session and Mayor Herrington stated that no action had been taken. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Submitted by Ellie Brabham