

TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 27, 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:	Erica Schaffer

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

Prayer given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Pledge led by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting held on: September 22, 2014 Council Meeting

Motion made by: Council Member Keith McCarty

Seconded by: Council Member Matt Zender

In Favor: Mayor Buster Herrington
 Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto
 Council Member Tommy Butler
 Attorney Andy Gowder

Opposed:

Conclusion: *Minutes were approved as written*

ROXBURY:

Mayor Herrington announced that our First Annual Lowcountry Boil was held on October 18, 2014. He took a moment to thank many people who participated in helping cook, serve, set up, and prepare for the event. It was a wonderful day. The event was fabulous. We got a lot of nice comments and cards in regards to the event. The summary of what we spent and what we brought in has been completed and we had a net profit of \$1,353.10. Mayor ProTem Tom Hutto thanked the Mayor for all of his hard work.

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Meggett Creek Bridge:

Council Member Matt Zender stated that the bridge was still a high priority but it would not get started this year. He also stated that Robert Clark was out of town so he was unable to speak to him regarding an update. Mayor Herrington stated that he has received a few phone calls from Metal Trades voicing their concerns over the lack of use of the bridge. They are having problems with the detour due to low hanging limbs. SCDOT came out and trimmed the limbs but they didn't trim them far enough up. Metal Trades had to apply for a permit to have the trees cut back further. Council Member Matt Zender asked if that was for Hwy 165 or Wilson Road. Mayor Herrington advised him the permit was for limbs on Hwy 165, Wilson Road, & Toogoodoo Road. Metal Trades has applied for the encroachment permit. They received it today and are sending the work out for bids. Mayor Herrington stated that Metal Trades also offered to make a donation to begin the bridge construction. He is unsure of the amount but he will find out. Metal Trades is tired of waiting for the bridge to be repaired. Mayor ProTem Tommy Butler asked if we had exhausted everything that we know of to get the bridge repaired. Mayor Herrington stated that he felt like we had exhausted every avenue especially since the head of SCDOT lives across the bridge. He stated that the money must come from higher up since Robert Clark hasn't been able to push the process through. Council Member Matt Zender said it was not the right season for pouring concrete. Mayor ProTem Tom Hutto stated that when the right season comes back in we need to be ready to begin. Mayor Herrington stated that the trucks have to swing it wide to make that turn and you can see where the tracks are because the turn is so difficult. One of the trucks almost flipped over last week. Metal Trades is getting beyond anxious for this repair.

Lights in Front of Town Hall/ Runway:

Mayor Herrington stated that he has been working with Carl Beck and AC Electric. We have 39 light poles 20 of which work, 19 do not, and 9 of them have globes that are damaged or missing. Carl Beck is preparing an estimate for us to remove every other one completely verses replacing the ballasts and the bulbs. Currently we have 175 watt bulbs in each light. They were installed in three separate phases and they do not operate on a continuous loop. We have three different loops. Mr. Beck is not sure which lights are tied to which loop and he is reviewing the plans now to try to determine that information. Hopefully we will have a quote this week.

Drainage Ditches

Mayor Herrington stated that we have received numerous calls about ditches not draining properly due to the excessive rain we have had this year. He sent in a work order to the county last month. They have started cleaning debris out of some of them. There are 3 main drainage ditches. One of them is right across from the Church and runs through Mr. Bartee's property all the way down Toogoodoo Road.

Town of Meggett Sign:

Mayor Herrington stated that we have a quote from Roberts Sign Company and they are ready to move forward with our new sign however he stated that he had spoken to SCE&G and they mentioned that we might want to hold off for a bit as they are considering moving their power line forward because it's not in the center of their right of way which would change the placement of our sign. Mayor Herrington said he is checking into the style and design of the sign. He is concerned if we go back with the material we have on our current sign we will be replacing the sign again in 10-12 years. The wood is just not holding up.

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Meggett Park:

Mayor Herrington stated that David Singleton has been doing a lot of extra maintenance and landscaping across the street in the Meggett Park. We had the playground equipment and the fence around the small children's area pressure washed as well as the picnic shelter area. Some of it required pressure washing again this week due to an incident in the park. The tulip polar trees are on order that we are going to put back in place of the gum trees. As soon as they come in David Singleton, Bill Meeks, and Mayor Herrington will install them. They are planning to remove four (4) myrtle bushes at that time as well. Council Member Keith McCarty suggested that we add a video camera over at the park due to the recent "vandalism" and other strange occurrences taking place in the park. Mayor Herrington said he talked to Chris from the camera company and he is getting us a quote for a wireless system. The Mayor also stated that he thought the video camera was a good idea seeing as some strange things have been happening recently. He will email the quote.

Website:

Jerry was unable to attend the meeting therefore no new information was provided in regard to the website.

Council Member Reports:

Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington

Mayor Herrington provided an update on Roxbury Park. The small picnic shelter has been completed. Roger Brabham took some of his own time to clean up the area surrounding the picnic shelter and it looks very nice. It has been regraded and reseeded. The bridge/walkway is also complete. The Mayor stated that he hoped everyone saw the article in the Post & Courier last week. Ken Carmen helped line that up and helped do the story. He added that the article was very good for our town. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that it was good publicity for the town. Council Member Matt Zender brought the newspaper to share with all of the meeting attendees. Mayor Herrington stated that Patrick Butler took the time to write the History of Roxbury which starts in the late 1600's.

One of the former pastors of Calvary Baptist Church contacted Mayor Herrington and asked him if he would be interested in obtaining the file cabinet that was used by the Mayor and Council back in the 1950's. The Mayor stated that he jumped at the chance to get this piece. It was given to them by a former council member when they were still using the front office inside the SCPA as the Town Hall. The pastor remembered that he had the cabinet and thought we might like to have it back.

Council Member Tommy Butler had a question concerning alligators and wondered if they pose a threat to visitors at the park. Mayor Herrington responded that generally the smaller alligators such as those that are 4 or 5 foot are not aggressive, however there is one that has been sighted that is quiet large and needs to be removed from the park. Council Member Tommy Butler suggested that we put up signs stating that alligators are present just to provide visitors with the warning to use caution.

Grants and Special Projects given by: Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto stated that we have two issues on grants. It is time to place the conservation easement on Roxbury. This was a stipulation that we agreed to as part of the original grant. I have the Lowcountry Open Land Trust working with me on the easement. We have completed two or three rounds of drafts. Basically, the easement says we can't change what we are doing. We have to provide provisions for adding cabins if we decide to do something like that in the

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future. Roxbury will not have baseball fields or water parks. It will be a passive park for pretty much what it's doing now. If we have the final draft we may need to vote on this issue at the next council meeting. We received the grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund through the US Park Service. They agreed to pay 50% of the new picnic shelter, walkway, signs, and road which have been completed. We still have the large picnic shelter and a few fishing platforms to complete with this grant which they will also pay 50%. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutto also stated that he would find out from the Greenbelt Coordinator Kathy Ruff what day she would like to meet.

Communications: Council Member Keith McCarty

Council Member Keith McCarty stated that the website designer has informed him he is in the final stages of design. He is ready to link Municode to it. If anyone wants to update their bio's or add anything to the website we need to get it to him now.

Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler

Council Member Tommy Butler stated that the bank balance from our checking account last month went down \$20,000.00. A lot of our income comes in at the latter part of our fiscal year so that is the reason for that. The wastewater account went up \$1,800.00. The Meggett 1925 went up \$65.00. The only out of the ordinary expenses was the waterline bore for the drinking water fountain that will be installed in Meggett Park. We had some Roxbury expenses but they weren't out of the ordinary because they were items that had been budgeted.

Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender

Council Member Matt Zender stated that he had a meeting with CWS and they confirmed the decision for CWS to take over the maintenance of our wastewater system is not on their agenda this month. CWS did say that it might be on the following month's agenda. Council Member Zender stated that he still hasn't heard from the coop for the phone system. Hopefully we will get positive feedback from the government for them to lay down new phone lines for residential and businesses to get us a higher speed internet. He said that he is still working diligently on the water survey and is hoping to get it submitted in early November which will aid in getting city water to residents down Quigley, Early Jersey, & Ethel Post Office Road. He was informed it would be done in stages if it was approved. Council Member Zender also explained to meeting attendees exactly what he was doing. He goes door to door on Saturday's speaking to people about trying to get them city water. It has been a very long slow process. A lot of people want the water down in that area. Mayor Pro Tem Hutto asked which grant would cover this expense. Council Member Zender stated that CWS said they will handle the whole thing. They will request the grant, complete water tests, and possibly use them to get the grant approved.

Public Comments:

Resident, Ken Schilling stated that on the Meggett Creek Bridge he has been volunteering and directing traffic for Metal Trades lately. They have some trucks with 80 foot loads. He added that Metal Trades is getting fined or having to pay additional fees from the trucking company for something they were not expecting. Mr. Schilling asked council to please do whatever they can to push the bridge repair to top priority on DOT's list. He also stated that he is having drainage ditch issues. He can't drain his ditch at all. He asked if Ethel PO is on the list for the current drainage project. Mayor Herrington told him that his section is not on the first portion of the work. Mr. Schilling asked if we had a time frame yet. Mayor Herrington stated that he had not been given a time frame.

Dr. Helen Frasier, retired personnel from the Charleston County School District addressed council. She stated, First, I'd like to thank Keith McCarty for responding to a letter of concern that I sent to the Mayor regarding our first visit to Roxbury Park. I am here tonight to report a hostile encounter that I had with Mr. Ken Carman on September 12, 2014. I

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sent a letter to Mr. Herrington and Mr. McCarty expressing my concern and was totally shocked at the reply I received from Mr. Herrington. I was accused of disregarding multiple signs, driving through a barricaded driveway, a drainage ditch, a woodland area, and damaging topsoil around the picnic shelter. Upon reading the letter I realized that the accusation was not only false but it was very condescending and unprofessional. Mr. Herrington's letter expressed deep seeded hostility and hatred from a person who doesn't know me and who questions my integrity as a professional. Instead of getting angry I prayed for you Mr. Herrington. We can only destroy hatred with love. Mr. Herrington, I love you, I am praying for you, and there is nothing you can do about it. Have a good evening.

Resident, Harry V. Herrington, Jr. said he had a couple of comments. My first comment is regarding the railroad topic that you mentioned earlier. What I remember about the right of way was it is supposed to revert to the original owners. You may need to research this if CSX is trying to sell you the right of way.

Resident, David Smoak said he would like to thank everyone for putting on the Lowcountry Boil. He suggested we put the history of Roxbury in the newsletter and also discuss how we were so lucky to acquire this property. Public Announcement - November 9th at 4pm Christ Saint Paul's Church will be having the One Nation Under God Program.

With no other comments from the public a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem, Tom Hutto to request for council to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual issues concerning the blue house recently purchase by the town to include upkeep and rental. Council Member Keith McCarty seconded the motion to move into Executive Session. Mayor Herrington asked the public to help themselves to the refreshments while council goes into session.

Council returned from Executive Session. Mayor Herrington stated that no decisions were rendered at this time and with that he adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Erica Schaffer