

# TOWN OF MEGGETT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*Date: August 25, 2014      Time: 7:00PM      Location: SCPA Building 4770 Highway 165*

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Call to order by:</b> | Mayor Buster Herrington |
| <b>Type of Meeting:</b>  | Council Meeting         |
| <b>Facilitator:</b>      | Mayor Buster Herrington |
| <b>Notes:</b>            | Erica Schaffer          |

|                   |                  |   |                |   |
|-------------------|------------------|---|----------------|---|
| <b>Roll Call:</b> | Mayor Herrington | P | Matt Zender    | A |
| A = Absent        | Tom Hutto        | P | Andy Gowder    | P |
| P = Present       | Tommy Butler     | P | Ellie Brabham  | P |
|                   | 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: July 28, 2014 Council Meeting*

**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

**Opposed:**

**Conclusion:** *Minutes were approved as written*

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### MUNICODE:

Mayor Herrington announced the First reading of Ordinance 2014-2 which is an ordinance adopting a new code for the Town of Meggett, SC. In short this is the Municode Ordinance that we have been working on for quite a while. As you can see by this book we finally have it completed. This is one of our hard copies. Mayor Herrington read the ordinance aloud. Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Hutto asked Andy Gowder if any items are not picked up by Municode they are repealed. Andy Gowder said yes. Mayor Pro-Tem also asked; all of the ordinances from 1920 are out? Mayor Herrington stated that this was part of the reason it took so long because we had to weed through the history to ensure that nothing that was stated back then was conflicting with what we have today. Andy Gowder stated that we encountered some provisions that were contradictory or were obsolete so there was some pruning of the ordinances that resulted from this. Mayor Pro-Tem asked if we now have a new step moving forward. Attorney Andy Gowder said yes and the great thing about it is that it will be online, searchable, and everybody will be able to know what the code is. They can read it and look things up. The

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Mayor Pro-Tem also asked if it was online now. Andy Gowder said that it will be after the town adopts it. Mayor Herrington asked if there were any other questions with none, Council Member Tommy Butler made the motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Hutto seconded the motion. Mayor Herrington asked all of those in favor to say I. No one opposed.

### Website:

Mayor Herrington stated that he has spoken to Jerry Rose about our website and implementing the Municode onto the website once it is adopted. He has some design questions he wants to go over with us this coming week as far as how we want it to look and where we want the tabs located. We are hoping to have all of that worked out very shortly. Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Hutto asked the Mayor if; once he gets this in there he has the rest of the webpage already built. Mayor Herrington answered that Jerry Rose has most of it done and he just needs to integrate everything. Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Hutto said so once it's complete we will get rid of our old website and launch this one? Mayor Herrington answered yes.

### Oyster Roast Fundraiser for Roxbury Park:

Mayor Herrington explained that we are interested in having a fundraiser for Roxbury Park in the way of an Oyster Roast. He stated that we have had an oyster roast and shrimp boil before but we have never charged anything. We did receive donations from people which helped a lot but we feel it's time to try to raise some money to help maintain the park. Mayor Herrington advised council that he has asked Erica Schaffer to prepare some information for us. Erica passed out a document for each Council Member and the Mayor to review as she spoke. She stated that the first page you will see an invitation/flyer type advertisement that we are planning to mail out along with the Meggett Messenger to reduce postage. Erica explained the details of the fundraiser and how it could be profitable. A spreadsheet was provided to show expenses vs. income. Erica asked if anyone knew someone who owned a shrimp boat. She also advised Council that she was hoping to do a give away for a 3 nights stay at the cottage which will include a \$50.00 gift certificate to Capt'n Jimmy Bell's. A live band has been secured at a great rate. Erica asked council to review her proposal and thanked them for the opportunity to present it. Mayor Herrington touched a little deeper about different ways to raise funds and some of the things he and Erica had discussed prior to the meeting. He stated that he has been approached by several people who would be interested in making a donation to the park but would like some recognition for their donation such as a plaque. Mayor Herrington said that he had done some research on how other parks raise money and found that many of them allow patrons to sponsor a park bench in honor or memory of someone. He stated some of the parks had Charleston benches with brass plaques while some benches were made of recycled materials with the writing engraved into the plastic. Mayor Herrington also stated that park benches can be purchased anywhere from a price range of \$50 up to \$1,500.00. Obviously, we won't be purchasing the \$1,500.00 benches. He feels that whatever choice is made it should be something that will last a long time, look nice, and match the theme for Roxbury Park. The benches we choose should be something that would allow us to sell it as a sponsored bench at a decent/fair price in order to raise funds for the park. The park benches were just one of the ideas. Sponsoring one of the trail signs was another idea. Also, on our walkway/bridge we will have four fishing areas. Each of those areas could be adopted/sponsored by someone by way of a plaque. Mayor Herrington goes on to explain that when he takes his yearly vacation to the Outer Banks they have a boardwalk and every so often as you are walking along embedded in the top rail is a plaque stating this section of the boardwalk is in honor of so and so. Family dedications or things like that. Mayor Herrington draws the bridge and shows the areas that could potentially be sponsored. The small picnic shelter is something else that could be sponsored. The Mayor notified everyone that they poured the concrete today and all of the rafters are up for the shelter. The large shelter will be built next and will be located even closer to the cabin. This will be a premium sponsorship. Mayor Herrington asked everyone to review the estimated sponsorship numbers and provide him with their opinion on whether they feel the pricing for sponsoring is too high or too low. He also welcomed other suggestions. Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Hutto asked what the question marks mean. Erica explained that these are just estimates that will need to be adjusted accordingly once a bench is decided on. He also asked if this was a standing thing as he didn't see us selling all of the sponsorships right away. The Mayor Pro-Tem wanted clarification on bottom line expenses for the oyster roast itself. It

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was discussed it is estimated to cost \$2,500.00. He stated that sounded about right. He also stated that they just broke even with their donation oyster roast last year. Ellie commented that the profit was \$25.00. The Mayor Pro-Tem did say he thought the tickets should be a good bit cheaper. Mayor Herrington said just to compare the last two oyster roast he has personally attended the tickets were the exact same prices. Council Member Tommy Butler stated that oysters are at their peak around the first of the year and shrimp are more in their peak during the time frame we are referring to. Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Hutto agreed shrimp are better for the fall. All council decided that the oysters would be better after the first of the year.

### **Meggett Creek Bridge:**

Mayor Herrington asked that we move on to the Meggett Creek Bridge. He stated that Councilman Matt Zender is not present this evening and neither is Robert Clark. Mayor Herrington stated that he assumes there are no new updates. A new comer to the area Gail Smith (soon to be a new resident; she & David Ellis have a contract on a house very near the bridge) asked Mayor Herrington to elaborate on what the intent is for the bridge. Mayor Herrington explained to her that we are waiting on funding to make the necessary repairs to the bridge. We currently have a detour for larger trucks because of the load limit. These overweight trucks are supposed to go around to Wilson by cutting through Ethel PO to avoid traveling across the Meggett Creek Bridge. The Mayor Pro-Tem added that we are very high on the priority list seeing as the local head of SCDOT lives on the opposite side of the bridge. Not to mention safety issue with trucks getting to Metal Trades and Stevens Towing. He also stated that our state doesn't have a lot of funds for bridge replacement but we should have a contract by the end of the year.

### **Council Member Reports:**

#### **Building and grounds given by: Mayor Buster Herrington**

Mayor Herrington stated that is has been a very busy month and we have had a lot going on. At Meggett Park; David and I have sprayed the pond, applied weed killers, and some other products to try to clean it up. We also tested the old fountain and through telephone conversations and emails with tech support it was determined that our old fountain was fried. So we ordered a new fountain and installed it approximately two weeks ago. It already looks so much better. It is getting clearer every day. We talked about our sign at the head of the road last month and I thought we would have had it installed before this meeting. David and I met with the guy from Robert's Sign Company a few days after our last meeting and drew up a design similar to what we have now. We made it a little taller and brought it forward a little. The representative from Robert's Sign Company mentioned that the current landscaping will probably produce a problem with the new sign. He stated that the current landscaping needs to come out. Mayor Herrington stated that he has also received several comments from residents stating that having one short crape and one tall crape looks funny. It was suggested that we remove both trees and start fresh. Mayor Herrington stated that whatever we plant the sign will need to be moved forward about 5' to get it away from the base of the trees. Again we will make the sign taller. That has been the contentious part because of the hedges many people are unable to see the sign. Right now we have three lines on our sign. We are contemplating changing over to either four or five lines. This will make it more visible. The Mayor asked if anyone had comments in regards to the trees. The Mayor Pro-Tem stated he suggests starting fresh with new crape myrtles. Mayor Herrington said he would proceed with ordering new trees. He then states that he met with SCE&G last week in regards to one of our street lights. It was taken down and never put back. The neighbors across the street brought it to my attention. SCE&G is supposed to be replacing the street light this coming week. It is dark where the light is missing. In regards to landscaping David Singleton has been doing a super job trimming the bushes, reclaiming the path around the pond, trimming the shrubs around the pond, and as I mentioned earlier he has helped with the cleaning of the pond and the removal of the old fountain and installation of the new fountain. We are planning to remove

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*the overgrown bush at the corner of the Town Hall building and replacing it with a camellia. The current bush just makes such a mess. The sink hole on Ethel Post Office Road over by Mr. Heath's house has been repaired. I mentioned Municode has been completed and we have our copies. The big one is Andy and I met with CWS regarding our sewer system. They were very informative and receptive to our requests. We proposed several ideas of what we would like for them to do. One was to take it back over, one was to manage it for us, and finally just help us figure out how to handle it. We are waiting on them to make some decisions. They asked to have our financial records in regards to what we have saved to spend on the system. They also wanted maintenance contracts, repair invoice, etc, to get an idea of the expenses we have incurred while maintaining the system. Ellie diligently got those spreadsheets together. CWS was very impressed that we have worked so hard to save that money. In the interim I have talked to Mr. Pedersen at James F. Pedersen Co., Inc. and I have arranged for them to handle any sewer issue that may arise until we find out something from CWS. I am going to touch on Roxbury for just a few minutes. We have a young man named Stewart James who is an Eagle Scout. Stewart has been looking for a project to do as part of his scouting. He has been preparing to build a very small bridge across the Eastern Trail at Roxbury. He has incorporated some help from a family friend who happens to be an engineer to design it. It is very simple and it will be overbuilt and that will be his project for the scouts. I have offered to help pay for some of the materials. It is not going to be very much and he is doing some fundraising to help with that as well. He should begin work over the next few weeks. That will be a pretty neat project and it will help expand that part of our trail too. That's all I have on buildings and grounds.*

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

*The Mayor Pro Tem stated with respect to the grant we have for Roxbury we have initiated construction on the smaller picnic shelter and it is coming along well. It should be done in the next couple of weeks. It looks great and we have a quality contractor. The bridge that will go across the peninsula will be approximately 220' long. Bubba Main started on it Friday. He is pounding away putting in the pilings. Once he finishes with that he will put in the ones near the woods. We just need to tell him exactly where we want them to be. It's a little unclear. We anticipate all of that being completed by the end of September. Next, we will initiate the large shelter that will be located down by the cottage. I also have to follow up with the Corps. of Engineers in regards to permits for the kayak dock as well as the fishing platform. The only thing left on the grant is a gate here and there and some signs. The main thing is the large picnic shelter and the small fish platforms and the kayak docks. In the meantime you may recall when we applied for the grant we said we would put a conservation easement on the property. I have the Lowcountry Alliance and Trust working with me on this. They sent me a draft I reviewed it. They sent it back and I need to review it again. I will bring that to everyone at the next council meeting. It is an obligation we must fulfill with Charleston County and Kathy Ruff with the county. It's all going really well and Erica you have done a great job getting the curtains in the cottage. It needs a few pieces of furniture but it is certainly rentable now, definitely cleaner, and it's all coming along very nicely.*

### **Communications: Council Member Keith McCarty**

*Council Member Keith McCarty stated that the website designer needs updated bio's, input, and photographs. Anything we want to put on the website we need to get it to him. He has the bones laid out but he needs these things to complete it. He said he sent us an email but no one received it. You are welcome to use the same bio and photos but he wanted to give us the opportunity to add photos of Roxbury. Council Member Butler asked about linking our website to Roxbury. It was stated that this would be done. The Mayor Pro-Tem suggested having the website designer get in touch with Ken Carmen in regards to getting photos of Roxbury. He has birds and alligators.*

### **Financial report given by: Council Member Tommy Butler**

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*This is the recap of our bank balances from June. You can see that our bank balance went down \$64,000.00 and our CD went down \$75,600.00. Our income usually comes in late and our expenses come in early. This is the first month of our fiscal year. Although we had a big drop it's because of the purchase of the house. We gained an asset to offset the decrease in the bank account. The wastewater account went up \$9,000.00 and the Meggett 1925 went down \$500.00. The only expense we had that was not customary was the \$6,500.00 to cut the trees down and remove stumps at Meggett Park and behind Town Hall. It looks good. It was discussed that no more than three trees will be put back over at the Meggett Park. The Mayor Pro-Tem stated that it looks like we still have \$508,000.00 in the bank, \$371,000.00 in sewer and \$10,000.00 in the Meggett 1925 account. We just bought the property across the street with 2 acres. Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto asked about an update about new mulch for the Meggett Park. Mayor Herrington stated that the research has been completed and we will be ordering the mats to go in the park over the next few weeks. He also stated that he and David would be installing the new mats for the children's play area. The Mayor Pro-Tem asked how thick the mats are. Mayor Herrington stated that they are approximately 2" thick. Research shows the interlocking 2" safety mats are proven to protect a child from being injured from a fall of up to 6' high.*

### **Utilities report given by: Council Member Matt Zender**

*Council Member Matt Zender was not in attendance to give his report.*

### **Public Comments:**

*Before opening the floor to public comments Mayor Herrington stated he would like to welcome future residents David Ellis and Gail Smith. Members of the audience asked about the clock not working. Mayor Herrington stated he would have Hugh Alston look at it again.*

*Mayor Herrington said that he forgot to mention one thing. For some time now I have been working on getting a permit to get approval for the underground bore from one side of the road to the other to get the drinking water fountain installed at Meggett Park. Erica was able to get the permit approved in 3 weeks and we have it scheduled to be done the week after Labor Day. Mayor Herrington stated that he has the plumber lined up to start work as soon as we receive the Letter of Acceptance from SCDOT.*

*Gail Smith asked where Roxbury Park was located. Mayor Herrington explains where it's located and gave a brief description of the park. Gail asked when the park was open. Mayor Herrington said Saturday and Sunday 8-6 however you can go during the week by contacting Ken Carmen. Ken offers private walking tours during the week. She asked if the plan was for the park to be open 7 days a week at some point. The Mayor stated maybe but currently we have limited staff. Ms. Smith also asked if the intent is to rent out the cottage for parties and things like that. She was told yes. She also asked if we were planning to have jump castles and things like that for the children at our upcoming fundraiser. Mayor Herrington told her we were not going to have a jump castle but we did have other age appropriate things for kids to do at the party. Ms. Smith suggested that having things for kids would bring more families. Mayor Pro-Tem Hutto said it was a great suggestion.*

*A motion was made for the meeting to be adjourned. Mayor Herrington adjourned the meeting.*

*Submitted by Erica Schaffer*