

# Town of Meggett Council Meeting Minutes

**Date: October 28, 2019      Time: 7:00PM      Location: SCPA Building, 4770 Hwy 165**

<b>Call to Order</b>	Mayor Buster Herrington
<b>Type of Meeting</b>	Town Council Meeting
<b>Facilitator</b>	Mayor Buster Herrington
<b>Minutes</b>	Stephanie Smith, Town Administrator

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Mayor Herrington	P	Angela Watts	P
A = Absent	Tommy Butler	P	Andy Gowder	P
P = Present	Tom Hutto	P	Stephanie Smith	A
	Keith McCarty	A		

**Prayer Given By:** Mayor Buster Herrington

**Pledge of Allegiance Led By:** Mayor Buster Herrington

## | Approval of Minutes |

*Approval of Minutes from previous Council Meeting held on September 23, 2019.*

**Motion Made By:** Mayor Pro Tem Angela Watts moved to approve.

**Seconded By:** Council Member Tommy Butler seconded the motion.

**Conclusion:** All voted in favor, none opposed; Minutes approved.

## | PRTC Communication Presentation |

*Mayor Buster Herrington welcomed the PRTC representative and asked he begin his presentation. The PRTC representative gave a brief background on its history with Meggett explaining they initially communicated with a former council member several years ago. However, at that time, bringing a broadband fiber optic internet service into the Meggett area was going to be very expensive which prevented PRTC from advancing into the area at that time. Recently, PRTC has been successful bringing broadband fiber optics into the St. Paul's area through bigger businesses and public schools.*

*PRTC offers phone, internet, cable and home security services. All of their equipment is buried, which is believed to be a benefit when it comes to inclement weather conditions. They would like to invite the Meggett residents to a community gathering, welcoming questions about their services in an effort to develop a solid grasp on the commitment level they can expect. PRTC needs at least a 50% commitment from areas like Meggett to validate bringing the services in to the area. PRTC has the ability to bring a stronger internet service to the St. Paul's area vs. other providers like Verizon and AT&T because PRTC is a fiber optic service vs. LTE and 4&5G type services. As a side note, the PRTC*

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*representative feels they will be more than competitive with cost for services over other current local communication options.*

### **| Second Reading: Zoning and Planning Fee Schedule |**

*Mayor Buster Herrington asked Council to review the revised fee schedule created by Town staff.*

**Motion Made By:** Council Member Tom Hutto motioned to approve the Second Reading of the Zoning and Planning Fee Schedule.

**Seconded By:** Mayor Pro Tem Angela Watts seconded the motion.

**Conclusion:** All voted in favor, none opposed; Agreement approved.

### **| Franchise Agreement: Dominion Energy, Berkeley Electric Cooperative & Town of Meggett |**

*Mayor Buster Herrington asked Council to review the franchise agreement packet and invited Jennifer Hightower with Dominion Energy and Mark Gaddy with Berkeley Electric Cooperative (BEC) to participate in questions from Council. Ms. Hightower presented the franchise agreement, highlighting that the verbiage related to BEC's presences in Meggett was adjusted to match the same verbiage as the Electric Rights Agreement, which was approved in the September Council meeting.*

*Council Member Tom Hutto brought up the 30-year commitment in the franchise agreement, which is new this year. In the past it was 20 years. He also stated it was important to use this time of renewal to discuss how the utility tree trimming is handled going forward, as there have been many past issues by the contracted company performing the utility tree trimming.*

*Ms. Hightower offered to have a meeting with the local arborist to further discuss Council Member Hutto's concerns and discuss a Tree Protection Agreement. The Tree Protection Agreement encourages frequent communication with the municipality and Dominion Energy during the time utility easement trimming is taking place. Mayor Pro Tem Angela Watts asked if the franchise agreement had to be 30 years. Ms. Hightower felt the 30-year commitment was not firm and could be adjusted. Council Member Tommy Butler asked if other municipalities were agreeing to the 30-year contract. Ms. Hightower stated that most municipalities were agreeing to the 30-year contract and increasing to 5%, but it was not a requirement to change the percentage to 5%.*

*Mr. Gaddy with BEC followed up and reiterated Ms. Hightower's statements.*

**Motion Made By:** Council Member Tommy Butler motioned to approved the First Reading of the Franchise Agreement between the Town of Meggett and Dominion Energy & Berkeley Electrical Cooperative with suggested amendments.

**Seconded By:** Mayor Pro Tem Angela Watts seconded the motion with suggested amendments.

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**Conclusion:** Council Member Keith McCarty, Council Member Tommy Butler, and Mayor Pro Tem Angela Watts voted in favor; Council Member Tom Hutto voted opposed; Mayor Herrington did not vote (only in the event of a tie vote will Mayor Herrington vote to break the tie.)  
First Reading passed with suggested amendments approved.

## **| Updates |**

### **Meggett Creek Bridge**

*Mayor Buster Herrington provided an update on Meggett Creek Bridge. The construction is moving along and they are close to finishing. He expects the project to be completed in the next 4-6 weeks.*

### **2019 Christmas Tree Lighting & Holly Jolly Baking Co.**

*Mayor Buster Herrington provided an update on the Annual Meggett Christmas Tree Lighting. The event is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and the Holly Jolly Baking Co. (formally The Bakery) will be open from 10 am – 2 pm and 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Mayor Herrington also shared that detailed information will be placed on the Town's website and a more detailed update will be provided at the November Town Council Meeting.*

## **| Council Member Reports |**

### **Buildings & Grounds: Mayor Buster Herrington**

*Mayor Herrington stated that the Town has been working on a punch list at Roxbury Park including the septic tank at the cottage. Quotes include increasing the size of the drain field. Debris has been removed from the trails.*

*In the Town Hall area, A-C Electric came out to repair several street lights, which were mostly loosened bulbs from the wind during the hurricane.*

### **Financial Reports: Council Member Tommy Butler**

*Council Member Tommy Butler stated that the General Account decreased by \$20, 000.00 for the month of September. The Waste Water account decreased by \$2900.00 and the Meggett 1925 account stayed the same. There were no out of the ordinary expenses.*

### **Grants & Special Reports: Council Member Tom Hutto**

*Council Member Tom Hutto updated that both grants were approved for the purchase of the Crouch property next to Roxbury Park and hopes to close on the purchase before the year end. Attorney Gowder agreed once all due diligence is complete the closing can take place. Council Member Hutto did ask Attorney Gowder to follow up with the property owner to verify that they are not under any time restrictions for tax purposes.*

*Council Member Hutto also shared a drafted proposal for professional services for the proposed addition to the SCPA Building, storage and second floor deck. He requested Council review his draft and provide feedback so the Town can begin the first phase of the project, which will include*

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*identifying utility challenges and possible structural issues. Mayor Herrington does believe the main power source to the building is in a location that will present some challenges. Phase II of the project will include the final details and Phase III will be overseeing the project, bidding out for contractors and construction. Council Member Hutto, stressed the Town needs more storage.*

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

*None*

## **Roxbury Park: Mayor Pro Tem Angela Watts**

*Mayor Pro Tem Angela Watts stated the ADA parking space would be installed soon by Crosby Trucking.*

## **| Public Comments |**

*There were no comments from the Public.*

## ***Executive Session convened at 8:30 PM***

*Mayor Herrington and Council headed into an Executive Session. Attendees were invited to help themselves to refreshments until Council reconvened. Upon returning, Mayor Herrington announced that they had discussed a contractual matter and no decisions were rendered.*

***Meeting Adjourned 8:45 PM***