

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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REV. CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
TOWN MANAGER  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
TOWN ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
DAVID HIGGINS  
BONNIE FRANZ  
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.  
JOCK ORR  
EARL H. MURPHY, JR.

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING April 24, 2023

6:00 PM Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Councilman Orr

Roll Call - Councilmembers present; E. Murphy, Higgins, Orr, Mayor Cephas, Attorney Merriken and Manager Avery

Approval of Agenda - Motion E. Murphy, second Orr, vote 3/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session March 13, 2023, motion Orr, second Higgins, vote 3/0. Work Session March 27, 2023, motion E. Murphy, second Higgins, vote 3/0. Open Session April 10, 2023, motion Higgins, second Orr, vote 2/0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas attended an economic development session and wants to put Hurlock on the map with the governor.

Police Report - Nothing.

Manager's Report – Avery said that stormwater work on Neelson St. is to have additional work to be done pending contractor's schedule. Sewer work is being done on Glen Oak Circle. Concrete work is being scheduled. The warehouse replacement is going out to bid. Asphalt patching is being scheduled. The Joint Use Agreement for the walking trail is in progress. Permission from Delmarva Power for the banners is being reviewed by DPL. Insurance renewals are in progress.

County Council Lenny Pfeffer – Dor. Co. Council President Pfeffer said the budget is being worked on, it is very stressful. Due to state mandates the school budget will increase by \$3 million. They don't want to raise taxes but it may be necessary. The Board of Ed is doing a feasibility study that may include changing or closing some schools. Mayor Cephas asked about

having quarterly meetings with the county and the mayor's. Pfeffer said it's a good idea.

Cephas is looking for a fast food franchise, there are sites for new businesses.

Orr asked does the BoFE know what school changes will cost or save? No, it is being evaluated. Dorchester Co. taxes are currently very high. The school board is doing its due diligence.

Avery explained the proposed budget and the effect that low property values has on tax revenue. It has been evident for a number of years that expenses are going up without any revenue increase. Cephas said the warning has been given, we need to bring in new business.

Orr suggested waiting on a vote on the budget until there is a full council present.

The meeting of May 8<sup>th</sup> will be a work session with the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting being a regular meeting at which the budget should be adopted.

Comments – E. Murphy said he would like to see more people come to meetings. Orr said our police officers are good. Hurlock has some really bright people. The town needs to grow and thrive.

Diane Miller said some houses are still vacant. We should work with realtors to consider Hurlock. It is a wonderful small town.

Lee Davis commented on the need to draw new business.


7:10 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
John Avery  
Town Manager

  
Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:

  
The councilmembers' signatures are written in blue ink and include names such as Jimmie, E. Murphy, David Hyer, Ronnie Fran, and Russell Phillips.