

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
CHARLES A. CUMMINGS
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
AMBER N. TRUXON

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING July 13, 2020

This meeting was closed to the public due to COVID-19. The meeting was programed to be live streamed through Town Hall Streams. Notice of the meeting and streaming was posted on the town message board and the town website. The agenda for the meeting was posted on the town website by Friday July 10, 2020.

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Roll Call, present: Councilmembers; Murphy, Truxon and Cephas, Mayor Henry, Attorney Merriken and Manager Avery

Approval of Agenda: Motion Cephas, second Murphy, approved 3/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session June 22, 2020 Motion Murphy/Truxon, approved 3/0.

Mayor Henry presented Council President Charles Cephas with a proclamation honoring his 20 years of elected public service and being inducted into the Maryland Municipal League Hall of Fame. He was first sworn into office as a Hurlock District 4 councilmember December 7, 1999. Councilmember Cephas thanked Mayor Henry and his fellow councilmembers for the acknowledgement.

Chief Jones gave his report. Cephas asked what the latest virous numbers are? Chief Jones said the latest count in Dorchester County is 219.

Public Works – Avery reported that the grant application for the new Triangle Park has passed through the state clearing house and is now waiting for funding by the state board of public works. Mayor Henry asked what the grant amount is? Avery answered that it is for \$138,000 and the project will be fully funded by the grant, no town matching funds are required. Avery said a grant application is being finished for replacement of the public works warehouse, if approved the grant would be for 25% of the replacement cost. Avery said the new sweeper is working great. He said if you look at Preston and Federalsburg you will see all the weeds in the street gutters. Hurlock's gutters are clean, the sweeper has made a huge difference.

Old Business – Avery asked to differ discussion about the proposed Zoning Ordinance

Amendment for assisted living developments to the next town meeting or a work session. He said he would like to cleanup the proposed guidelines for the ordinance and put them in an ordinance format. Consensus was to differ topic to next meeting.

New Business – Avery explained the application that was received Ms. Shanitta Parker for a mobil food vendor license to operate at 307 Broad Street. He said the application was complete; the application was signed by the property owner; a license was issued by the Health Department and all the information was complete. Motion to approve by Cephas, second by Murphy, vote 3 in favor/0 opposed.

Avery explained the options for siding for the repairs to the library and showed the council samples of the siding. The council indicated their preference to be single 7” perfection shingles autumn red in color.

Avery explained what would be required by the Health Department if the town was to have Fall Fest. Social distancing (6’ spacing), face masks and hand sanitizing stations would be required. Implementing and policing those requirements would be very problematic. Occupancy on the train cars would probably be reduced to 25%. Avery was asked when he would need a decision to cancel the Fall Fest, he replied by the next meeting or early August. Discussion indicated that councilmembers were in favor of cancelling the annual festival. Avery suggested a motion be made to that effect. Murphy motioned to cancel Fall Fest due to COVID-19, second by Cephas, vote 3 in favor/0 opposed.

Murphy asked how long are building permits good for, he thought it is 180 days. Avery answered they expire after 1 year of no progress, they remain good if work is being accomplished. Murphy said he thinks that updating that policy maybe looked into. There seem to be a lot of old inactive permits posted in town,

Cephas said getting rid of the 3 dilapidated buildings on Hurlock St. (Pine St.) has made a big difference, it is much better.

Mayor Henry explained the old school desks and rocking chair in the meeting room were donated for the museum. He said we are waiting for the train station repairs to be done before installing the display cabinets. The cabinets are being partially funded by a Heritage Area mini grant.

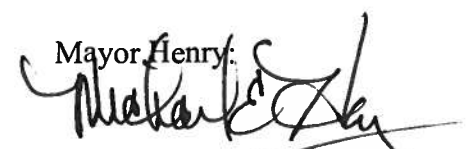
Cephas again thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation. Murphy suggested the idea of putting a storage building by the train station.

6:35 Motion to adjourn Cephas/Truxon

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager

Mayor Henry:


Councilmembers: