

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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REV CHARLES T CEPHAS SR  
MAYOR  
JOHN H AVERY  
TOWN MANAGER  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
COUNCIL MEMBER

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING April 25, 2022

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHARLES CUMMINGS (PRESENT)  
BONNIE FRANZ  
EARL H MURPHY  
RUSSELL MURPHY  
JOCK ORR

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Cephas

Opening Prayer – Councilmember Earl Murphy

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

Approval of Agenda - Motion Franz, second Cummings, vote 5/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session April 11, 2022 Motion E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 5/0.  
Closed Session April 11, 2022 Motion Cummings, second R. Murphy, vote 5/0.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Cephas Said that he and Avery attended a dedication for Harriets House in Hurlock. He has passed out copies of the State Highway survey. He spoke on developing plans for the new library and helping businesses. He hopes that businesses will donate to the library project. It will be good for the town.

Fire Department Report – Chief Helmer reported that there were 23 fire calls so far in April. This year to date there have been 115 fire calls and 294 EMS calls. Mayor Cephas asked if the current EMS coverage is enough to cover the proposed assisted living development on Taylor Ave.? Chief Helmer said he does see there being any inadequate service.

Police Report – Major Biskach said there is no report. A vehicle was stolen from a residence on Willow Dr. Unlocked doors contributed to the theft. He reminded people to keep their cars locked.

Town Manager Report – Avery reported that one of the wells had to be pulled out for service due to having developed a noise. The other well was scheduled for routine service but that had to be delayed. E. Murphy asked if funds had to be added to the budget for vehicles. Avery said not at this time.

County Councilman Pfeffer –There is nothing to report pertaining to north county. Pfeffer said the County has not determined how they are going to use their ARPA funds yet. He suggested submitting written letters with suggestions for uses.

Old Business – Avery described the changes that were done to the draft budget following the budget work

session. All discussed changes were made. As part of the Budget Hearing Avery asked if there were any questions from the audience? There were no questions. **Motion made by E. Murphy to adopt the proposed 2023 Budget by Ordinance 2022-3, second by Cummings. Vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Avery described the site plan for Dollar General. The plan had been approved by the Planning Commission. Cephas said this is positive for Hurlock. **Motion to approve the sub-division plan for Dollar General by Cummings, second E. Murphy. Vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Avery said that installing 2 new submersible pumps in the towns main wells will cost about \$65,000 and recommended a budget amendment for the current budget adding that amount to the water maintenance account. **Motion to move \$65,000 from contingency to Water Maintenance Account by E. Murphy, second by Orr. Vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Avery explained the current requirements for signs in the Zoning Ordinance. Currently attached store front signs are limited to 50 square feet. Proposed Ordinance 2022-4 would allow for franchise stores to use their standard store front franchise signs. Avery recommended a 150 square foot size limitation. E. Murphy introduced the Ordinance with the 150 square foot size limitation.

Avery explained the request he got from Family Dollar for temporary signs advertising the addition of Dollar Tree. Orr said the signs should be maintained. He has seen them become an eyesore. It was agreed to allow the signs with a 30 day limitation.

Comments – R. Murphy said he is glad to see Dollar General come. Franz talked about a date for the community yard sale. June 4<sup>th</sup> will work. She said it would be nice if the town could buy our own outside projector and screen. Cummings said that Tri-City Little League is looking for umpires and volunteers. E. Murphy said the LESMA Dinner in Ocean City was well received. Orr said there are new juvenile laws that are going into effect. Beginning this summer juveniles under the age of 13 will be not be able to be detained unless the infraction is severe. He said it would be good to develop community projects so juveniles have things to do. Cephas spoke on plans for a community center and said Rural Development will be coming to town to talk about future projects.

A Thompson Street resident expressed thanks for having speed limit signs put up on Thompson St. Jack Lewis asked if there are set days for street sweeping? Avery answered no, it depends on need and weather.

Avery asked the Council if they are okay with the proposed ad about the hardware store? The Council indicated the ad is good like it is.

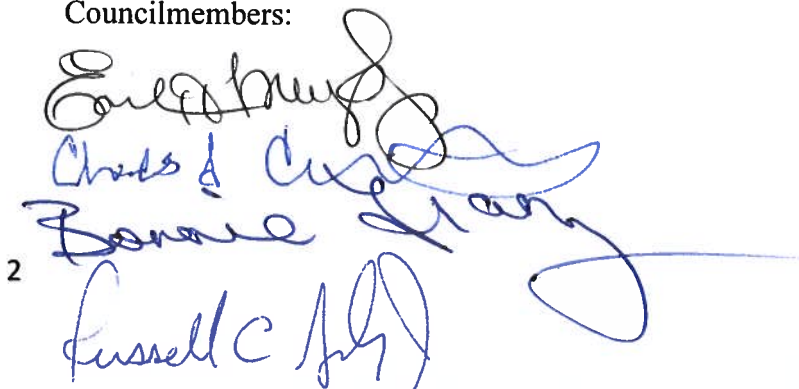
6:45 Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted:

  
John Avery  
Town Manager

  
Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:

  
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