

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
CHARLES A. CUMMINGS
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING August 12, 2019

6:30 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Rev. Cephas

Roll call, present: Councilmembers; Cummings, Franz, E. Murphy, R. Murphy, and Rev. Cephas, Mayor Henry, Attorney Merriken and Manager Avery.

Approval of Agenda: Motion R. Murphy, second Franz, approved 5/0

Approval of Minutes: July 22, 2019 - Open Meeting Franz/Cummings; 4 for, Cephas nay
July 22, 2019 - Work Session Franz/R. Murphy; 3 for, E. Murphy and
Cephas nay

Mayors Report: Mayor Henry spoke on the August 3rd Habitat work party town members helped with. Hurricane straps and house wrap were installed. National Night Out was a great success. Mayor Henry and Avery attended the County Council Meeting at which time funding for a feasibility study for a new Hurlock Library was approved. September is Opioid Awareness Month; purple lights are to be displayed. A letter was sent to the University of Maryland requesting consideration in placing a doctor in Hurlock. U of MD is creating a training program to place doctors in rural areas. Dr. Michael Fadden included a letter as well.

Agenda Request: Ms. Joyce Spratt started to speak on the recent Ordinance establishing a salary structure for councilmembers. She said it seemed that some of the councilmembers did this to protect themselves. She asked do new councilmembers have health insurance? The answer was no. Cummings said the bonuses for councilmembers is to be an incentive to go to classes. Ms. Spratt said she has seen no progress, nothing, since she left office. Spratt commented on Cephas's health insurance being reinstated. E. Murphy said the Council had voted to do that. There were further comments that escalated between her and Councilman Cephas. Mayor Henry stopped the discussion at this point.

Councilman Lenny Pfeffer report: Mr. Pfeffer thanked the Town for things coming together for a new library.

Public Works: Avery gave a brief report stating that the rail crossings on Neilson St. are scheduled to be

replaced the weekend of September 14th.

Police Report: National Night Out was a great success. Chief Jones thanked all the people that came out and helped. Report is attached.

Fire Department: Chief Trego said there have been 156 calls for service so far this year. He described a command vehicle that they are purchasing and requested help with funds to equip it.

Motion made by E. Murphy to donate \$10,000 for that purpose, second by Cephas. Vote was 5 in for 0 opposed

Old Business:

a. Vehicle Grant – Avery described a required Resolution for USDA. **Motion to approve USDA Resolution by Cephas, second E. Murphy, vote 5 for 0 opposed**

b. Watermain replacement Middle St. and part of Railroad Ave. **Motion to accept proposal by Schummer Inc. by Cephas, second E. Murphy, vote 5 for 0 opposed.**

c. Paving Proposal – **Motion to accept proposal from Delmarva Paving for numerous areas; including Mill St., Gay St., part of Railroad Ave., Middle St. and patches in Woodsedge by E. Murphy, second by Cephas, vote 5 for 0 opposed. Motion to have storm drains repaired in Woodsedge by E. Murphy, second Cephas, vote 5 for 0 opposed.**

d. Opioid Lawsuit – **Motion to have the Town represented in litigation in an Opioid Lawsuit by Cummings, second by E. Murphy, vote 5 for 0 opposed.**

e. Town Manager Contract – Attorney Merriken explained the only required change is gas reimbursement from mileage to one tank of gas a month. **Motion to approve Cephas, second E. Murphy, vote 5 for 0 opposed.**

f. Charter Amendment 2019-2 Finance Director – Cephas brought the proposal back for further consideration. Merriken explained the amendment includes provision for grant writing. Mayor Henry asked to put this discussion back in a work session. Cephas said it is not a matter if they want it, do the right thing. We should have the most highly trained staff. Cummings motion to go to work session Sept. 9th.

g. Charter Amendment 2019-3 Manager Duties – Merriken explained the requirements for a search committee and the proposed changes. R. Murphy did not want to vote now, Cephas asked for discussion and consideration to be rescheduled for the next meeting.

h. Charter Amendment 2019-4 Clerical Corrections – Merriken explained the minor clerical corrections, Cephas will sponsor the Amendment.

i. 360 Degree Evaluation – Cephas is requesting the provisions for these evaluations.

Merriken explained we don't even need an Ordinance to have these evaluations, it can be part of the Employee Regulations. Mayor Henry wants further discussion in a work session. Cephas said Dorchester County is lingering in the dark ages, this is cutting edge. Town Manager evaluation should be in the Charter. Provisions for employees and Dept. Heads can go into the Employee Regulations; evaluations can be instituted by Council.

Cephas said software can be purchased for the evaluations.

New Business: Cephas asked to pass on his agenda items for this meeting.

Council Comments: Cephas said evil is everywhere, he hopes his grandchildren will be brought up without name calling & cruel reality. The old ways have to change. This Council has done more than any other Council. A real change is coming. E. murphy thinks quite a few things have been presented by the Mayor. It is up to individual councilmembers if they go to MML or not. Hurlock is known at MML. He appreciates the opportunity to be a councilmember.

Franz said movie night is being setup, if there is bad weather it can be done in the Legion. Cummings said he has completed the Academy of Excellence. He respects R. Murphy for what he has done on the Council and respects his decision not to run for re-election. R. Murphy said he will not be running for re-election. He and Franz will be helping at the library with back to school for the kids.

Public Comments: Jack Lewis asked about having a code enforcement report. He asked Cephas about having a representative from each district on a committee to update the Charter. Ms. Janet Seeds asked if a financial director is necessary? Cephas said that position will not be funded until the Council is ready. This is a futuristic idea. Jeff Smith asked if Middle St. is paved to please install speed bumps as people fly down there now. He asked about having some rebar that is sticking up on the old cannery property removed. Avery said he would look into that.


Cederick Turner asked about the funds for the Downtown Committee requested for their budget. Avery said the Council never voted on their budget request however there are funds in other areas of the Town Budget. **Cephas motion to approve \$400.00 for back to school supplies, second by E. Murphy, vote 5 for 0 opposed.**

A new resident in Woodsedge spoke briefly on a STEM (women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program.

Motion to go to Closed Session for personnel matters pertaining to the fire department by Cephas and Franz. Announcement the Council will not return to Open Session.

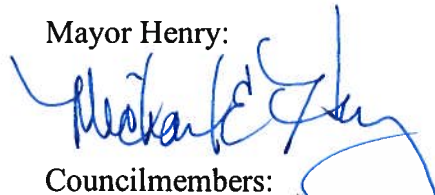
8:11 Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted:



John Avery
Town Manager

Mayor Henry:



Councilmembers:

