

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
CHARLES CUMMINGS, PRESIDENT
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL MURPHY
JOCK ORR

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING August 22, 2022

6:00 PM Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Rev. Dickerson

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

Approval of Agenda - Motion R. Murphy, second E. Murphy, vote 4/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session August 8, 2022 Motion E. Murphy, second Orr, vote 4/0.

As part of a Charter Amendment Hearing Attorney Merriken described Charter Amendment Resolutions 2022-2 and 2022-3. 2022-2 amends the hiring and firing of department heads to be by the Town Manger with the approval of the Mayor and Council. 2022-3 is a change back to a strong Mayoral system. Mayor Cephas recommend there not be any votes on the issues until all councilmembers are present. R. Murphy asked why is this wanted? E. Murphy said the town government was a strong mayor system until 2018 when it was changed to a weak mayor/town manager form of government. He does not know why we are even considering going back to a strong mayor again. Mayor Cephas talked about hiring and firing practices by the mayors before Mike Henry. Several department heads were terminated unjustly. E. Murphy saw a lot of problems under Mayor Spratt.

Nancy Jones stated that the system should be left as it is now. Mayor Cephas wants to make sure there is no abuse and the mayor has oversight over budget and operations. E. Murphy said that under Mayor Mike Henry the change was made to a town manager system, he thinks it is right the way it is. Orr said the mayor should have input with the council over the hiring and firing of department heads, there should not be a total change. Janet Seeds said she is completely

confident in John. Mike Henry said Cephas presented the concept of a town manager before he (Henry) was mayor. John ran the town under him and did it well. He asked why has this even been brought up?

7:00 pm - After a motion Mayor Cephas closed the Charter Amendment Hearing.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas thanked everyone who showed up for the meeting with the Lt. Governor, Secretary's Holt, Bartenfelder and supporting staff. Mayor Cephas said that he intends to provide a School Resource Officer for Hurlock Elementary. Preston Ford may donate a vehicle. Vote of the County Council to not provide a vehicle is a slap in the face. Mayor spoke on plans and needs for infrastructure improvements. The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is August 31st.

Police Report – Chief Jones said that it was a wonderful meeting with the Lt. Governor. He intends to send two officers for SRO training. The town took delivery of two cars that had been ordered last year.

Town Manager Report – Avery stated that there have been two grant applications have been submitted. The first for funding for a SRO officer and the second for Prospect Park renovations and for the walking path along Railroad Avenue.

County Councilman Pfeffer – The Police Accountability Ordinance has been introduced.

Old Business – Attorney Merriken gave an update on the Ethics Ordinance and said the state has now come out with a number of mandated changes that will have to be incorporated. The state changes have been added to the town changes and been submitted to the state for approval.

Comments – R. Murphy appreciates all the phone calls he has gotten from people that want to be involved. E. Murphy said the next LESMA dinner will be in Crisfield September 15th. Orr said it is time move Hurlock forward and stop harping on the past.

Mayor Cephas said all board members should take ethics training. There will be training done in the future at the town office.

Avery said fall cleanup is September 17th and Fall Fest October 1st.

7:45 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager


Mayor Cephas

Councilmembers:

