

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 February 13, 2023

6:00 PM Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Rev. Dickerson

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

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

Approval of Minutes – Open Session January 9, 2023, motion E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 5/0. Work Session January 23, 2023, motion E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 5/0

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas recommended R. J. Helmer and Zia Ashraf for the Ethics Commission. Fire Chief Helmer stated he is a Lieutenant with Caroline County Sheriffs Department and has been with the Hurlock fire department for many years. E. Murphy has full confidence in Helmer, **motion to appoint Mr. Helmer to the Ethics Commission, second Orr, vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.** Mr. Zia Ashraf said his family owns Stop Shop and is a second year law student. **Higgins motion to appoint Mr. Ashraf to the Ethics Commission, second E. Murphy, vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Fire Department Report – Chief gave total calls for 2022: 932 EMS, 332 Fire with 23 working alarms. There were 2 fire related fatalities and 1 motor vehicle fatality in 2022. Mayor Cephas asked about volunteers and recruitment, Helmer said it is very difficult to get volunteers. Cephas asked if we need to do a study for a paid service. Chief Helmer said he did not think a paid service would justify the cost. Mayor Cephas thanked him for a wonderful dinner and awards presentation.

Police Report for January was given by Chief Jones. It was a good month, only 1 theft, no burglaries.

Manager's Report – Avery said grant applications have been applied for: sidewalk installation along Nealson Street, a new deep well at the Oak Street well site and for an additional ENR filter at the wastewater plant. The Nealson St. culvert has been replaced and the next one under the driveway will be replaced as well as cleaning and grading the ditch to Rt. 392. That should be done within the next few weeks. **Avery gave a treasurer's report to the Council and recommended transferring \$1,000,000 to an 11-month CD at Provident Bank. They currently have a special offering 4% APR. Motion to approve the transfer by E. Murphy, second Higgins, vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

County Council Lenny Pfeffer – Thanked the fire department for the invitation to the awards banquet. The County is considering a \$500 property tax credit fire department volunteers and first responders. He said the county will work with the town on cleaning the stormwater ditch that is in the county. Orr asked if an incentive for first time home buyers for first responders would help? The county receives \$54M in property tax revenue, 29M of that goes to the school board. They have been told now that the county has to come up with an additional \$3M for meal programs.

Jenny Budd reported on progress on banner project. They have counted, and marked, 72 potential poles along Academy, Main and Legion Dr. They plan on submitting for approval to Delmarva Power first and then advertise for funding help. Avery stated that the license agreement for the poles is \$200 plus \$10.50 per pole. That would be \$856 for 72 poles. Cephas asked if she is planning banners on both sides of the street. She said no only one. Cephas asked her to come back to a work session when some of the questions are firmed up. Date will be determined.

Comments – R. Murphy thanked the fire department and reminded people to beware of speed on the roads. Franz said happy Valentine's Day. Higgins said the Fire Department Banquet was wonderful, they provide an invaluable service. E. Murphy said he has glad to see Chris Adams and Johnny Mautz at the dinner. Orr thanked the people who have volunteered for the town committees. It is great to have that oversight in place.

Michele Murphy asked about the progress with the new library. She said there is a plan for 10 year program that will bring resources into the schools and child care. There would be a child care resource center in the new library.

7:42 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager

Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:
