

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 February 28, 2022

6:00 PM Call to Order by Council President Cummings

Opening Prayer – E. Murphy

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

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

Approval of Minutes – Open Session January 24, 2021 Motion R. Murphy, second Franz, vote 4/0.

Mayor's Report – Cummings introduced Roy Geiser from UHY to present the annual Hurlock Audit. Mr. Geiser said that TGM Group has merged with UHY which will offer the same high level of expertise that TGM had with more resources they can use. Their audit findings indicate that Hurlock's financial position is very healthy and UHY has given Hurlock the highest level of assurance they can offer. Hurlock's cash position increased by \$623,294. Amick and B&G Foods are responsible for 57% of Hurlock's Water and Sewer revenue and 37% of the total annual income.

Mr. Geiser talked about the information that Avery had sent him regarding the MACo OPEB Trust. Geiser said that he was impressed with the information about the trust. Queen Annes County joined the trust and are very impressed with how user friendly it is. **E. Murphy motion to allocate \$250,000 as an initial deposit plus whatever the cost to join is, second by Franz. Vote 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Fire Department – Chief Helmer reported that Hurlock responded to 39 fire calls and 69 EMS calls during the month of January. They will have a free food pantry March 10 at 9 am. Question was asked how is Ward Higgins doing? He is off the ventilator and doing better. He may be transported to Salisbury soon. Chief Helmer said January was a very devastating month for fatal fires. Avery asked about EMS coverage now that Paramedic 200 is stationed back in

Eldorado. Would there be an issue with coverage if an assisted living facility was built in town? Helmer thinks there would not be an issue because Paramedic 600 is in Hurlock, P200 is in Eldorado, the Hurlock Fire Department ambulance is stationed at the fire house and there are ambulances in Federalsburg and Preston as well.

Police Report – Chief Jones gave his monthly report.

Town Manager Report – Avery gave a treasurer’s report stating that the Hurlock’s current cash position is \$5,600,000. There has been a large influx of cash due to accepting the waste from Valley Proteins. An agreement was entered into Christmas Eve to receive part of their liquid waste from the Linkwood processing plant. Their operations had been suspended by MDE and they were able to restart following that agreement. Bobby Harvey will be retiring; his last day will be in May. The specifications for the Jackson St. Pump Station upgrade are waiting for final approval from MDE and will be going out to bid following that approval. Dollar General is waiting on final approval from State Highway for the final site plan. There is a large watermain leak in Prospect Heights by the apartments. Repair of that is scheduled for tomorrow morning, part or all of Prospect will be without water service while the repairs are being done.

Avery explained that the current Hurlock Planning, Ethics and Appeals commission members need to be reappointed by the council. Motion by E. Murphy to approve the current commission members for reappointment, second by Franz, vote 4 in favor 0 opposed.

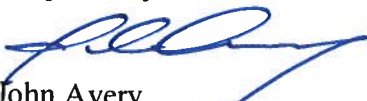
Earl Murphy spoke on the upcoming LESMA dinners and said that Hurlock will host the dinner in May.

Comments – R. Murphy said there have been a few fender benders at the Pizza Palace intersection and suggested putting mirrors on the poles. Cederic Turner spoke to the council about funding the downtown committee. He asked for \$500 for startup money annually. Avery suggested tabling the issue until it can be looked into further.

Michele Murphy asked about having sidewalks installed along Railroad Ave. She also spoke on the amount of trash along the road. Avery said he has talked to Delmarva Power about the potential of a rails to trails project along that portion of Railroad Ave. Avery stated that public works routinely cleans up trash along the roads however there is a large number of people that have no respect for others and just throw trash on the ground. Ms. Murphy asked about having a group to help clean up trash. Avery said that would be absolutely ok and the town would supply trash bags. E. Murphy mentioned putting trashcans along the road.

6:48 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager

Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:

