

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

POST OFFICE BOX 327  
HURLOCK, MARYLAND 21643  
410-943-4181

FAX 410-943-8556

E-MAIL: [townofhurlock@townofhurlock.org](mailto:townofhurlock@townofhurlock.org)

MICHAEL E. HENRY  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
TOWN MANAGER  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
ATTORNEY

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

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING February 25, 2019

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Chief Hutton gave the opening prayer.

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion E. Murphy, second Cummings, approved 5/0

Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2019 Open Session – E. Murphy/Cummings, approved 4/0

Public Works Report: Avery reported that Spring Clean-up day will be April 13 at the recycling area and home pick-up April 11. New electric service has been installed by the Whitley Christmas Tree. Repairs are underway on the train cars. A new floor is being installed in one car as well as repairing the brake line and the seats are being reupholstered in the other car. It is anticipated that repairs will cost between 10,000 and \$15,000. This should extend the useful life of the cars another 10 years. Flushing of hydrants will be scheduled in the near future.

Police Department Report: Chief Hutton stated that Officer Quarshie has returned from military duty and will be back to service March 4<sup>th</sup>. February 12 to the 24 there have been 3 thefts and 1 warrant served. E. Murphy said that one of the town businesses was considering closing, the police department has helped in the decision for that business to remain open. The police department has been very responsive and readily available.

Old Business: Motion to approve Ordinance 2019-1, introduced February 11, 2019, for the purchase of 100 S. Main Street by Councilman Cummings at the cost of \$5,000 plus outstanding taxes and closing costs by Councilman Cummings, second by Cephas. Vote 5 in favor/0 opposed.

Introduction of Ordinance 2019-2 Mayor salary reduction by Councilman Cummings. Attorney Merriken explained the terms; 1<sup>st</sup> term \$15,000, second consecutive term cap of \$18,000.

Introduction of Charter Amendment Resolution 2019-1 amending the Council salary structure. Currently all councilmembers are equal, new would be a three-tier structure with educational incentives. Motion to approve by Councilman Cummings, second by Cephas. Vote 5 in favor/0 opposed.

Councilman Cephas said the meeting with USDA and Rural Development was a very positive meeting, they got a lot of good information. Cederic Turner said the meeting was a big success. There need to be more people involved. Next meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

New Business: Avery explained two ideas to enhance community involvement in town; the first is to sponsor a town wide yard sale event and second hold summer concerts. The ideas were met with the full support of the council. Cephas said if we don't try to get our community better it will never improve. National League of Cities has launched a program to help towns grow, it is geared to small towns and low-income communities.

Council Comments: E. Murphy spoke about LESMA and how Hurlock is now recognized. He wished the best for the county council and said Hurlock will move forward. The last play at the old high school will be Beauty and the Beast. There should be a tour before its demolition. David Wilson Sr. and Preston Ford will be recognized February 28 at noon.

Mayor Henry reminded everyone there will be ethics training March 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm at the Town Office.

Councilwoman Franz said a community yard sale is a good idea.

Cummings thanked Ministers and Citizens for their Black List Awards.

R. Murphy introduced a boy scout who came to look at local government. Murphy said he would like to publish 4 newsletters a year, he will help with it. He wants to make them something special. He and Cummings have suggestion boxes at their houses.

Public Comments: Patty Estridge asked why can't the building at 100 S. Main St. be used for historical purposes instead of a parking lot. She also questioned why that part of Mill St. was made one way and said it is not working.

Paul Grahe brought up the topic of storm drains in Woodsedge. Jack Lewis thanked the Mayor for arranging for ethics training. Monroe Quailles said it would nice to have youth come to council meetings.

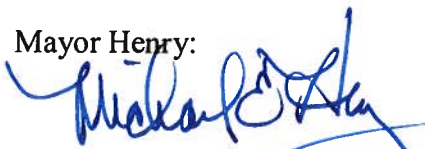
Adjourn 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



John Avery  
Town Manager

Mayor Henry:



Councilmembers:

