

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

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 January 9, 2023

6:00 PM Call to Order

Opening Prayer – E. Murphy

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

Approval of Agenda - Motion E. Murphy, second R. Murphy, vote 5/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session November 28, 2022 Motion Orr, second E. Murphy, vote 5/0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas swore in board members; Ms. Diane Miller (Planning), Ms. Saura Lake (Ethics), and Ms. Debra Camper (Ethics). Councilmember Orr announced the Christmas lighting awards winners, non were present. There were many outstanding displays, it was a hard decision.

Mayor Cephas introduced Ms. Jenny Budd who presented a proposal for installing patriotic banners in town. Home Town Heros Banners creates and will install the banners at a cost of \$300 each. They provide the banners and the hardware. A minimum of 5 is required to start. She would like to see advertising and have fundraisers to cover the cost. Avery explained the license agreement that is required by Delmarva Power, a \$200 fee is required plus \$10.50 per pole. Mayor Cephas said he likes the idea, E. Murphy said this has been a long time coming. Cederic Turner said the Downtown Committee will help, Pastor Brooks said there should be a committee. Franz said she would contact the Lions Club. **E. Murphy motion to go forward with Avery's input, second Higgins, vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Chief Jones gave his monthly police report. December was a very busy month. He said the

awarded a BJAG Grant for new laptops.

Manager's Report – Avery said he has a proposal from Schummer Inc. to replace the stormwater culvert under Neelson St. for \$61,000. Motion to go forward E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Walking trail applications are still open. The order for a Tesla police vehicle has been canceled. Grant applications are being submitted to MDE for a new deep well at Oak Street and an additional ENR filter for the wastewater plant.

Mayor Cephas said he is proud of the Dollar General, he is looking forward to a new grocery store and a fast food restaurant. We are working on the new library, there is a lot going on.

County Council – Lenny Pfeffer said he has been elected President of the County Council and the MACo president. They have hired an interim County Manager. He is very positive of the new council; they have a lot of work ahead of them.

Comments – R. Murphy thanked the people for volunteering for the boards. Franz said happy new year to all. Higgins said he is looking forward to the banner project and police law enforcement day. He asked about the time frame on the hardware store?

Mayor Cephas said he would like to nominate Zia and Harry Patel's son for a committee. E. Murphy thanked Jack Lewis for his service on the Ethics Commission. He resigned due to failing health. Orr said he is looking forward to 2023. Cephas said he met with the Assistant Secretary of HUD over what we need for our area. It is bad for people to be evicted this time of year. He is asking for a moratorium on evictions this time of year.

Cederic Turner asked the councils opinion on a new grocery store? R. Murphy very much in favor. In 2002 Food Lion was coming to town and then it was voted down. Cephas said that was a non-responsive council. Higgins said competition is good. E. Murphy is in support. Orr said we need it; it will be beneficial.

Next meeting will be a work session January 23rd.

7:30 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager


Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:

