

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

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING January 10, 2022

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Cephas

Opening Prayer – E. Murphy

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

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

Approval of Minutes – Open Session December 13, 2021 Motion Franz/R. Murphy, vote 4/0.
Closed Session December 13, 2021 Motion R. Murphy/Franz, vote 4/0.

Mayor's Report – R. Murphy presented the awards for the Christmas Lighting Contest; 1st place R. Helmar at 303 Wrights Ave., 2nd place Perezos at 514 Glen Oak and 3rd place Hornsby's at 210 Academy. 1st place for businesses was Hurlock Family Dentistry. Mayor Cephas stated that the postponed meeting with DHCD has been rescheduled for March 15th at 10 am. He would like to see more affordable housing and more police officers living in town. He would like to put out a petition stating support for a new library. The problem with trash pickup is being worked on.

Fire Department – None

Police Report – Chief Jones gave his monthly report. He reminded people to keep their vehicle and home doors locked.

Town Manager Report – Avery stated that the town office roof replacement and the replacement of one heat pump at the office and two at wastewater have been completed. Great job by both companies. Avery said he has been in contact with Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) about their OPEB Trust. They supplied their performance history and by-laws as well as an overview of the trust. Avery said it seems to be a perfect fit for Hurlock, he is very excited about establishing funds in the trust to support retiree's health care plans. With their trust already being

in place the Town can join the trust with a \$500 service fee. This saves all the work and expense of setting up a dedicated Hurlock trust. Avery will forward the information to the town auditors for their review. **Cephas recommended approval of the concept. E. Murphy motion to continue process, second Cummings, 4 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Avery said Chesapeake Utilities is scheduled to present information on the natural gas survey at the January 24th meeting. Avery stated that he has been working with Chesapeake Waste to help improve trash pickup. Most of the problems have been employee related due to COVID.

Old Business – Regarding selection of the District 4 Councilmember replacement Attorney Merriken said the vote would have to be unanimous at this meeting. It requires a motion and a second. **Cummings motion to select Mr. Jock Orr as District 4 Councilmember, second E. Murphy, roll call vote:**

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| R. Murphy | Aye |
| Franz | Aye |
| Cummings | Aye |
| E. Murphy | Aye |

Merriken described Ordinance 2021-11 to reduce the minimum floor space from 50,000 to 5,000 square feet in the Commercial 3 District. The Ordinance was introduced December 13, 2021 by E. Murphy. **Motion to approve Ordinance 2021-11 by Cummings, second Franz, vote 4 in favor 0 opposed.**

New Business – Avery got a Mobil Food Vendor renewal application from Shanita Parker. E. Murphy sees concerns because it seems the trailer has been left permanently. Cephas said he thinks she has followed the rules. Avery said the ordinance says it should be removed at nights. **Motion to approve the application with the stipulation that she is informed of the requirement to move the trailer and it not become permanent by E. Murphy, second Cummings, vote 4 in favor 0 opposed.**

Comments – R. Murphy complimented Public Works for the snow removal. R. Murphy would like to see a walking trail along the old rail bed. Franz said she is glad to see people out and congratulated Mr. Orr on his selection to the Council. Cummings thanked everyone who displayed lights and decorations for Christmas. January 24th the school safety patrol members will be recognized at the town meeting. E. Murphy said Public Works was well ahead of others on the snow removal. Employees from H&M Bay said how well Hurlock roads were taken care of. He also said that Jack Lewis' neighbor passed away, she was a sweetheart. He wanted to recognize his wife and Mr. Newcomb for answering over 150 letters to Santa.

Public Comments – Jack Lewis thanked the fire department for providing escorting Santa through town. He thanked Avery for providing the documents he asked for, he got them next day.

Mr. Jock Orr said he is humbled by his selection to the Council. He will hard for the town.

7:10 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:

John Avery
Town Manager



Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:

