

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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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 June 10, 2019

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – There was a moment of silent prayer.

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion Rev. Cephas, second E. Murphy, approved 4/0

Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2019 Open Session – Cephas/Cummings, approved 4/0

Mayors Report: Mayor Henry said that all thought the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Prayer Breakfast was good. He will plan on it again next year. He spoke on the dedication of the Habitat House at 202 Jackson St. for Ashley Cephas. It is a very nice house. Habitat is still looking for volunteers. The Girl Scouts donated two arrangements for the Town, one is at the Train Station and the other at the fire department. Mr. Doug Raymond loaned the Town some historic railroad items. The Mayor issued a belated birthday wish to acting chief Bruce Jones. Dor. Co. Parks and Recs is to look with the Town for future projects.

Co. Councilman Pfeffer said the County budget has been finalized. He recognized Chief Trego for his part in saving the life of Secretary resident Bill Gullien. Chief Trego heard the call for a cardiac arrest and responded, being first on the scene he started CPR resuscitating Mr. Gullien. Mr. Pfeffer read a commendation to the Hurlock Fire Department. Councilman Cephas asked if the requested funds to have officers in the County schools were rejected, the answer was yes they were rejected but could be looked at again. That program would cost \$1.7 million. We must work together to have safe schools.

Public Works Report: Avery reported that the work on the train cars is progressing. The parking lots at the wastewater plant and town office are due to be sealed and restriped. The basketball court in Prospect Park will have the cracks repaired and recoated within the next few weeks. Cephas questioned the ditch in Weems front yard, he said it was to have a pipe. That will have to be taken up with Dorchester Co. Public Works.

Avery presented a Treasurers Report for the period ending June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Police Department Report: Acting Chief Jones gave a brief report (4 accidents, 1 assault & 5 thefts). E. Murphy asked how many citations have been issued for violations at the intersection of Woodsedge Dr. and Miles Circle. Avery recommended a letter from the Town to the residents about the numerous complaints. Cephas stated that speeding is a problem in Prospect and people in the park late at night.

Fire Department: Chief Trego reported there have been 94 calls for service this year. The number of calls is done from 134 for the same period last year. Their engine and tanker are at the point needing major rehabbing or replacement.

Old Business: Ordinance 2019-7, Council Salaries, was explained by Merriken and sponsored by Cummings.

Cephas spoke on economic development and read a statement (attached) about growth and the town dying. We are at a cross roads; are we going to grow our economy? A grocery store will feed other businesses. We need a five-year action plan. Infrastructure, landscaping downtown. Federalsburg has everything we don't have.

Dr. Carl Barham requested budget for signs coming into Town: E. Murphy motion to table the issue, second by Cephas. E. Murphy said Dr. Barham's proposal is different than he thought. Cephas wants Dr. Barham to come back to the Council for further discussion.

New Business: Mr. Kenny Walton asked for permission to host a suicide prevention walk again, they will have food trucks and be located at the Pavilion and Train Station September 21<sup>st</sup>. Last year over \$5,000 was raised for their cause. Cephas said suicide is devastating, he supports their cause. Cephas motion to approve and waive fee, second E. Murphy. Vote 4 in favor/0 opposed.

On the request for a walk thru town to raise funds for NDHS basketball team Cephas motion to approve, second E. Murphy. Vote 4 in favor/0 opposed.

Cephas motion to donate \$250 to the suicide prevention walk, second E. Murphy. Vote 4 in favor/0 opposed.

Cephas motioned to move meeting time to 7pm in the summer, motion failed with no second. Cephas motioned to move meeting time to 6:30pm in the summer, second by Cummings. Vote 4 in favor/0 opposed.

Council Comments: E. Murphy mentioned the 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter has been done. He asked for information to be included. He also spoke on the need for volunteers for Habitat. Franz said the music night is being worked on. Cummings said the Little League season is coming to an end.

Mayor Henry said there will be no meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> due to MML. The next meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Public Comments: Cederic Turner said the summer program for kids in Prospect Park will begin soon and be 3 days a week. Pat Finley said some cats were trapped the past weekend to be spayed or neutered. Snip Tuck is hoping for more grant money. She asked about the progress on updating the charter. Rev. Dickerson said he wants to see good results from the Council for the Town. Everybody should work together. Chief Trego said their ladder truck had to be pressure washed to remove soot. Absolute Pressure Washing did the job for free.

Motion to go to a Closed Session for the discussion of personnel matters and the discussion of the salary of one employee by Cephas, second Cummings. Vote 4 in favor/0 opposed.

An announcement was made that the Council would not return to Open Session following the Closed Session

Adjourn 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
John Avery  
Town Manager

*Approved  
open Session  
July 22, 2019*

Mayor Henry:

Councilmembers: