

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR
JOHN H. AVERY
TOWN MANAGER
ROBERT MERRIKEN
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
CHARLES A. CUMMINGS
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
AMBER N. TRUXON

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING June 22, 2020

This meeting was closed to the public due to COVID-19. The meeting was programed to be live streamed through Town Hall Streams. Notice of the meeting and streaming was posted on the town message board and the town website. The agenda for the meeting was posted on the town website by Friday June 19, 2020.

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Roll Call, present: Councilmembers; Murphy, Truxon, Cummings, Franz and Cephas, Mayor Henry, Attorney Merriken and Manager Avery

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

Approval of Minutes – Open Session June 8, 2020 Motion Murphy/Cummings, approved 5/0.

Mayor Henry introduced Jonathan Ishmael and Brandon Lee who have graduated the police academy and were sworn in as Hurlock Police Officers.

Chief Jones gave his report and said he is very proud of the two young men. They endured a lot during their enrolment with the academy including remote learning, being quarantined for two weeks and the normal rigors of the academy. Chief Jones said he has high hopes for Hurlock's two new officers.

Public Works – Avery reported that the curb and sidewalk repairs are ready to start and the house at 327 Pine St. has been demolished.

Old Business – Motion to extend the Declaration of Emergency until July 31, 2020 by Cummings, second Cephas, vote 5 in favor/0 opposed.

Attorney Merriken described Ordinance 2020-6 Sale of 207 Oak St. Avery explained that the selling of this property is being done with the county's knowledge. The deal had been arranged before the purchase to sell the property to Greg Koski so the property could be developed and

back on the tax role. Cephas asked is the town making a profit, Avery answered yes. **Motion to sell the property to Greg Koski for \$8,000 by Cephas/second by Murphy, vote 5 in favor 0 opposed.**

Cephas asked about the Police Use of Force Policy, is it being updated? Chief Jones answered that attorney Merriken has the proposed updates and Avery has forwarded to attorney Kevin Karpinski in Baltimore for review as well. Cephas questioned the choke hold policy and said they should not be allowed. Chief Jones explained that choke holds are only allowed if deadly force is allowed. Cephas suggested a policy making it mandatory for an officer to stop another officer if that officer's use of force has gone to far. That should be implemented with new officer training and retrain veteran officers. Murphy asked if body cameras are on? Chief answered yes, they are. The mind set must be changed for the better. Cephas asked if there is a policy for cameras, answer, yes, the policy is for cameras to be activated when an officer receives a call.

Cephas said we should have a procurement policy to make sure that contracts are written to abide by state and federal law.

New Business – Cephas spoke on Hurlock's hiring policy and the need to have a system for promotion and seek out minorities. The policy should be more progressive on seeking out minorities. We will be far better off than where we are today. COVID-19 is bad, we could be hurt severely if taken for granted or too lightly. There will be testing at the Health Department June 29th, he hopes the Mayor and Council will promote the testing.


Comments – Cephas said Cummings talked to him after the last meeting about having a walk for peace and love, that would make a statement. Cummings said there is a lot going on causing a lot of sleepless nights. Tri City Little League will have a summer series. He read a statement saying that law enforcement across the country has suffered and he is sad to see that respect for police officers has been lost due to a few monsters. Cummings asked for continued support of police officers. Cephas said Cummings is exceptional.

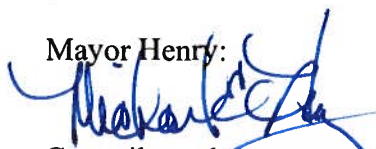
Franz asked when we be able to have yard sales? Avery said he will find out.

Murphy asked when will the town meetings be open to the public? Mayor Henry said we just passed and extension of the emergency declaration. He is concerned about the virous. Murphy then spoke on the next LESMA meeting. They are working on when and where; it will probably be in September.

Motion to Adjourn 6:45

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager

Mayor Henry:

Councilmembers:
