

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
CHARLES CUMMINGS, PRESIDENT
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL MURPHY
JOCK ORR

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING March 14, 2022

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Cephas

Opening Prayer – Gary Henry

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

Approval of Agenda - Motion Cummings, second Franz, vote 5/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session February 24, 2022 Motion E. Murphy, second Cummings, vote 5/0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas said he met with Governor Hogan, the Lt. Governor and Senator Eckhart. They plan on coming to Hurlock to look at town projects. Cephas also talked to DHCD who should meeting with the town. Mayor Cephas swore in a number of members of the Planning, Ethics, and Appeals Boards. This was done as routinely required by the Charter.

Fire Department – No report

Police Report – Chief Jones gave his monthly report. E. Murphy asked if the hit and run accidents are still under report? Chief answered yes. Cephas asked are electric cars still being looked at? Chief answered yes, it is an ongoing project. Cephas thanked the police for doing an excellent job.

Town Manager Report – Avery advised that public works will be trimming trees that are over hanging roads in the next couple of weeks. This will be especially true in Woodsedge. Many trees are hitting school buses. Avery mentioned having a work session on March 21st to work on the budget. Cummings said he would not be available that evening. Avery asked the council to get back to him the next day about their availability.

County Councilman Pfeffer – The County Council unanimously issued a letter of support for two

assisted living communities that Greg Koski is proposing. One would be in East New Market and the other in Hurlock. Pfeffer stated that Emergency Management said that the benefits of the centers would outweigh the burden on EMS. The county is currently working on their budget. They are projecting a 40% increase in fuel costs. Pfeffer said the state is amending some of their proposed restrictions on fossil fuels. Maryland is aiming at 0 emissions by 2045.

J.C. Collins asked Pfeffer about how many units have been approved for the assisted living projects? Pfeffer answered; none as of yet. Collins asked if there is enough ambulance service to cover these projects? Collins disagreed strongly that there is enough service. There is only one ambulance in Hurlock.

Old Business – Attorney Merriken described Ordinance 2022-2 that is up for introduction. The ordinance is to authorize the Town to invest in the MACo OPEB Trust for funding retiree health care plans in the future. Ordinance 2022-2 was introduced by E. Murphy.

Avery explained the state proposed current Constant Yield Tax Rate. The town is not exempt for the 2022 rate. **Avery suggested adopting the Constant Yield Tax Rate of .7913 and leaving the current business rate of 1.4 the same. Cummings motion to approve both rates, second by Franz. Vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

Comments – R. Murphy congratulated Jock Orr on his Council position. Franz said she saw a wonderful Disney play; it would be nice to bring one to Hurlock. Cummings thanked all the Commission Members for their volunteerism and dedication to Hurlock. E. Murphy reminded people to be safe on St. Patrick’s Day. He mentioned that the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce will celebrate their 100th birthday. E. Murphy thanked Avery, he said Avery always finds money. Its nice to have a balance budget and then be under budget every year.

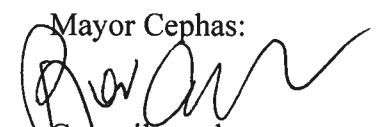
Councilmember Jock Orr introduced himself and said he has been a Hurlock resident for 12 years. He wants to get out in the community and meet people. He is grateful for the opportunity to be a Councilmember.

Monroe Quailes asked if there will be anything in the budget for training for the Ethics Commission or for the members to network? He commented that Councilmembers must comply with the ethics laws. He asked if there are any plans for future training?

6:44 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager

Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:
