

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
DAVID HIGGINS
BONNIE FRANZ
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.
JOCK ORR
EARL H. MURPHY, JR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING March 13, 2023

6:00 PM Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Rev. Dickerson

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

Approval of Agenda - Motion Orr, with items 11 and 12 postponed, second E. Murphy, vote 3/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session February 13, 2023, motion E. Murphy, second Orr, vote 3/0. Work Session February 27, 2023, motion Higgins, second E. Murphy, vote 3/0

Mayor's Report – None

Agenda Requests – Jymil Thompson Ed. D. program director for program reading spoke on his program that is aimed at improving reading proficiency at the 3rd grade level. He said reading deficiency exists especially in depressed areas. The community is accountable for students success as well as the schools. They want to see students come to schools prepared. His campaign is focused on Dorchester County. They have already accomplished a lot in a year and half. He is looking to raise funds through private donations, etc. E. Murphy stated that the town is hoping to have a new library in 3 to 5 years. This program would fit in the new library. Mayor Cephas said there have been a lot of kids left behind, this is a wonderful program. Higgins said this program has great goals, 3rd grade literacy is very important. Cephas recommended checking with the churches, they would be a great source.

Ms. Holly Gilpin from Dorchester Tourism spoke on tourism's effort to promote Dorchester County. They use flyers, radio spots, and the internet. Tourism brings a huge amount of money into the state annually through vacationers and visitors. Tourism offers free advertising for local events. They offer training for mini-grant applications. She said they are aiming people from

Cambridge to Hurlock. She wants people to visit and stay in Dorchester County. Their newsletter goes to more than 7000 people a month. They have walking tours. Cephas said her presentation was very educational, growth is moving toward north county. Higgins thanked her for recognizing that north county has contributions as well.

Police Report for February was given by Major Biskach.

Manager's Report – Avery said that the Audit Report will be given by Mr. Roy Geiser at the April 10th meeting. He recommended making the March 27th meeting a work session for discussion of the 2024 budget and Jenny Budd's report on the Banner Project.

County Council Lenny Pfeffer – Dor. Co. Council President Pfeffer said the educational is a great program. It will need parental buy in.

Comments – Higgins asked about having bill pay on the website. Avery said it is being looked in to. E. Murphy said there are people out there to help our town. He spoke on a potential sports complex. The developers are looking for about 100 acres for their project. It could possibly be a couple of smaller sites instead of one huge complex. It could draw as many as 3000 to 5000 people a weekend.

Orr said we need to invest in our youth as well as infrastructure.

Michele Murphy said she wants to see a push for more education in North Dorchester. She hopes the Council will contribute to the project.

7:37 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager





Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:
