

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
CHARLES A. CUMMINGS
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING May 13, 2019

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Rev. Cephas gave the opening prayer.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: April 22, 2019 Open Session – Franz/Cummings, approved 4/0, E. Murphy abstained as having been absent for that meeting

Mayors Report: Mayor Henry and Councilman Cummings recognized the Hurlock Elementary School Safety Patrol by presenting them with keys to the town, Hurlock t-shirts and challenge coins. The Mayor spoke on a proclamation for Police Week (May 12-18) and Police Officers Day, May 15th.

Agenda Request: Mr. J. C. Collins from the Hurlock Downtown Committee, with Chief Hutton, presented an award to Hurlock Police Officer of the year Det. Zach Howard. Mr. Collins presented an award to Fire Fighter of the Year Ward Higgins which was accepted by Chief Trego. Mr. Collins and Deputy Sheriff John Stitchberry recognized Deputy Sheriff Lee Hagadorn as Sheriff Deputy of the Year. Chief Hutton thanked Mr. Collins for the recognition.

Mayor Henry read a letter commending Hurlock Police Officer Louis Quarshie.

Dr. Carl Barham presented a budget proposal for the Hurlock Freedom Advocacy Group that he is co-leader of. Hurlock is the birth place of voter reform in Dorchester County and the State of Maryland, the movement is to insure voter equity. He is proposing 4 new signs coming into town and suggesting a banner to promote community pride.

Public Works Report: Avery reported that there had been a leak at the waste water plant that was from holes

in a 10" discharge pipe. The pipe and elbow were replaced the same day. The cost of the community cleanup was about \$4000. Orders for demolition for two houses on Pine Street have been served on the owners. That process will have to run its course.

Police Department Report: Chief Hutton stated that there were 691 calls for service in April. In the last two weeks there have been 4 assaults, 1 burglary and 1 DWI.

Fire Department: Chief Trego reported there have been 81 calls for service this year. The number of calls are light for the year so far

Old Business: Ordinance 2019-5 was introduced by Rev. Cephas which will allow non-conforming duplex homes to be renovated after being idle for more than two years during the April 22, 2019 meeting. Councilman Cephas motioned to approve Ordinance 2019-5, second by E. Murphy. With no discussion motion was put to a roll call vote:

R. Murphy	Aye
Cummings	Aye
Franz	Aye
E. Murphy	Aye
Cephas	Aye

Budget Ordinance 2019-6 was introduced April 22, 2019 by Rev. Cephas. Rev. Cephas asked Chief Trego if the fire department is adequate at this point. Answer was they could always use more funds but yes at this point ok. After a few clarification questions Cephas motioned to approve Ordinance 2019-6, second by Cummings

roll call vote was taken:

R. Murphy	Aye
Cummings	Aye
Franz	Aye
E. Murphy	Aye
Cephas	Aye

Community developments: Rev. Cephas spoke on the need for a five-year plan. There is a need for affordable housing beyond Habitat. If people work or live here, they will buy here. Cephas proposed for the town to have our own grant writer and an assistant for Avery.

New Business: Avery introduced an application to have a wedding party at a residence on Mapleton Street. Motion to approve the party until 12:00am was made by Cephas, second by E. Murphy, approved 5/0.

Approval was given for Ministers and Citizens to do a youth program in the summer as they have in past years.

Council Comments: E. Murphy made a complaint about people not stopping at stop signs in Woodsedge. Chief Hutton said most of the offenders are the Woodsedge residents themselves. There was talk about putting up another sign before the stop sign at Mills Circle.

Councilman R. Murphy reminded people to not forget about the park at Heights Ave.

Councilman Cummings thanked Principle Wilson for the help with the recognition of the School Safety Patrol.

Councilwoman Franz talked about the success of the community yard sale in spite of the weather forecast.

County Councilman Lenny Pfeffer said there was a water leak in County Office Building today. Opioid deaths are down from where they were. Good things are being done. Dorchester County is working with MTA on

acquiring the unused portions of the rail line.

Public Comments: Jack Lewis thanked police officers and stated there are over 10,000 officers injured a year. Cederic Turner thanked Mr. Collins for the presentations. Susan Bautz said that N. Dorchester Railroad group is attempting to restore the 6.3 miles of track between Hurlock and Preston. Pat Finley said some cats were trapped the prior weekend to be spay and neutered. She suggested a pet park.

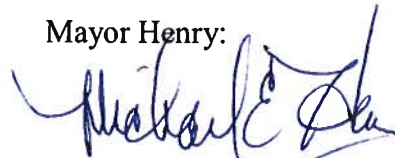
Mr. Wayne Gore explained the issues he has had with town water. He had a couple of bottles of water from January and February that were cloudy, he stated that he has not had any issues since then. Avery explained that water is tested daily and that occasionally there can be cloudy water if there has been a disturbance in the system; i.e. the opening of a fire hydrant or large flows of water.

Adjourn 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager

Mayor Henry:



Councilmembers:

