

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

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING May 23, 2022

6:00 PM Call to Order by Council President Cummings

Opening Prayer – E. Murphy

Roll Call - Councilmembers present; E. Murphy, R. Murphy, Orr, Cumming, Attorney Merriken and Manager Avery

Approval of Agenda - Motion E. Murphy, second R. Murphy, vote 4/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session May 9, 2022 Motion R. Murphy, second E. Murphy, vote 4/0.

Mayor's Report – Cummings stated that Mayor Cephas was recovering from surgery.

Fire Department – Chief Helmer said they had a fatal fire the preceding Friday. It was the second fatal fire in the last 5 months. He wants to do community education. This fatality was 100% preventable. They will have smoke detectors for anyone who needs them.

Police Report – Chief Jones said the fire department did a great job on the fire. It was a community effort. One lady was displaced. There were people there to help locate her temporarily.

Town Manager Report – Avery reported on the progress on the well renovations. Dollar General is going forward. He met with Chesapeake Utilities who will be canvassing areas in town.

County Councilman Pfeffer – Pfeffer said that HVFD banquet was wonderful, he was glad to have been invited. He thanked Earl Murphy for a great LESMA meeting. The County Planning Commission will be meeting to discuss the solar ordinance. The Hurlock Police did an incredible job with the fire. Chief Jones went into the smoke-filled unit to help get the woman out. Public Works helped as well.

Old Business – Avery described the two bids for the pump station renovation. He recommended accepting the lower bid from M2 Construction, LLC in the amount of \$3,131,039. They are the better qualified of the two bidders. **Motion to approve E. Murphy, second R. Murphy, vote 4 in favor, 0 opposed.** Avery mentioned

that he and the engineer are looking to amend 2 areas of the contract for cost savings.

Attorney Merriken described proposed Ordinance 2022-6 for the sale of 102 Broad St. E. Murphy introduced the Ordinance. The sale will have a reverter clause allowing 6 months for demolition. If not, the town could purchase the property back.

New Business – The next meeting will be June 26<sup>th</sup> which will allow for the MML Conference.

Comments – Orr said that will be big changes in juvenal laws. Changes are coming that will have a big impact on police. E. Murphy thanked the town for hosting the last LESMA dinner. He talked about the library meeting, it was very positive. Other municipalities are very supportive. Senator Echart was at the meeting. The idea for a new library was very well received by everyone.

Cummings said that the blessing boxes were built 2 years ago. They have been well received, people have been keeping them full. He thanked E. Murphy for the LESMA dinner. R. Murphy thanked everyone involved with the fire at 51 Delaware Ave. especially Chief Jones.

Mr. David Wands said the fire department and EMS did a terrific job. There is a lot of cooperation and support from outside municipalities.

6:35 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mayor Cephas:

John Avery  
Town Manager

Councilmembers: