

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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REV. CHARLES T. CEPHAS  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
TOWN MANAGER  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
TOWN ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHARLES CUMMINGS  
BONNIE FRANZ  
EARL H. MURPHY  
RUSSELL MURPHY

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING November 22, 2021

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Opening Prayer – Rev. Cephas

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

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

Approval of Minutes – Open Session November 8, 2021 Motion Cephas/Franz, vote 5/0.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Henry said that he has picked up a few more items for the Museum. He said this is his 96<sup>th</sup> meeting and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Fire Department – Chief Coulbourn thanked the town for all the support. He congratulated mayor elect Cephas. They have 252 fire calls up to November 1<sup>st</sup>. The rescue tools are to be mounted in the tower and will be in service following that. December will be a big month for fund raisers.

Police Report – Chief Jones said that the monthly report was given at the last meeting. The only significant event was a fatal accident on Noble St. He thanked Mayor Henry for everything that he has done.

Public Works Report – Avery reported that work is in progress on the annual audit and all is going well.

Lenny Pfeffer – Reported that Maryland may be eligible for \$500,000,000 in an opioid law suite and will represent counties and municipalities instead there being individual law suits. Counties may have to have 2 police accountability boards by next year. The County Council will have to create two boards. Cephas said he is against the idea. Citizens governing police that have no police experience is not a good idea. He thanked Pfeffer for bringing the information to Hurlock.

E. Murphy said he can see where a police panel will be a conflict.

Old Business – Avery described the bid results for the office roof replacement and the 3 heat pump replacements. **Motion by E. Murphy to award the roof replacement to the low bidder Arocon Roofing for \$17,150, second by Franz, approved 5/0. Motion to award the heat pump replacements to Shaw’s Inc. for \$29,370 by E. Murphy, second by Cummings, approved 5/0.**

New Business – Attorney Merriken described Ord. Zoning Text Amendment 2021-10 to allow child care homes inherently in certain districts. E. Murphy asked to clarify that this was for child care and not adult care? Answer only for child care. Merriken stated that by state law child care homes can not be excluded by covenants. Cephas introduced the ordinance.

Attorney Merriken talked about the selection process of a replacement councilmember. How will the council generate a list? The more the process the better. Cephas said it should be advertised and have interviews. The Town owes it to the people, give everybody an equal opportunity. Mayor Henry agrees to advertise and have the applicant submit a letter and have interviews. Motions were made by Cephas and E. Murphy to advertise with a deadline of December 10<sup>th</sup>. Interviews are to start Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and/or Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. All agreed.

Comments – All the Councilmembers thanked Mayor Henry for everything that has been done. Councilman Cummings thanked the town for the help, they were hit hard by COVID. R. Murphy said the Halloween Lighting Contest winners’ prizes were delivered.

R. Murphy spoke about the Council President position and nominated Cummings. The attorney said the council should wait for the position to be vacated.

Cephas thanked Mayor Henry for his dedication to the town, he has been a leader. He thanked Monroe Quales for the help with food donations. Cephas said some bad rumors have started. He wants to assure everyone that he has no intention of getting rid of any town employees. Give him a chance to do great things.

Monroe Quales agrees with doing the right thing in solicitating for a councilmember.

Mayor Henry asked can the process for selection be put in a policy? Attorney it could be done by Charter text amendment.

6:20 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
John Avery  
Town Manager

Mayor Cephas:  


Councilmembers:

