

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
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL MURPHY
JOCK ORR

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING October 24, 2022

6:00 PM Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Rev. Dickerson

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

Approval of Agenda - Motion Orr with the addition of Council President under New Business, second R. Murphy, vote 4/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session September 26, 2022 Motion E. Murphy, second Orr, vote 4/0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas spoke on the need for updating the stormwater system and the towns piping is top notch. He's looking for a new grocery store, competition drives the U.S. economy. The mayor thanked E. Murphy for the LESMA dinner and the presentation recognizing former Mayor Kline of East New Market.

Fire Department – Avery gave the Fire Department report. It was sent by text from Chief Helmer.

Police Report – Chief Jones introduced Ms. Crystal Huffman whom will be the new school resource officer. He said he is so honored and pleased to be getting a wonderful officer.

Managers' Report – Avery said that the Veterans Day Service will be on the 11th at 12:30. The Middle School is having a service on the 11th at 9:00 am. Avery gave a brief status report on the walking trail project. Dorchester Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a Grand Opening for the Dollar General November 15th at noon.

County Councilman Pfeffer – Pfeffer asked if the town got the COPS grant? Avery said not at this point. Cephas said it looks positive. Pfeffer explained the deficient tar and chipping on Jackson Street and said it will be redone when weather permits. meetings with County Council again and asked Pfeffer to help with funding the Hurlock Elementary SRO position.

Old Business – Attorney Merriken said the new Ethics Ordinance 2022-5 is up for a vote. Orr motion to approve, second E. Murphy, vote 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Merriken mentioned scheduling an Ethics Commission meeting. Avery said it is scheduled for Nov. 10 at 6 pm. Cephas said he was aware of some potential complaints. Merriken said no compliant forms have been filed.

Mayor Cephas stated that the position for District 1 Councilman is up for a vote. R. Murphy nominated Mr. David Higgins; the Council voted unanimously in favor.

E. Murphy thanked the other two applicants. The swearing in will be during the Nov. 14th meeting.

New Business – Councilman Orr asked the Council to consider E. Murphy for the position of Council President. He asked for it to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Comments – R. Murphy reminded everyone to be safe on Halloween. E. Murphy thanked the fire department for their help with our youth. E. Murphy mentioned Marshmallows with the Murphy’s and remembering former Mayor Kline. Orr said selecting a councilman from the 3 applicants was not easy. They are all very qualified.

Franz said the Police Report was missed. Chief Jones then gave his report. They are seeing a slight upswing in thefts. Keep doors locked.

Public Comments – David Higgins thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve on the council.

Lenny Pfeffer said that the County finally passed the Police Accountability Ordinance and are looking for applicants.

6:57 pm Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:



John Avery
Town Manager


Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:

