

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
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL MURPHY
JOCK ORR

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING September 26, 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 E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 4/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session August 22, 2022 Motion E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 4/0.

Open Work Session Sept. 12, 2022, Motion E. Murphy, second R. Murphy, vote 3/0, 1 abstain.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas stated his goal is to see a new library going forward, a walking trail completed, playgrounds revamped, and affordable housing. He is looking forward to working with DHCD and the Governors Office. He wants an SRO in the elementary school and is proud of the Dollar General.

Mr. Kenny Rogers described his youth program and requested to use the Community Center Thursday evenings for a year. He said he has out grown the library. Their goal is to spread their youth movement across Delmarva. Mayor Cephas said the concept is a wonderful idea. Orr said they have a lot of good ideas. They will supply insurance naming the Town as an additional insured. The Council agreed to grant their request.

Fire Department – Jason Trego gave the HFD monthly report; 73 EMS calls and 24 fire calls. V. President Brian Tolly said they will be celebrating their 100 anniversary in 2024. The first new truck was bought by Hurlock in 1929.

Police Report – Chief Jones gave the August report. He applauded Mr. Rogers efforts. He has

an application for an SRO that is being evaluated. Orr asked how many officers will be SRO certified. Chief said 3.

Town Manager Report – Avery gave a progress report on the hardware store, how difficult it is to get new trucks and that Dollar General has located a power transformer and it has been installed. He said the next regular meeting would be October 10th, that is a holiday and suggested a work session on the 17th instead. That would be to have District 1 candidate interviews and to discuss Chris Adams water bill. All agreed.

County Councilman Pfeffer – The County has suspended all youth activities around the ball park except one due to amount of violence. There has already been 3 murders there this year. He is working with MACo about attracting and maintaining firefighters. The County is invoking a phone tree system to help with the overload of phone calls at the 911 center. Mayor Cephas said he would like to see Hurlock have its own 911 dispatchers. He said he would like to see meetings with County Council again and asked Pfeffer to help with funding the Hurlock Elementary SRO position.

Old Business – Attorney Merriken described the new Ethics Ordinance, it has been approved by the State. Orr stated he will introduce the Ordinance. Avery described the proposed changes to the 2023 Budget Industrial Sewer charges. Motion to approve a 10% increase over two years by E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Avery explained the need for a new tractor and the proposal he got from Atlantic Tractor. The cost is to be \$84,000 after a government discount. We would get a \$17,000 trade in on the old tractor. Motion to approve R. Murphy, second Franz, vote 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Comments – E. Murphy thanked Cummings for everything that he has done for the Town as a Councilmember. Orr reminded everyone that elections are coming up, we are blessed to be able to vote.

Chris Adams asked about the conclusion of his water bill, Avery said the Council has not made a determination yet. Discussion will be on the next agenda.

Jack Lewis asked the definition of affordable housing? Orr said people with the state median income should be able to afford a house. Merriken read a description by the state.

7:40 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:

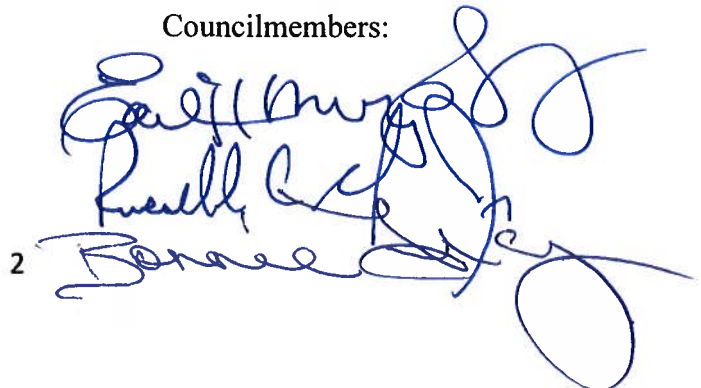


John Avery
Town Manager



Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:



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