

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
CHARLES A. CUMMINGS
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
AMBER N. TRUXON

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING May 26, 2020

This meeting was closed to the public due to COVID-19. The meeting was programed to be live streamed through Town Hall Streams. Notice of the meeting and streaming was posted on the town message board and the town website. The agenda for the meeting was posted on the town website by Friday May 22, 2020.

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Roll Call, present: Councilmembers; Murphy, Truxon, Cummings, Franz and Cephas, Mayor Henry, Attorney Merriken and Manager Avery

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

Approval of Minutes – Open Session May 11, 2020 Motion Franz/Cummings, approved 5/0.
Closed Session May 11, 2020 Motion Cephas/Franz, approved 5/0.

Department Reports: Public Works – Avery reported that the annual drinking water report has been published and tests in all categories are in the normal range. A Letter of Intent has been submitted requesting grant funding for replacement of the public works warehouse. If approved the Town will be able to submit a grant application. The grant would be 25% of the cost of replacement. The new sweeper has been delivered and works great.

Police Department: Chief Jones distributed copies of his report to the Council and gave a verbal report as well. Cephas thanked the Chief for the officer that responded to the Glen Oak Hotel. The response helped save a life. Cephas also gave concern that the ditch by the Prospect Heights Apartments has become a haven for discarded weapons.

Attorney Merriken stated that the Council went to closed session following the open meeting of

May 11th for the purpose to discuss the salary of a certain employee and voted 5 in favor/0 opposed of a salary increase for that individual.

Old Business: Attorney Merriken described Budget Ordinance 2020-4 which establishes the real property tax rate at .8237/100 and the business personal tax rate of 1.40/100. Cephas motion to approve Ordinance 2020-4 establishing the 2021 Hurlock Budget, second by Cummings, vote 5 in favor/0 opposed.

Cephas made motion to approve Resolution 2020-9 extending the Hurlock COVID-19 State of Emergency until June 25, 2020 or until cancelled by the Mayor and Council. Second by Cummings, vote 5 in favor/0 opposed.


Mayor Henry reported that acquisition of artifacts for the Hurlock Museum is progressing nicely, there are close to 200 artifacts ready for display. The Town received a grant from Chesapeake Tourism for display cabinets. Mayor Henry proposed the name of "North Dorchester Historical Society", Murphy said he would like more conversation before going forward with the name. He suggested the Mayor talk to the Historical Society about it, he would not like to "water it down". Cephas said the project is starting to come together, there is a wealth of information in the area. Cephas said he wants to promote the Town more and does not want to hesitate. Cephas motioned to go forward with the name, Franz seconded, vote 4 in favor/Murphy opposed.

Comments: Franz asked are we picking up trash at businesses, Avery answered that the town is not. Businesses are responsible for their own trash removal. Cephas said there had been a lot of discussion about that topic under the last administration. He did not think it wise during this time frame. Franz thinks the businesses in town are doing well. Cummings said the sharing boxes that are being worked on are being completed and will be installed soon. Cephas said the pandemic has put a stop on everything, he hopes to look at the 2 largest industries in town for open communications. Cephas spoke on the old church on Main St. and hopes all the buildings in town are brought up to standards.

Cummings thanked Avery for getting the sign done for the North Dorchester High School graduates. Murphy thanked Avery for the way the Town has been running during the epidemic. Citizens can get things done in town. Cephas questioned why the parks are still closed. Avery said that the decision for the opening of the parks is up to the Health Department. The 2 main concerns about playgrounds are that germs can live on the surfaces for up to 3 days and there is no way to constantly sanitize the equipment. There is no control over the number of people that will be in the park. Murphy said he is concerned about opening to soon.

6:50 Motion to adjourn Murphy, second Cummings.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager

Approved in Open Session June 8, 2020

Mayor Henry:

Councilmembers: