

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MICHAEL E. HENRY  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
TOWN MANAGER  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
ATTORNEY

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

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING June 8, 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 June 5, 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 Cummings approved 5/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session May 26, 2020 Motion Cephas/Franz, approved 5/0.

Mayor Henry introduced Mr. Roger Harrell, Dorchester County Health Officer, to speak on COVID-19. Mr. Harrell said there were currently 157 cases in the county. The Health Department has been working with Amick since day one. They are excellent. They have tested all the employees and they have had a very percentage of employees test positive. He said that John Avery has done an excellent job since day one. He is very pleased with working with the town, we are working as a team. He thanked Rev. Cephas who has done a super job in the community. Mayor Henry said he hopes Phase 2 will open the parks. He feels the pain of the restaurant owners. Murphy asked when will day cares be able to return to normal. Mr. Harrell answered hopefully the Governor will move into Phase 2 soon. He is unsure of what the status of the schools will be in the fall. Cephas thanked Mr. Harrell for all the years he has been a friend. Cephas said the problem is not the closing of the playgrounds, it is the fact that the young people have pushed into the street and they are not following the social distancing or face mask guidelines.

Cephas spoke on large parties that have taken place in Prospect Heights. He is concerned about the young people who were running around very late at night. Mr. Avery gave him literature which was then handed out in the community. He said it is difficult for the police to stop parties now. He thought it was wrong to not let the people know they were violating the rules. Cephas said when the park does open, he will have it wiped down every day. Mr. Harrell said he wants to educate people not penalize them. Murphy stated that Food Lion and Family Dollar are not wiping down the shopping carts. Harrell said he not as concerned with what is on the surfaces as much as the droplets from people not wearing masks. He wants to see social distancing and masks being worn.

Department Reports: Police Department: Chief Jones distributed copies of his report to the Council and gave a verbal report as well. Cephas asked if the dirt bike that was confiscated given back, the Chief said yes. Cephas asked when the last time was the use of force policy was updated, Chief answered about 5 years ago. Question does the department have military surplus weapons, answer no but they do have patrol rifles.

Public Works: Avery explained the bids that were received for the train station roof repairs. The 3 bids were from Colossal Contracting, 73,840, Harper & Sons, 91,882, Hill-Kimmel, 129,940. Avery explained that the bid deadline was 2pm June 1 and was extended to 2pm June 5<sup>th</sup>. Harper and Hill-Kimmel met the deadline, Colossal's bid was not received until 3pm June 5<sup>th</sup>. The architect, Crosby & Associates recommendation was to award the bid to Harper & Sons. Murphy said he had many concerns however we should go forward with Harper as Colossal's bid did not meet the deadline. Cephas asked if there was an appeal process in the bid documents, Avery answered no. Motion to award to Harper & Sons by Murphy, second by Franz, roll call vote:

Truxon	Aye
Cummings	Aye
Murphy	Aye
Franz	Aye
Cephas	Nay

Motion to award to Harper & Sons passed 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

Avery explained the upcoming concrete work to be done in various places in town. Truxon said there is a need for crosswalks at Charles St. & Delaware Ave. Avery asked to talk with him later to see what the proposal is.

Old Business: Attorney Merriken explained Ordinance 2020-6, Sale of 207 Oak St., Murphy will introduce and be voted on next meeting.

Cephas asked what the proposed plans for the Andrews Glen property is. Avery explained the developers are proposing an assisted living community. Cephas said that District 4 is a minority district and he is concerned that it may change that. Avery said that re-districting may be necessary because District 4 is having more registered voters than the other three districts. Avery said that maintaining District 4 as a minority district would be a priority.

Avery commented home new housing sales came to a stop with the economic decline in 2008.

The market is beginning to come back, there is an upswing in new housing construction.

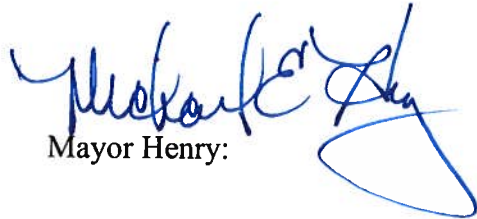
New Business: Attorney Merriken explained Ordinance 2020-7 to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow for assisted living communities. This would be by Special Exception. Avery explained the difference between being allowed inherently and by special exception. Cephas wants to see more success and more growth. Ordinance 2020-7 introduced by Murphy. Avery said he will draft the zoning requirements for the Ordinance and forward to the Council.

Comments: Cephas has concerns about police, developments have become a boiling point. This has to stop. He hopes good will come out and overwhelm the bad.

7:35 Motion to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted:

  
John Avery  
Town Manager

  
Mayor Henry:

Councilmembers:

Rev. Carl Aylor

