

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
DAVID HIGGINS
BONNIE FRANZ
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.
JOCK ORR
EARL H. MURPHY, JR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING September 11, 2023

6:00 PM Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Rev. Dickerson

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

Approval of Agenda - Motion Higgins, second R. Murphy, vote 4/0.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session August 14, 2023, motion E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 4/0.

Work Session August 28, 2023, motion E. Murphy, second Franz, vote 4/0

Mayor's Report – Mayor Cephas met with the Lt. Governor and discussed the library project. Libraries are more than reading books. We have to look at state and federal funding to make this happen. There should be federal funds available. He wants the Lt. Governor or the Governor to come to Hurlock. The warehouse is under construction and we have a handle on stormwater. He mentioned parents fighting at a youth football game. The game was called due to the conflict. Some parents get in the way of kids being kids.

Agenda Request – Former Mayor Mike Henry spoke on the museum saying it is now ready to be open. He would like to keep working on the project. He has over 900 items. There is not enough room to display at one time. There should be an opening ceremony and have a dedicated committee to staff regular openings. Salisbury University has a program that could help with setting it up. E. Murphy asked if it should be open during Fall Fest? Henry answered there would have to be 2 or 3 people to work during the day.

Fire Department Report – President Brian Tolley gave the report, there were 32 fire calls in August. They are planning for their centennial celebration in January 2024. They will have a

special awards banquet, a parade in April and probably a golf tournament later next year. There have been talks about funding for a new fire house with Senators Van Hollen and Harris. He is hoping to have a meeting with them.

Police Report for August was given by Chief Jones. There were no assaults in August.

Manager's Report – Avery reported on the warehouse progress. Funding for the walking trail is to go before the Board of Public Works October 25th. The playground equipment for Prospect Park is being ordered. N. Main St. Park basketball court is in process of being finished. Toxicity testing is being conducted on the wastewater effluent per MDE mandate. The wrongful arrest lawsuit has been dismissed. It was defended by LGIT. The deadline to file as a candidate for elections is October 2nd and the deadline to register to vote is October 13th. Initial work on the audit has begun.

Old Business – Councilman E. Murphy introduced Council Salary Ordinance 2023-2.

Avery proposed the election judges suggested by the Board of Elections be approved. E. Murphy motion to accept the proposed election judges, second Franz, vote 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

Comments – R. Murphy said Fall Cleanup is September 21 & 23rd. Be aware of school kids, school is back in session. Higgins thankful for back-to-school night. He mentioned concerns over odor from Amick, Avery said he has been in contact with Amick and they are being mindful of it. E. Murphy spoke on the need for sidewalks and is glad the SHA Rt. 392 project is going forward. He mentioned the clock having not been repaired and questioned why we can go forward with a new flag pole project and not fix the clock. Also, the Veterans Tree has not been replaced yet. Mayor Cephas stated that management by priority is a consideration and how money is used.

Avery said he has heard that it is out on the street that he is retiring or quitting. He said there is no truth in that. He and Mayor Cephas have had discussions regarding Avery's retiring and having a transition process in place when the time comes.

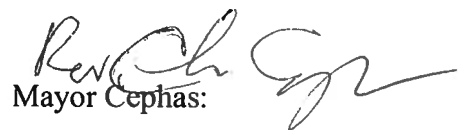
Mr. Jock Orr said he has had to step down as councilmember so he could retire from his fulltime job. That is due to state retirement system regulations. He plans on running for District 4 councilmember during the upcoming elections.

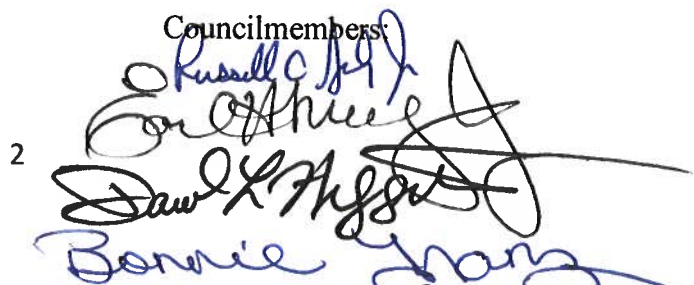
A resident from Prospect Heights stated a safety concern about dirt bikes being ridden on the streets. Chief Jones said the police are aware of the situation and are looking into it.

7:20 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Manager


Mayor Cephas:

Councilmembers:

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