

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

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 WORK SESSION March 22, 2021

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 March 19, 2021

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Roll Call - Councilmembers present, Cephas, Franz, Murphy, Truxon and Cummings, Mayor Henry, and Manager Avery

Approval of Agenda: Motion Cephas, second Franz, vote 5/0.

Employee Policy - Avery stated that there was no response or questions from employees regarding the proposed change to holiday and vacation policy.

Mayor Henry spoke on the American Rescue Plan Act which is to provide \$1.691M over the next two years. The funds can be used for infrastructure work etc. This would be a good opportunity to get the renovations done at the Jackson St. pump station. Avery explained the estimate was \$2M to \$2.2M. He has talked to the town engineers and is working with them to reduce the cost.

Cephas said he hopes the funding can be a springboard to affordable housing and sewer upgrades. He said he would look to USDA and HUD for funding to do things we are planning on.

Avery explained the \$2,500 grant the town just received from Forever Maryland. The funds are to help cleanup areas in town. Avery has planned on using the funds for getting rid of the refuse by the recycling area.

Avery presented the Council with a first draft for the FY2022 Budget. He said he included a 3% across the board raise for the employees. He asked the Council to review the draft and offer any questions or additions the Council may have.

Avery has been working with Dorchester County to ease the trash around the recycling bins. They are looking at emptying them more frequently.

Murphy asked about speed bumps in Woodsedge. The Mayor stated discussion on this should go to a work session. The Homeowners Association president has asked for the speed bumps. A drawing was submitted in the past showing 6 suggested locations.

Old Business: Attorney Merriken described Ordinance 2021-1 to amend the Ethics Ordinance. The Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Murphy during the February 8th meeting. Motion to approve by Cephias, second Murphy, vote 5 in favor 0 opposed.

Murphy asked if a “catch all” ordinance could be done amending any reference to Clerk/Treasurer to say Town Manager. Attorney Merriken said that could be looked at next time a charter change is done.

Attorney Merriken described proposed Resolution 2021-2 to amend the Employee Policy for vacation and holiday time. **The Council approved going to Resolution and posting the changes for employees to see and comment on, motion by Cephias/Murphy, approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

New Business: Cephias introduced Ordinance 2021-2 for the sale of 106 Maryland Ave.

Comments – Cummings said to be careful driving. Franz said there will be a fish fry at the fire house April 2nd. Murphy thanked Chief Jones Cephias for his help, he has been available after hours. Cephias said he hopes all people will consider getting the COVID shots, it is the right thing to do. There is still a lot of fear of the vaccination. He recently received a teddy bear from Shriners Hospital. The work they do for children is wonderful and asked that people help support the Shriners.

6:35 Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mayor Henry:



Councilmembers:

John Avery
Town Manager

*Approved in Open Session
April 12, 2021*