

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR
JOHN H. AVERY
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
ROBERT MERRIKEN
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of February 13, 2017 to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Hurlock Town Office on Charles Street in Hurlock, MD. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Charles Cephas gave the opening prayer. The roll call was taken, and those in attendance were: Councilmembers Russell Murphy, Earl Murphy, Jerry Rue, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Mayor Spratt, Town Attorney Robert Merriment and Town Administrator/Clerk John Avery.

Councilman Earl Murphy made a Motion to approve the Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Charles Cephas. With all in favor and no one opposed the Motion to approve the Agenda was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

The minutes for the January 23, 2017 meeting were presented. Councilman Russell Murphy made a Motion to approve the minutes. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Charles Cephas. With all in favor and no one opposed the Motion to approve the minutes of January 23, 2017 was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt introduced Jim Chaney who just opened C & J Market on Main Street. Mr. Chaney thanked the Mayor and Council and the community for all their help and support. He said they want to provide a good service for the community. The Grand Opening will be held on March 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Spratt also introduced Mr. Roy Geysler from TGM Group who provided information on the Town's Audit Report. After reviewing pages 3.4 & 5, in his opinion that the Town of Hurlock has the highest level of assurance that can be given. The net position is increasing which is good. The net position went up \$251,000.00. The fund balance was \$2.41 million at the end of the year. CSOA recommends a minimum two-month reserve. There is currently a one year reserve. On page 20, the W & S Fund is great news. One million dollars was transferred to the General Fund. The Water Main Project is now complete at a cost of 1.050 million dollars. The net liability for the Pension plan by new GASB 68 standards is 1.3 million

dollars. OPEB is on the books now in the amount of 1.7 million dollars. The total Actual Liability of 3.1 million dollars is currently unfunded. There are very few on the Shore that are funded. Councilman Cephas asked what Mr. Geysler recommended. The response to the question was to be proactive. The Town is in a healthy position with a nice fund balance.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt stated that States Attorney, Bill Jones, showed up unexpectedly at the office and met with her and Administrator Avery. Mr. Jones said he has heard really good things about the Town of Hurlock. He also praised the Hurlock Police Department.

The Mayor stated that the Habitat House is almost completed. Site work has started on the Jackson Street properties. Mayor Spratt asked for volunteers and said a newsletter will be going out next week.

Department Reports –

Public Works Department – Administrator John Avery presented a report regarding the demolition project, the progress on the new web site, and the PA system for the meeting room. Councilman Cephas had a question regarding the intersection.

Police Department – A report from the Hurlock Police Department was presented. There had been 1 theft since the last report. The case has been closed.

There are concerns regarding parking on the streets, especially parking vehicles in the wrong direction, against the flow of traffic.

One resident questioned parking in Prospect Heights. Chief Les Hutton said if there is a problem to call 911 or the Hurlock Police Department.

Fire Department – A report was presented from the Hurlock Fire Department. They are looking into markers for the road identifying fire hydrants. Blue raised markers are being recommended as they are visible from a good distance down the road. Mayor Spratt spoke about how effective these could be.

Councilman Charles Cephas Made a Motion to approve the purchase of these markers. Councilman Earl Murphy seconded the Motion. With all members in favor of the Motion and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business – Public Comment Hearing for Demolition Project

Administrator Avery described the demolition project for 204, 208, 210 S. Main St, and 106 Maryland Ave. Mr. Avery stated that a public comment session (hearing) is required by Maryland Historical Trust for opinions. Mr. Avery described the general condition and the assessment given by Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA). All of the concerned properties were found by MDIA to be un-economically feasible for renovation. Mr. Avery asked the public for opinions regarding the historical value, if any, and the potential demolition of the

houses. All of the comments mentioned were to take them down as soon as possible. One comment from a resident was very loud “take them down now”.

Councilmen Comments – Councilman Russell Murphy asked residents to check on neighbors and pets in the cold weather. He further stated he has heard nothing but positive comments regarding on how things going on within the Town of Hurlock.

Councilman Earl Murphy wished his wife happy birthday which was the next day.

Public Comments - Mr. Monroe Quails asked about the Town’s Ethic’s Commission. Mayor Spratt responded there is an Ethics Commission for the Town, but two of the members are deceased.

Mr. Jack Lewis said he asked, at the last meeting, if there was an Ethic Commission and was told yes. Now one has moved out of town and one has died.

Mr. Quails said we need rules & regulations for this Commission.

Town Attorney Robert Merriment stated that when there is a Commission in place, they will set their own rules.

Ms. Pat Finley spoke about the Downtown Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. next Tuesday to be held at the Pizza Palace. Councilman Cephas asked if the Council were to give a less amount to the Committee, would that be ok? Ms. Finley responded that they have lowered the request from \$6,000.00 to \$2,000.00. She said they are flexible.

Councilman Cephas explained how the Downtown Committee came to be and stated that he would support the Committee because he was the one that came up with the idea years ago. At that time the downtown was a mess.

Mayor Spratt asked Ms. Finley how other small towns funded their Committees or if they do fund them at all.

Councilman Cephas suggested that Ms. Finley call the USDA or Community Development for guidance.

There was discussion between Mr. Cederick Turner and the Mayor. The Mayor stated that Mr. Turner told her he would be in the office to meet with the Mayor after the last meeting, but it never happened.

Mayor Spratt set a date for February 21st at 6:00 for an Open Work Session for the Council to meet with Cedrick Turner’s group (Downtown Committee). Mr. Turner announced they were having meetings regarding drug addiction and gangs, etc. Major Holmes, from the MD Department of Corrections would be in attendance.

Reverend Bovankovich asked if employees’ salaries can be listed.

Michelle Murphy asked about better lighting along Railroad Ave.

A question was brought up regarding security cameras at Prospect Heights Apartments. Administrator Avery responded the Town has done the work but has not heard back from Management.

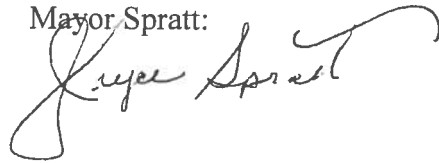
With no further business or discussion, a Motion to Adjourn was made. With a vote, of 5-0, the Open Session meeting of February 13, 2016 was adjourned at 7:35. The meeting moved to an Open Session Budget Workshop.

Respectively submitted,

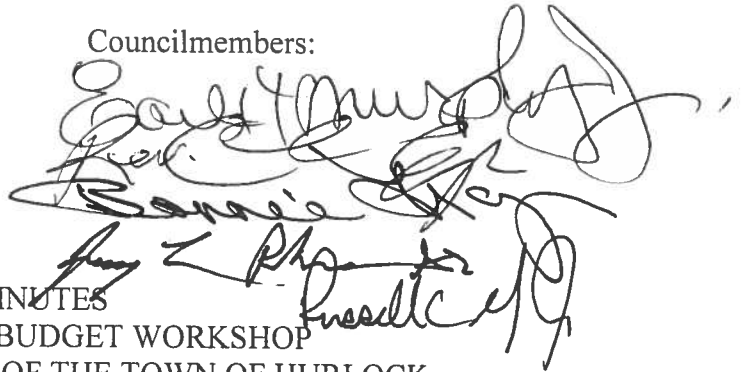


John Avery
Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Councilmembers:



MINUTES
OPEN SESSION BUDGET WORKSHOP
MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK
FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Administrator John Avery explained the items on the list to be considered over the next few years. The list of proposed projects is attached. Chief of Police Les Hutton explained the pay scale being proposed in order to retain police officers.

Mayor Spratt asked Brian from the Fire Department to speak. Brian said the fire department's goal is to pay down one loan. A new fire house would cost 2-3 million dollars. The fire department currently owes 942 thousand dollars. They would like to replace one engine in approximately 3-5 years and that would cost about 500 thousand dollars. He also said some of their gear needs to be replaced. The cost for doing that would be somewhere around 60 thousand dollars. The fire department is always looking for grant monies. Brian said they are also looking to replace their pagers which would cost approximately 12 – 15 thousand dollars



DORCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
829 Fieldcrest Road
Cambridge, Maryland 21613-9455

Communications Division
410-228-2222

Emergency Management
410-228-1818

EMS Division
410-228-2726

SUMMARY OF CALLS FOR SERVICE BY THE 9-1-1 CENTER

The Total number of Calls for Service for **2016** is **85,711** (a 22% increase over 2015 due to the addition of Cambridge Police Department Dispatch in July 2016). The total number of telephone calls answered by the 9-1-1 Center personnel for **2016** was **132,431** (a 23.5% increase over 2015 due to the addition of Cambridge Police Department Dispatch in July 2016).. **The breakdown is as follows:**

For **2016**, the Dorchester County 9-1-1 Center received **25,383** calls requiring some type of emergency response. 9-1-1 employees dispatched calls from citizens and received self-initiated calls from deputies and officers, for the Sheriff's Office with **34,921 CALLS FOR SERVICE**; Hurlock Police Department with **9,972 CALLS FOR SERVICE**; and Cambridge Police Department with **15,435 CALLS FOR SERVICE**, (CPD=July 1-Dec 31, 2016). See Chart #1 (CALLS FOR SERVICE) for a breakdown of these calls. *27% 911 TRANSFERS*

9-1-1 Personnel answered **20,461** 9-1-1 Administrative calls, **16,020** 9-1-1 Cell phone calls, **3,660** 9-1-1 landline telephone calls, **53,992** Sheriff's Office administrative calls, **32,599** Cambridge Police administrative calls, **5,699** calls initiated by walk-ins, radio or dispatcher, or other administrative calls (intercom/direct calls from deputies, officers etc). *81% 911 CALLS ARE CRU PLANS*

The administrative telephone calls for 9-1-1, Sheriff's Office and Cambridge Police Department does not include the number of outgoing calls made by dispatchers during incidents for things such as contacting the electric, telephone, or gas companies, Fire Marshall, or other resources of that nature.

The definitions of the legend on Chart #1 are as follows:

- FIRE - % of fire or rescue calls, including training and community service
- EMS BLS - % of ambulance calls
- 9-1-1 POLICE TRANSFERS-% of calls transferred to a police agency (Also See Chart #2)
- 9-1-1 POLICE HANGUPS-% of calls that were hang-ups and information was given to the
- INTERNAL - % of calls logged to the 9-1-1 Center. Calls handled by the 9-1-1 Center. These calls could be from a cell phone hang-up, a child playing on the telephone, someone wanting directions, quality assurance inquiries, controlled burnings, pager/siren tests, test calls, etc.
- DSO/HPD CALLS - % of calls dispatched by ECS Personnel for the Dorchester Sheriff's Office and Hurlock Police Department

HURLOCK VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

INCORPORATED 1924

Phone: 410-943-3110

300 Charles Street P.O. Box 178

Fax: 410-943-4355

Hurlock, Maryland 21643

EMS Calls YTD: 124

Fire Calls YTD: 43

Fire Call Break Down:

*Structure Fires: 8

*Natural Cover Fires: 3

*Motor Vehicle Crashes: 4

*Automatic Fire Alarms: 1

*Assist Paramedic Unit: 11

*Miscellaneous (Canceled En Route, Public Assist, Etc...): 16

State of Maryland

Department of Assessments and Taxation

February 14th 2017

2017 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification

Taxing authority: Hurlock in Dorchester County

Table with 10 rows showing tax calculations for 2016 and 2017, including Gross assessable real property base, Homestead Tax Credit, Net assessable real property base, Actual local tax rate, Potential revenue, Estimated assessable base, Half year new construction, Estimated full year new construction, Estimated abatements and deletions, and Net assessable real property base.

Table with 3 rows showing calculations for 2017: Potential revenue (934,359), Net assessable real property base (112,982,124), and Constant yield tax rate (0.8270).

EXEMPT

Certified by

Handwritten signature of the Acting Director.

Acting Director

* Includes one-quarter year new construction where applicable.
**Actual + estimated as of July 1, 2017, including Homestead Tax Credit.
CYTR #1