

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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JOYCE A. SPRATT  
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 JANUARY 23, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of January 23, 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 Rhue, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Mayor Spratt, Town Attorney Robert Merriken and Town Administrator/Clerk John Avery.

Councilman Jerry Rhue made a Motion to approve the Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Earl Murphy. 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 9, 2017 meeting were presented. Councilman Earl 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 9, 2017 was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Spratt announced that there would be free flu shots given on January 24, 2017 from 2p.m. until 6p.m. at the Hurlock Train Station.

The Mayor also announced that State Comptroller Peter Franchot visited the Town of Hurlock earlier that day. Mayor Spratt said Comptroller Franchot listened to what they had to say. He informed them that Governor Hogan is aware of what is happening in the Town of Hurlock. Mr. Franchot also visited the Hurlock Fire Department to see the new ladder truck. Mayor Spratt stated the Town has a great relationship with the Comptroller. This year is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Hurlock. Mr. Franchot indicated he would love to be a part of the celebration

County Commissioner Ricky Travers and County Manager Jeremy Goldman also attended the meeting with Comptroller Franchot.

Mayor Spratt indicated there are projects they want to get done and have plans to have a big festival on the first Saturday of October.

Jim Cheney will open the Main Street Market, C & J Market, on February 6<sup>th</sup>. He will attend the February 13, 2017 meeting to present a report on his business. Mr. Cheney announced he has hired 13 employees.

TGM will be in Town on February 13, 2017 for audit reports and will attend the Town meeting. A open budget work session will be held following the meeting.

Mayor Spratt introduced Frank and Faye Fraley and announced that the Town has gotten approval for the Legion to donate funds from their slot machines to be used for the Veteran's Memorial Park. The Park will be on Main Street. There is a house there currently that needs to be demolished before work on the park can begin. Bids for the demolition of the house will go out by the end of April.

#### **Department Reports –**

**Police Department** -Chief of Police Les Hutton presented a report from the end of December provided by the county. Hurlock handled 924 calls during 2016. Chief Hutton told residents that if it is not locked up, it will be stolen. He is asking citizens of Hurlock to be alert and encouraged them to try to work together.

Councilman Earl Murphy thanked Chief Hutton for the police department's continued vigilance. Councilman Cephas asked about the police web-site. Chief Hutton replied it will be linked to the Town's new web-site. He stated there will not be a Face Book page because there is too much negativity. Mayor Spratt asked if the Hurlock Fire Department could be linked to the new web-site.

**Fire Department** – Councilman Jerry Rhue reported from the Hurlock Fire Department that in the last year there were 272 fires and 798 hours of drills. There was 1,684 hours spent doing fundraising.

#### **Councilmembers Comments –**

Councilman Russell Murphy reminded people of his suggestion box. Prizes have been delivered to the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest.

Councilman Jerry Rhue said he was glad he could be at the meeting that night to help serve the Town. He reported that trains no longer go beyond the granary, and feels the State is not interested in repairing the train tracks. Councilman Rhue suggested that residents of the Town contact their council member or their State Delegate regarding this issue.

Councilman Cephas made a suggestion regarding a Pep Up coming to the Town of Hurlock.

Councilwoman Franz felt the night's meeting was nice.

Councilman Earl Murphy was sorry he couldn't be in attendance that day for the meeting with the Comptroller and County officials. He said everyone is looking for a wonderful year and he encouraged everyone to keep a positive attitude.

Councilman Cephas hoped he would see everyone at the next Town meeting.

Mayor Spratt reported the next meeting will have an audit report presented. A budget workshop will be held following the report. A pay scale for police officers will be proposed at that time. This information is for consideration only at this time.

Councilman Cephas commented that he felt people do not realize how dangerous being a police officer is.

#### **Public Comments –**

Mr. Cedric Turner questioned when would there be a workshop with the downtown committee. Mayor Spratt replied that Pat Finley stated the committee wanted a meeting with the Mayor and Administrator Avery.

Mr. Jack Lewis asked Councilman Cephas if the Town has an Ethics Committee. Councilman Cephas replied yes there is an Ethics Committee, but it needs to be updated.

Mr. Lee Davis wanted to know when the Town would be getting a McDonalds or a grocery store. He felt all the stores we have in Town are too high.

Mayor Spratt said she and Councilman Cephas had fought to get a Food Lion to come to the Town of Hurlock.

Councilman Cephas stated that the Town does need these stores. He invited Mr. Davis to obtain the contacts for these companies. Councilman Cephas said everyone has to plan for the future.

Mr. Paul Grahe said he felt the public works did an outstanding job on the Town's snow removal.

Reverend Dickerson said the population in the 60's was smaller and the Town had a grocery store, a bakery, and a department store. The population is greater now and the Town has none of these.

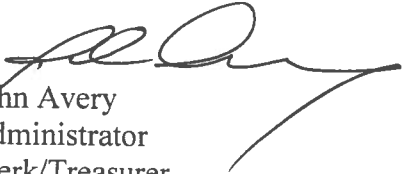
Mayor Spratt announced that if anyone was interested in working with the Town on the 125<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration to please contact the Town office.

There was some discussion regarding the railroad line.

With no further business or discussion, a Motion to Adjourn was made. With a vote of 5-0, the Open Session meeting of January 23, 2016 was adjourned at 7:20

Respectively submitted,

John Avery  
Administrator  
Clerk/Treasurer



Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Councilmembers:

Rev. Charles Tezhas

