

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

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 9, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of January 9, 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. Councilman Russell Murphy seconded the Motion. 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 November 14, 2016 meeting were presented. Councilman Russell Murphy made a Motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Jerry Rhue seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed the Motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2016 were passed and carried with a vote of 4-0. Councilman Earl Murphy was unable to vote as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

The minutes for the November 28, 2016 meeting were presented. Councilwoman Bonnie Franz made a Motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Russell Murphy seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2016 meeting was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt responded to questions regarding Town meeting minutes being posted on the Town Website for Facebook. The Town is not required to post the minutes on either of these sites.

The Mayor spoke of the Christmas Parade and the Festival of Trees. The movie, *The Polar Express* was shown on the train cars. It is possible that movies could be shown throughout the year, especially during the summer months. With monies raised or donated, a total of 8 families and 16 elderly persons were assisted during Christmas.

Mayor Spratt announced that Comptroller Peter Franc hot will be in the Town of Hurlock on January 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

The Mayor also announced that a new business will be opening on Main Street. The Market will be opening soon. Mayor Spratt said that the building is beautiful inside.

It was also announced that East Coast Underground is closing sometime within the next 30 to 60 days.

The Mayor stated that she felt the topic of Natural Gas coming to the Town has been beaten to death. Chesapeake Utilities has met with the Town many times and their consensus is if there is not enough profit they will not do it.

In regards to East Coast Underground closing, Councilman Cephas asked how many jobs had been lost. The answer was there were currently approximately 6 employees there now.

Police Department Report - Chief of Police, Les Hutton is sick, therefore there was not a police report to present.

Fire Department Report – Councilman Jerry Rhue presented a report from the Hurlock fire department. He also asked town residents to please keep an eye on their neighbors in this cold weather.

Department of Public Works – Administrator Avery presented a report on the Public Works Department.

New Business – Award of bid for Habitat property site work -

Administrator Avery explained bids for Habitat site work on Jackson Street and asked the Council to award the bid to Shore Real Estate. Councilman Jerry Rhue made a Motion to award the bid to Shore Real Estate. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Charles Cephas. A roll call was taken and with all councilmembers in favor and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the awarding of the bid to Shore Real Estate was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

Comments –

Councilmembers - Councilman Russell Murphy announced the winners of the Christmas decorations. He asked the Council to consider if a person wins the contest they should issue a two year exclusion from consideration. Commercial winners of the decorations contest were Country Chics, Chris' Barbershop, and Mom & Pops. Councilman Cephas thanked Councilman R. Murphy and said he represented the Council well.

Councilman R. Murphy recommended that town residents back their cars into their driveways; they can then pull straight out on the road. Mayor Spratt reminded citizens they cannot park on the wrong side of the street.

Councilman Jerry had only a few comments.

Councilwoman Franz said let's make Hurlock great again.

Councilman Earl Murphy said there had been some vandalism in the Wood Edge development. He asked residents to look out for the community and their neighbors. He thanked the person who came forward to let him know about the vandalism. He asked citizens to help make 2017 a better year.

Councilman Cephas wished everyone success this year. He wants the council to step up to a new level. Councilman Cephas asked for residents to go to their individual council representative and express any concerns they may have. He also asked that citizens be aware of what they hear. With it being an election year,

it concerns him what people might say. He asked that voters bring proof of their registration when they vote. Every year allegations are made regarding voting. He further stated that it upsets him when citizens complain that the council is doing nothing. He doesn't understand how people can be so cruel. There are those people that attempt to hinder progress and he feels that is wrong.

Councilman Earl Murphy said their position on this Council is to take care of this Town.

Mayor Spratt stated there is no comparison to Hurlock now and a couple of years ago. She is proud of the council and said she and Administrator Avery have put in a lot of hours to improve the Town.

Public Comments –

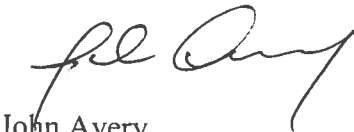
Mr. Monroe Quales thanked Councilman Cephas and said that he too had been a victim of bad comments from people in the Town.

Ms. Pat Finley questioned when the new web site will be up and running. Administrator Avery answered it would be approximately one month.

Mayor Spratt announced the office would be closed next Monday due to Martin Luther King's Birthday.

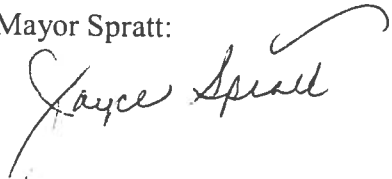
With no further business or discussion, a Motion to Adjourn was made. With a vote of 5-0, the Open Session meeting of January 9, 2016 was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



John Avery
Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Councilmembers:

