

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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CHARLES A. CUMMINGS
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING August 13, 2018

6:00 PM Call to Order by Council President Cephas.

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Rev. Bovankovich gave the opening prayer.

Roll call, present: Councilmembers; E. Murphy, Cummings, R. Murphy, and Rev. Cephas, Franz, Attorney Merriken and Manager Avery

Approval of Agenda: Motion Cummings, second E. Murphy, approved 4/0, Cephas abstain

Approval of Minutes:

July 23, 2018 Open Session – E. Murphy/Cummings, approved 4/0, Cephas abstain.

Mayors Report: R. Murphy said that he and Councilman Cephas met with Mr. Eddie Powell to discuss business potential for the town. He said that Mr. Powell has always been here for the town and will help in anyway he can. Cephas said that E. Murphy met with the Mayors of Secretary, East New Market and Vienna to have a bigger voice in the County and at County Council Meetings. Councilman Cummings spoke on picking 5 for the junior council.

Agenda Request: Mr. Bill Christopher, Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, came to speak on Dorchester going purple. Going Purple is a substance abuse awareness program that is gaining recognition nationally. This year the entire upper shore will be recognizing Going Purple in the month of September. There are a lot of resources available in the county. Chief Hutton spoke about the number of kids that hide the problem. It is a disease. The point is to not judge but to find a solution.

Public Works Report – Avery reported that pipe for the force main is to be delivered this week and work is to start August 20. Work on the water tower is being finished and should be back in

service within a few weeks. The floor is being replaced in one of the train cars by Joe Spratt. It is a very involved job.

Police Report: Chief Hutton reported there were 3 assaults, and Exxon had been broken into. That case was closed with arrests. Last Tuesday night was National Night Out. It was put on by the Police and Fire Departments. About 125 people attended and it was very well received.

Fire Department: Chief Trego said they are trying to get new protective equipment for the EMS personnel. They have run 128 fire calls this year to date. August 25 will be bingo, they are having a raffle for Nascar tickets as well.

Old Business: Cephas said that the Baltimore Court of Appeals ruling on their food truck ordinance will not be until September and thought the further consideration and introduction of Hurlock Ordinance 2018-9 should be tabled until after that. The Council agreed to table discussion regarding the food truck ordinance. A question was asked why are ice cream trucks excluded from the ordinance, Avery answered that historically they have been exempted and are exempt in the current (2002-5) ordinance. R. Murphy suggested that maybe the brick and mortar businesses should be exempt from some tax. Councilman Cephas suggested more work sessions for further discussion.

Councilman Cephas read a letter regarding business development. It said that the Council is to work for all residents and citizens. They should work to develop strategies to attract business and develop a fool proof plan for the next 5 years. The Hurlock Downtown Committee should be more active. A community center for kids in North Dorchester should become a reality.

New Business: Avery explained that he and Councilman Cummings met with representatives regarding electric charging stations for vehicles. Councilman Cummings explained how he heard about the program at the MML Conference. Under the grant 4 units at two locations could be installed at no cost to the town. The town would be responsible for the monthly electric cost only. Cummings motion to go forward with the project, second by Franz. Vote 5 for, 0 opposed.

Avery explained he had been contacted by Dorchester County regarding 309 S. Main St. That property is on the tax sale list and he was asked if the town had any interest in the property. The County said they have an individual that is interested in the property. Councilman Cephas and E. Murphy thought the town should consider the property for a community center. Avery said the building is in very poor condition and would require extensive work. He went on the record by saying he was opposed to the town acquiring the property, it would be a huge undertaking and liability. The Council agreed to table further discussion.

Council Comments: R. Murphy said the Suicide Walk is September 22nd. Suicide is everywhere it can be prevented. Cummings heard a lot of positive comments on National Night Out and Dorchester Goes Purple. Franz spoke about the idea of having a community yard sale. Cephas thanked Chief Trego for the National Night Out, it was a great event. He spoke on substance abuse and said we need to save our kids. E. Murphy stated that Fall Fest is October 6th.

Public Comments: Joyce Spratt asked if the town is still issuing food truck permits, Cephas

answered the Council still has to approve them. Cederic Turner said the next Downtown Committee meeting is Tuesday at 6:00 pm.

Adjourn 7:20 pm.

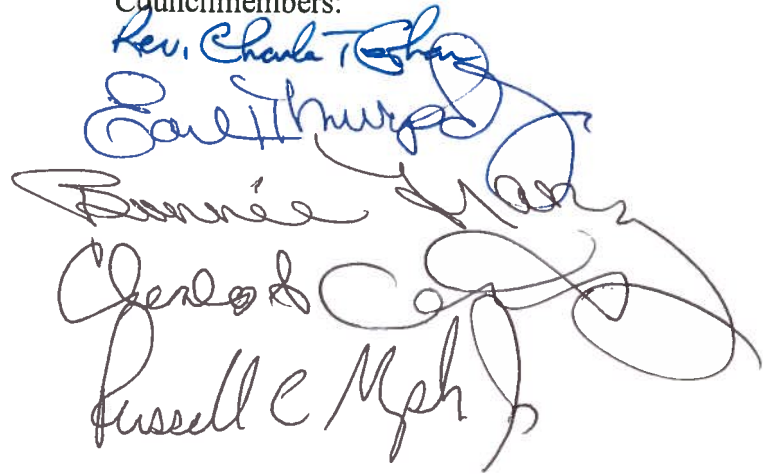
Respectfully Submitted:



John Avery
Town Administrator

Mayor Henry:

Councilmembers:



Rev. Charles T. ...
Cecil ...
Bernice ...
Charles ...
Russell C. Mph ...