

# 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 August 14, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of August 14, 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, Councilmember Rev. Cephas gave the opening prayer. The roll call was taken, and those in attendance were: Councilmembers Russell Murphy, Earl Murphy, Bonnie Franz, Jerry Rhue, Rev. Cephas, Mayor Spratt, Town Attorney Robert Merriken and Town Administrator/Clerk John Avery.

Councilman Rhue made a Motion to approve the Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Councilmember E. 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.

Councilmember Franz made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2017 Open Session Meeting. Councilmember Cephas seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the Minutes was passed and carried with a vote of 5-0.

*Miss Tynika Community*

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Spratt stated that Town resident Steve Irvin recently passed away and Patricia Demby, a resident of Prospect Heights was killed in an automobile accident. Mayor Spratt introduced the resident that on August 5<sup>th</sup> purchased the first Habitat home in Hurlock. The Mayor said that she had done a lot of hard work. Councilman Cephas said she has a wonderful spirit.

Fall Fest this year is the 125<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Town and will be on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. We will have fireworks that night. Chief Hutton spoke on the fireworks display being 400 shells and will be an exciting show. It will begin about 7:15, food will be available. There was a fund raiser done by Eddie James & Koski for a 6-year-old with cancer.

There is a new housing development scheduled for Hurlock. It is to be located on Taylor Ave. MaryMed was issued their occupancy permit today for the new business in the Industrial Park. Mr. Eddie James is planning on bringing a new business to the old warehouse on Neilson St. The Memorial Park is progressing, it is hoped to be finished by Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> for Fall Fest. Fall cleanup days are scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September. Mr. Kenny Walton talked about the suicide prevention walk scheduled for Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Last year over \$14,000 was raised to help prevention.

**Department Reports** – Eric Barnhart, wastewater superintendent, was introduced. Mayor Spratt said that he does a great job. Chief Hutton presented the police report. They had the “night out” so citizens can see the services that are provided. It was a great turnout. He spoke about the majority of theft complaints they handle are due to unlocked vehicles. Citizens need to secure their property. There has been extra enforcement on traffic violations, speeding etc.

**Old Business-** Administrator Avery explained the need for repairs to the clarifier tanks at the wastewater plant. ProCoat was the low bidder at \$131,000. Rob Duma from Davis Bowen and Friedel was present and explained that he worked with ProCoat to reduce the cost of the repairs to \$116,000. This will be the first work that has been done on these tanks since they were new. The coating is being supplied by Sherwin-Williams and is expected to last 20 years. Councilman Cephas made a motion to accept the bid from ProCoat. With a second by Councilman Rhue the motion was passed with 5 in favor and 0 opposed. Councilman Cephas asked Mr. Duma about the storm water infrastructure, I explained there has been a study done and consideration of upgrades is ongoing. He asked Mr. Duma what the life expectancy of the wastewater plant is, the answer was 30-40 years at least.

Attorney Merriken explained that Ordinance 2017-2 was for allowing text amendments for additional uses in Light Industrial zoned property. The Ordinance was introduced during the July 10, 2017 meeting. Councilman E. Murphy made a motion to approve Ordinance 2017-2, the motion was seconded by Councilman Cephas. After a Roll-Call vote the motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

Ordinance 2017-3 was introduced during the July 10, 2017 meeting, it is to allow the Town to repurchase Lot 6 of the Industrial Park at the original selling price. The Town is able to repurchase the lot because it had not been developed by purchaser in the agreed time frame. The lot has been vacant for over 12 years. The lot would be resold to another business. Councilman Cephas motioned to approve Ordinance 2017-3, seconded by E. Murphy and passed by Roll-Call vote all in favor and no opposed.

**New Business** – Admin. Avery explained the requirements to have a Board of Supervisors of Elections and Election Judges. Mayor Spratt proposed the Supervisors be; Nancy Jones, Margie Reed and Dorertha Cephas. Councilman Rhue motioned to appoint the Mayors proposed Supervisors for the next two years. After a second by R. Murphy the motion passed with 4 in favor and Councilmember Cephas abstaining.

Councilman Rhue motioned to accept the Board of Elections proposed Judges; William Johnson III, Vincenta Parker, Lisa Trice, John Kramer and Lisa Green. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Franz and passed with all in favor.

**Councilmembers Comments –**

Councilman Cephas called for everybody to a stand against bigotry and hatred. We should not see terrorism. It said that is wrong for people to use misinformation in the upcoming election. Earl Murphy stated that after he moved to Hurlock Paul Grahe and Jack Lewis asked him to come to a meeting. It allowed wonderful things to happen. If you don't put the effort in it, it will not happen. Ms. Franz spoke on the clothing drive. Mr. Rhue welcomed the lady that bought the Habitat house. He is glad to hear plans for a new housing development. Russ Murphy said he has seen a lot of progress going on in Town. He announced the winners of the July yard contest.

Mayor Spratt acknowledged Delegate Johnny Mautz, he said it is fantastic all the things that are going on in Town. He stopped by to say hi to the Council and ask if they needed anything that he could help with. He then spoke on the evils of drugs. Councilman Cephas asked if he could have the Governor and Lt. Governor attend Fall Fest.

**Public Comments –**

Jack Lewis requested that the Town Attorney look at Future Builders Supply. Frank Bittner asked if the new development on Taylor Ave. would be allowed as planned before. The Mayor answered no, the old plans would not be used. Pat Finley questioned about the land fill expansion. It was stated that there was to be a hearing at the County tomorrow night.

Motion to adjourn 7:40.

Respectively submitted,

John Avery  
Administrator  
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:

Councilmembers: