

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.  
CHARLES A. CUMMINGS  
BONNIE FRANZ  
EARL H. MURPHY  
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING February 12, 2018

Mayor Henry called the Open Session Meeting of February 12, 2018 to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion Councilman Cephas second E. Murphy, approved 5/0

Approval of Minutes: January 22, 2018 – Cephas/Cummings, vote 5 for/0 opposed.

Mayor Henry introduced Mr. Charles Day from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to speak about the Local Government Infrastructure Financing Program. He explained that the program offers loans for many projects including water, wastewater, vehicle purchases and storm water projects. The program was created by the state in 1985 to help smaller jurisdictions and has funded over \$465 million since the program began. Water and sewer projects should apply to MDE first and then through their program. He also encouraged involvement with USDA as well. Councilman Cephas said this is another tool in our toolbox. E. Murphy asked if sidewalks along state highways qualify for funding, yes was the answer but go to SHA first.

Mr. Raynell Cooper from DHCD spoke about their programs, DHCD can fund a wide assortment of projects. Hurlock received Sustainable Community status in 2015 which opened up many funding opportunities. They can work with funding sidewalks as well. The grant process is competitive.

The meeting was suspended to conduct a required Public Hearing for Habitat Infrastructure

Grant MD-17-CD-29. Avery explained the purpose of the grant which was done between the Town and Habitat to fund site work and infrastructure work for three Habitat homes on Jackson Street. The Grant was issued by DHCD in the amount of \$107,760. The infrastructure work was completed under budget leaving a surplus of funds. An agreement was made with DHCD to use the balance of the Grant funds to help pay for building materials for the houses. To date 68% of the funds have been expended. Habitat expects to use the remaining 32% by the July 2018 deadline. If the funds are not fully expended by the grant deadline an extension will be applied for. With no public comments or questions the Public Hearing was closed.

Mayors Report; Mayor Henry said that he was contacted by Joanne Henson, Habitat Executive Director, who asked to meet with him and the Council. The meeting could be on a Saturday morning so the Council could visit their houses. The Mayor said he will try to schedule a meeting with them.

Agenda Requests: Steve Grey and his realtor, Bob Greenlee, stated that they are still going forward with plans to purchase Future Builders Supply. They came to ask the Council for support for the business. They were told by the current owner, Mr. Gary Clough, that Amick, B&G, and the Town could support the business. They are requesting a 100% commitment from the Town. Mayor Henry said we would support the business as much as possible however a 100% commitment would be hard. The Mayor suggested that they contact local contractors as well. Councilman E. Murphy commented on what support the could offer would depend on a number of factors. Councilman Cephas said they should meet with Avery. Cephas said he knows that we could not offer a 100% purchase commitment. Avery explained the combined purchases from Marshy Hope, Nagels, Hastings and Lowes totaled \$11,000 for the last one and a half years. Councilman Cephas volunteered to work with them (at no charge) to develop a business plan.

Reports: Avery gave a brief public works report; the new soda ash system for the water plant has been ordered, the inside of the water tank will be cleaned and painted in the next few months.

Jack Lewis asked about health insurance, Councilman Cephas stated that the Council has no health insurance benefits since the Council stopped them. He said that was due to some Councilmembers who were trying to hurt him.

Chief Hutton stated that the number of shoplifting crimes is down due to Goose Creek and Family Dollar being more proactive, they are trying to stop shoplifting. Councilman Cephas said that people that leave doors unlocked are inviting crime.

County Councilman Price said that the County has a new website. The Counties Comprehensive Plan has not been updated since 1995 and will be worked on over the next 12 to 18 months. Price said Hurlock would be involved in the Public Hearing process. Cephas asked about meeting regarding the drainage issues on Jackson St. Avery said that an easement agreement was completed and the work was to be done in the spring. He also told Mr. Price Jackson St. needs to be repaired as well.

Old Business: Avery gave a brief report on the PA system, he is waiting on a second estimate.

Attorney Merriken described the draft Ethics Ordinance. The changes have been approved by the State. **Having already been introduced Councilman Cephas motioned to approve, second by E. Murphy, no discussion, roll call vote; 5 in favor/0 opposed. Ethics Ordinance 2018-3 was passed.**

Mayor Henry said Grass Ordinance 2018-4 is to be finalized in the up coming work session. There was some discussion about this dragging on, the ordinance was first brought up in 2015 and was tabled then.

Councilman Cephas said his survey for home owners is now done.

**New Business:** Councilmember Cephas said we should consider tax incentives for home owners and especially businesses.

Mayor Henry said we received a letter from the N. Dor. High School Prom Committee requesting support. Councilman Cephas said we have supported this in the past to keep kids safe. **E. Murphy made a motion to donate \$500 as in the past, second by Cummings, 5 in favor/0 opposed.**

**Council Comments:** Councilman Cephas said he has attended several meetings to open lines of communications with other government agencies. Councilman E. Murphy spoke on his wife's birthday party and them renewing their vows. The new Mayor is very supportive of business and new businesses, he would like to see how the projects of the old mayor will be incorporated into this administration. Councilmember Franz said she was asked if the town could have a shredder truck here during spring cleanup. R. Murphy thanked Mr. Grey and said he thought his business would be fine. He also said lighting on Railroad Ave. is bad. Little League should have an opening day parade.

**Public Comments:** Monroe Quailles spoke about Councilman Cephas not having the health insurance he was entitled too. He said that action was discriminatory and hateful. He invited everyone to the Blacklist Awards at Full Gospel Church. Lee Davis said that the Lt. Governor will be attending, it is Feb. 24 at 5 pm.

Jack Lewis asked the attorney if the Town has a concise charter. Attorney Merriken answered no. There was a question about the landscaping at the Memorial Park, Avery answered it is scheduled to be finished in the spring. Ms. Lynn Vinson asked if sidewalks could be installed along Rt. 392 between Main St. and Charles St. A question was asked when will the new members be put on the Ethics Committee, answer; after the Ordinance takes effect.

Mayor Henry called for a motion to move to closed session for discussion of the employment of a new police officer. E. Murphy motion/second Cummings, 5 in favor/0 opposed.

Announcement was made that the Council would not be returning to open session after the closed session.