

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 February 26, 2018

Mayor Henry called the Open Session Meeting of February 26, 2018 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Chief Hutton 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: February 12, 2018 – Franz/Cummings, vote 5 for/0 opposed.
Closed Session Feb. 12, 2018 – 5 for/0 opposed.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Henry said he met with JoAnn Hanson, Habitat Director, who would like to meet with the Council sometime in April when the weather is better. They are trying to get a local work group together and hopes that some Town employees would volunteer. The Mayor talked with Senator Echart at the Black List Awards who said approval of the alcohol 300' exemption bill looks good. There will be a meeting of the Hurlock Citizens Group at Pizza Palace Thursday 6:30 pm. There will be a meeting with the Hurlock Business owners March 5 at 6:00 pm. The work session for ordinances went very well. The Mayor spoke with County Councilmember Price regarding the recycling bins.

Mayor Henry introduced Mr. Bunky Luffman who is the Eastern Shore liaison for the Governors Office and elected officials. Mr. Luffman works with USDA, Andy Harris and any State Agency. He congratulated the Mayor and Council on the recent election.

Reports: Avery gave a brief public works report; painting and repairs are underway on the Pavilion and should be done in the next few weeks weather pending.

Chief Hutton reported they had 1006 calls in January until Feb. 13. There was one arrest resulting from an assault. Two juveniles were arrested who then admitted to committing a lot of violations last year. That has closed a number of open cases.

Chief Trego gave a fire department report, they have responded to 13 more calls this year than for the same period last year. New radio systems are due to be installed for the fire and police departments. These improvements will be funded by Dorchester County. This will be a state-wide system. Chief Hutton said this will be a major improvement. Councilman Cephas asked if they (Fire Department) have a presence in the school. Chief Hutton said the police respond first, Chief Trego added there is an emergency action plan in effect.

Old Business: Avery gave a report on the PA system. The proposal from Sound Advice for complete installation is about \$6,700 for a fully installed system. A quote was received from Seaford Music for components only at a cost of \$3,800. **Councilman Cephas made a motion to accept the proposal from Sound Advice and a second by E. Murphy.** E. Murphy asked to include video monitoring, Cephas said he did not want to see a delay. E. Murphy explained we should have video monitoring (there was some confusion about what was meant) **the Council then voted 5/0 in favor to go forward with the system proposed by Sound Advice.**

Attorney Merriken described the ordinances to be introduced following discussion during the February 20th work session. The following ordinances were introduced:

- Ord. 2018-1 Athletic Equipment by Councilman Cephas
- Ord. 2018-2 Required Training by Councilman Cephas
- Ord. 2018-4 Grass Clippings by Councilman E. Murphy
- Ord. 2018-6 Tax Abatements for Renovations by Councilman Cephas

New Business: Councilman Cephas said that tax abatement for renovations is a good thing it will help improve the town. He asked the Council to consider a 2% property tax reduction for the upcoming budget. He said any reduction would be historical, it would be based on the ability of the budget to absorb a reduction. He hopes to give the town residents a break.

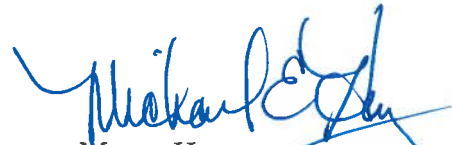
Council Comments: Councilman Cummings spoke about attending a meeting with Comptroller Franchot, there are flyers on the back table. Councilman R. Murphy said the time change is coming and asked people to be safe and get the youth involved with the community. Councilman Cephas asked the people to communicate with the Council. Councilman E. Murphy thanked the Mayor and Council for honoring he and his wife. He said it was a wonderful opportunity to meet with the Lieutenant Governor at the Black List Awards. It was a fun evening. Now would be a great opportunity to look at a tax cut.

Public Comments: A representative from Seaford Soccer thanked the Town for the use of the Train Station, he said they are planning on doing a chicken barbecue for a fund raiser. Play starts April 7th. Reverend Dickerson said he thinks the citizens deserve a tax break. Paul Grahe presented the Mayor and Council with a list of concerns regarding the Woodsedge Community.

6:55 pm - Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Administrator


Mayor Henry:


Councilmembers:



