

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 January 22, 2018

Mayor Henry called the Open Session Meeting of January 22, 2018 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Rev. Cephas 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 Cummings approved 5/0

Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2018 – Franz/Cephas, vote 5 for/0 opposed.

Mayor Henry introduced Mr. Roy Geiser from TGM Group who is here to present the report of the annual audit. Mr. Geiser thanked Administrator Avery and town management for their preparation for the audit. He described the findings on Pages 3, 4, & 5 that reflected the highest level of assurance. Pages 6-13 described the overview of the financial statements, page 13 is the statement of net position. At the end of the fiscal year the Town's general funds reported balances of \$2,914,787 which is an increase of \$472,586 from the prior year. Mr. Geiser stated that the Town is financially healthy and has cash reserves equal to 8 months of the budget. Mr. Geiser described the Other Post Employment Benefit's (OPEB) Obligation that is currently \$1,753,000. The Town's pension system is through the State Retirement System. The State's fund is currently 66% funded with the Town's portion being .005%. Next year GASB 75 will be required to calculate OPEB instead of the current GASB 45. Avery explained the Treasures Report for the end of December shows the available cash is \$3,770,000.

Mayors Report: Mayor Henry presented a Town Key to Mr. Earl Richmond who was the Town's Grand Marshall for the Christmas Parade. The Mayor stated that he attended the MLK breakfast at the Hurlock United Methodist Church with Rev. Hines, he also attended the LESMA

dinner in Salisbury. He said that Salisbury will host a Folk-Art Festival that is expected to draw 75,000 people, they will do this for 3 years. Little League is now taking on line registrations.

Agenda Requests: Pastor Allen from Unity Washington Methodist Church came to describe a small group of ministers that have gotten together to start celebrating addiction recovery. He said the one thing that all addictions have in common is that they can impact others. They are the people who are addicted to the addicts, they are the ones who love them. The Small Group Ministry will meet February 8th, 6:30 pm at the train station.

Department Reports: Avery gave a Public Works report that included a request from the Council approval of funds to purchase a new soda ash feeder system for the water plant. Soda ash is used to control the ph of the Town's water, the feeder system will cost about \$30,000 installed.

Councilman E. Murphy motioned to approve the purchase with a second by Councilman Cummings the motion passed with 5 for and 0 opposed.

Major Biskach gave the Police Department Report which is attached.

Administrator Avery described the dilapidated condition of 3 properties stating that the Town should issue orders for demolition. The properties are; 323 Pine St., 327 Pine St., and 405 Delaware Ave. After minimal discussion agreed demolition orders should be issued.

Old Business: Avery reported on the quote that he received for a PA system for the council meeting room. E. Murphy asked if a system for timing speakers is included? Avery said he will get more information on that as well as other quotes and report back to the Council.

Attorney Merriken stated that the draft Ethics Ordinance 2018-3 now combines an increase to 5 members and the required changes that the State has mandated. This has now been approved by the State is being introduced by Councilman Cephas.

Grass Ordinance 2017-8 had been introduced by E. Murphy now some amendments lowering the fines and some clarification on the procedure for notice is to be made. It was agreed this will be re-looked at and will need to be reintroduced.

Next topic was Charter Amendment 2018-1 Vacancy of the Office of Mayor. Motion to approve by Cephas, second by E. Murphy. Vote was 5 in favor none opposed.

New Business: Avery explained that DHCD Anti Displacement Plan and Citizen Participation Plan need to be updated. **Councilman Cephas motioned to approve the plans seconded by E. Murphy passed 5 for, 0 opposed.**

Mayor Henry spoke on the 125th year anniversary shirts that are still remaining. He asked the Council for approval to sell the shirts at cost. **Franz motioned to sell at cost, second by Cephas passed 5 for, 0 opposed.**

Councilman Cephas stated that he and Avery met with Social Services to look into programs they could bring into town. It would be beneficial for them to be in town one day a week. They

offer many services including help with tax return preparation. It was a good meeting. Cephas asked Mayor Henry if the old library could be spruced up, the Mayor approved of the idea. Mayor Henry said Choptank Health Services is not interested in reopening the medical center because it was not economically beneficial for them. They are willing to work to help find a provider though. Councilman Cephas said he would like to see the Enterprise Zone expanded.

Council Comments: E. Murphy gave an update on the construction progress of the new North Dorchester High School. He also commented on the need for sidewalks and more lights along Rt. 392 to Prospect Heights and along Railroad Ave.

Councilman Cummings said that Little League is looking for volunteers, coaches, umpires etc.

Public Comments: Mr. Messenger spoke about the Seaford youth soccer program and said that the program is expanding and is trying to get into the Hurlock area. He asked if the N. Main Street park could be used, the Council agreed to help promote the program. The program currently serves youth ages 3 to 14. Signups have started and practices will start in March.

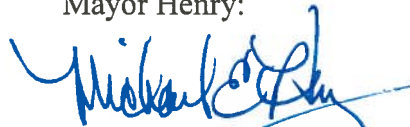
Reverend Dickerson thanked public works for repairing the Prospect Park fence.

7:45 pm - Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted:


John Avery
Town Administrator


Mayor Henry:



Councilmembers:


Earl H. Murphy

Rev. Charles T. Clark

Dennis D. [unclear]

Russell C. [unclear]

Charles A. [unclear]