

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
ATTORNEY

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

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING January 8, 2018

Mayor Henry called the Open Session Meeting of January 8, 2018 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Mayor Henry offered a moment of silence for the passing of Frank Bittner. 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 R. Murphy second Cummings approved 5/0

Approval of Minutes: December 11, 2017 – E. Murphy/Franz, vote 4for/0 opposed, Councilman R. Murphy abstained.

Mayors Report; Mayor Henry commended Public Works for snow removal and the Police Department for their work during the snow storm. A town Face Book page has been started. A meeting has been scheduled with TGM Group January 17<sup>th</sup> to review the audit. They will present their findings to the Council during the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Mayor and Councilman Cummings attended a meeting with representatives from Comptroller Franchot's office, they got a lot of information on taxes, etc. Mayor Henry was to present a key to the Town to Earl Richmond, Grand Marshall, however is in the hospital. Bobby Wright, Town Marshall, was present to receive his key. The Mayor thanked him for his contribution to the Town.

Mayor Henry turned the meeting over to Councilman R. Murphy to present the prizes to the Christmas decoration winners. For residential; 3<sup>rd</sup> place Laura Knode, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Randy Helmer and 1<sup>st</sup> place Garth Messinger. Commercial; 3<sup>rd</sup> place C&J Market, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Julies Hair Salon and 1<sup>st</sup> place Country Chic's. Jim Chaney was present for C&J Market who said he is part of the community and donated his prize money back for the needy in Hurlock.

Mr. Steve Gray was introduced who is interested in purchasing Future Builders Supply and reopening the business as it used to be, He said he would cleanup the property. Councilman Cephas said he knows a lot about grants that are available for businesses and is available to help.

Chief Hutton gave the police report, since December they have responded to a theft report at AA Storage, a theft around the 200 block of Academy St., a couple of drug arrests and recovered two stolen automobiles. Mayor Henry said that all calls will now go through the 911 center, the duty phone will be for internal use only. Councilman Cephas asked if it would be good to have a part time person man the phones at night at police headquarters. The Chief said that is not really needed. The Council agreed to suspend the use of the duty phone.

Old Business: Attorney Merriken spoke on Ord. 2017-8 Grass. It was introduced November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. E. Murphy motioned to accept, second by Cephas. The Mayor questioned who would be responsible residents of violations, he is concerned about a delay in the people being aware of the violation. Avery suggested rewriting the notice section and bring it back to the next meeting. It was agreed to do that. Next Ord. 2018-1 Athletic Equipment was discussed. Cephas said some of the language, especially "apparatus", is ambiguous. He also thought \$200 for a fine is to high and should be reduced to something more reasonable. The Chief said some people don't care after being required to remove them, they either don't remove them or put them right back. Councilman Cephas suggested the Council approve the Mayor to go forward to look at facilities for youth. Chief said the wording can be amended. The Mayor called for a work session for the Council to work on ordinances and a Charter Amendment for a Town Manager, it is to be February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

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.

Ordinance 2018-2 Training Required for Mayor and Councilmembers, Councilman Cephas explained the purpose is to educate new members on budget, open meetings act and ethics, etc. This is topic that can be worked on during a work session.

New Business: The Mayor stated that business owners are seldom seen at town meetings. He would like to see a letter to business owners to invite them to meetings. The Mayor requested to have a meeting scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to meet with the business owners. He said he would like to have a prioritized list of needs in town. He would also like to see a recreation committee. Councilman Cephas said he is working on a community needs survey, study the traffic patterns and develop new businesses.

Council Comments: Councilman E. Murphy thanked C&J Market for donating the electric for the Christmas Tree. Councilman Cummings said that he had met with the Comptroller today and said to keep an eye on the elderly. Beware of phone calls that are deceptive, there are a lot of scams going on especially at tax time.


Public Comments: Samantha McDonald complained about the littering in town especially along Railroad Avenue, people should have pride in the town. She said the Town should have permanent basketball facilities not the temporary ones that were put out. Administrator Avery stated that vandalism has been a problem at all the town playgrounds and parks. Some people have no respect for others.

8:08 pm - Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted:



John Avery  
Town Administrator

Mayor Henry:  
  
Councilmembers:  
Rev. Charles Taylor  
Russell C. [unclear]  
Beverly [unclear]  
Charles A. [unclear]  
Earl [unclear]