

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING June 12, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of June 12, 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 Franz. 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 May 22, 2017 Open Session Meeting. Councilmember E. Murphy seconded the Motion with one grammatical change. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the Minutes was passed and carried with a vote of 3-0. Councilmembers Rhue and Cephas were absent.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt announced that demolition of the properties is in progress. The old restaurant demolition is complete with Maryland Ave. being in progress. All should be done by next week. Habitat contacted the Mayor and said they are in dire need of workers. People only need to commit to a couple of Tuesdays a month. Rev. Cephas stated that he would try to line up a work crew. The school has done a great job with people working on Saturdays. Thursday June 22nd there will be a business development meeting hosted by the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce to be held at the Hurlock Legion. Local businesses are invited. June 24th a car show will be held at C&J Market. Proceeds will go to the Memorial Park Fund. July 6th there will be an organizational meeting for Fall Fest.

Department Reports –

Public Works -Administrator Avery reported that the infrastructure work being done for the three Habitat lots on Jackson St. is well underway and should be completed very soon. Well 4 has been taken out for repairs and should be back in service within a few weeks.

Hurlock Fire Department – No report

Hurlock Police Department – No report

Old Business – Administrator Avery described the Easement Agreement for power lines along the edge of Ennals Road. The final details have been worked out and is ready for approval. Rev. Cephas motioned to approve the Easement Agreement and seconded by E. Murphy. A Roll Call vote was taken and passed with all in favor and no one opposed.

Councilmember Cephas said he was given a note that another city had passed a curfew.

Councilmembers –

Councilman Russ Murphy spoke on the yard programs, one property owner was in attendance to receive their prize. He also commented that a lot of building permits are being issued, it is good to see improvements in the Town.

Councilmember Rhue said everyone should keep an eye on their neighbors in this heat. There have been quite a few overdoses recently. Bad drugs are out there. The fire department has smoke detectors for homes but not carbon monoxide detectors.

Councilmember Franz reminded everyone to stay cool.

Councilmember E. Murphy said everyone should enjoy the summer. The Councilmembers will be available even though there will be only one meeting a month during the summer.

Councilmember Cephas said that elections are this year and people should not resort to dirty politics. We have done good work downtown. He is disappointed about what he has seen on social media. He hopes at some point we would grow up as people.

Public Comments –

Monroe Quailes brought up where is the Ethics Commission listed, it is not on the website. He questioned about the Employee Manual revision and the Charter. Rev. Cephas stated they are in progress. Mr. Quailes mentioned the up rise of the use of the “N” word, it is offensive. Avery stated that it wrong for anyone to use that word. If it is wrong for some to use it is wrong for all to use.

Jack Lewis spoke about the junk cars at Future Builders Supply.


Mike Henry asked if the demolition for the houses went out to bid. Avery answered it was not required as each house was a separate contract and less than \$5,000. Mr. Henry then questioned has the Memorial Park project been open to public comments. Jack Lewis asked why they have not been informed. Earl Murphy explained how the committee had come into existence. The Mayor asked why are people now arguing about the Park. Henry said he just wants to be informed. There was much discussion. The Mayor stated we are doing this the right way. Cephas spoke that it is a good thing.

Mayor Spratt asked for a motion to go to closed session for discussion of the acquisition of real property within the town limits. With a motion by E. Murphy seconded by Franz and passed with all in favor and no opposed the meeting was adjourned to go to Closed Session. Mayor Spratt stated that the Council would not be returning to Open Session.

Adjourn: 7:17

Respectively submitted,

Approved: Mayor Spratt:


John Avery
Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer

Councilmembers:
