

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR
JOHN H. AVERY
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
ROBERT MERRIKEN
ATTORNEY

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

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING MARCH 27, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of March 27, 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 Charles Cephas gave the opening prayer. The roll call was taken, and those in attendance were: Councilmembers Russell Murphy, Earl Murphy, Jerry Rhue, Charles Cephas, Mayor Spratt, Town Attorney Robert Merriken and Town Administrator/Clerk John Avery. Councilwoman Bonnie Franz was absent.

Councilman JerryRhue made a Motion to approve the Agenda. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Earl Murphy. With all in favor and no one opposed the Motion to approve the Agenda was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0.

Councilman Earl Murphy made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2017 Open Session Meeting. Councilman Charles seconded the Motion. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion to approve the Minutes was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt announced that the Town was presented a plaque from the Hurlock Fire Department at their Annual Awards Banquet.

The Mayor described a horse race fund raiser that she attended. Mayor Spratt spoke of how much fun it was.

Saturday night the Lions Club had their scholarship dinner. Approximately 400 people attended at the Unity Washington Church. The Church is considering opening a bicycle shop for children that would be open once a month, they will offer free repairs.

Spring Clean-Up will be held next week.

This Thursday a meeting will be held regarding a fund raiser to be held for Councilman Russell

Murphy.

Mayor Spratt requested the Council to cancel the April 24th meeting. The Council agreed.

Report on Habitat - Ms. Nancy Andrews, a representative from Habitat, presented a report. The construction of the house on Charles Street is going great. Ms. Andrews asked for local volunteers. An Open House will be held on April 8th at the house on Charles Street.

The Town is a recipient for funds for Habitat in the County. The second round of work is scheduled to begin on Jackson Street. Ms. Andrews described the grant to the Council and residents in attendance.

Ms. Andrews asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

The time line for the house on Charles Street to be completed is June 30, 2017. Construction work takes place on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Department Reports –

Public Works – Administrator Avery reported that the sidewalk paving work is complete.

Hurlock Police Dept. - Chief of Police Les Hutton reported that things had been uneventful. There was a burglary at 100 Maryland Avenue. There was also 3 people caught shoplifting at Goose Creek.

Councilman Cephas asked about funds from speeding tickets. Chief Hutton responded that all ticket funds go to the State. Councilman Cephas then asked about stolen bicycles that are found.

Hurlock Fire Dept. – A report was submitted by R.J. Helmer and is attached.

Old Business - The Budget Ordinance 2017 -1 was introduced. Attorney Merriken described the tax rates; .8270/100 for real property and \$1.4/100 for business personal property. The Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Cephas.

Councilman Cephas asked the Council to please look at the 3 Charter Amendments again.

New Business – There was a request from Pizza Palace to amend the requirement for measurement from a church or school to a business that sells alcohol. Michelle, representing Pizza Palace, described the request. Attorney Merriken defined where the change would take place.

Councilman Cephas stated he did not have any problem with the process, but he would check with the church across the street.

Councilman Earl Murphy stated he did not have a problem with this.

Attorney Merriken said there is an option to request an exception could be added under Cambridge and Secretary.

Councilman Russell Murphy said he was for it.

Mayor Spratt stated that the consensus is that all Councilmembers were in favor of the request.

Councilman Earl Murphy made a Motion to send a letter of support for Pizza Palace and request a change in the 300 foot requirement. Councilman Russell Murphy seconded the Motion. A roll call was taken. Councilmembers Earl Murphy, Russell Murphy, and Jerry Rhue voted in favor of the Motion. Councilman Charles Cephas abstained from voting. The Motion was passed with a vote of 3-0, and 1 abstention.

Administrator Avery described bids for repaving of the parking lot next to the railroad track at Mill St. Councilman Cephas made a Motion to approve the bid from Delmarva Paving. All Councilmembers voted in favor of the Motion to accept the bid. With all in favor and no one opposed, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0

A budget amendment was made to move \$20,000.00 from contingency for the paving.

Councilmember Comments -

Councilman Jerry Rhue stated we need to work with the public and support Town businesses.

Councilman Russell Murphy re-stated that Spring Clean-Up will be held next week. He would like to begin the Town beautification project in May this year.

Public Comments – Michelle from Pizza Palace stated that work in the downtown area has made a big difference.

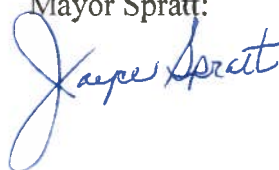
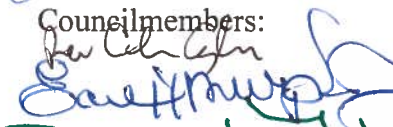
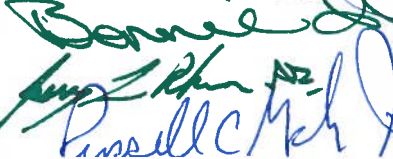
Paul Grahe asked for a date when the storm drains in the Woodsedge Development would be repaired. Administrator Avery replied that a date has not been established. The situation is being monitored.

With no further business or discussion, the Open Session meeting of March 27, 2017 was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Approved: Mayor Spratt:


John Avery
Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer


Councilmembers:


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