

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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JOYCE A. SPRATT
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 MAY 8 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of May 8, 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, Bonnie Franz, Charles Cephas, Mayor Spratt, Town Attorney Robert Merriken and Town Administrator/Clerk John Avery.

Councilman Jerry Rhue 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 5-0.

Councilman Earl Murphy made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 10, 2017 Open Session Meeting. Councilwoman Bonnie Franz 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 5-0.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt introduced Sheriff Phillips and State's Attorney Bill Jones. Chief of Police Les Hutton stated one police officer went to the Drug Task Force a couple of years. The Drug Task Force brought a lot of resources to the Town. They were able to purchase 5 lap tops for the police cars at \$5,000.00 each. The officers are much safer because of these lap tops. They are the same as the Sheriff's Department uses. It is important to have that continuity. Sheriff Phillips said 28 people were indicted last week on drug charges, of these 28 people, 18 have now been arrested. This was a result of the work done by the drug task force. Attorney Jones is aggressive in pursuing drug offenders.

Mayor Spratt presented the treasurer's report.
She also stated about the following:

The fund raiser for Councilman Russell Murphy will be held May 21st.
C&J Market had its first car show and the next one is scheduled for May 27th.
The Lions Club will be paying for 3 flag poles at the 5-corner intersection.

Department Reports –

Public Works -Administrator Avery reported on the water and the water quality report, the treasurer's report, and the information on the website going live.

Hurlock Fire Department – R. J. Helmer presented the fire department report. A fire fighter rescue class will be held this weekend at 300 S. Main Street.

Hurlock Police Department – Chief of Police Les Hutton presented a report from the police department. There were 4 thefts and 2 criminal citations for disorderly conduct.

Councilman Cephas stated there was a really big fight in Prospect Heights. The Hurlock officers were very subtle and they use a lot of restraint. He stated he is proud of the Hurlock Police. Councilman Cephas asked if the bike patrol would be used again. He felt the officers were exceptional.

Old Business – Councilman Cephas asked to have the Chief of Police, Administrator Avery, and the Town Attorney to review the idea of a curfew. He said other councils have shot this idea down. He felt it is time to be proactive. Doing the curfew could save a life. He said the Town could have serious problems if this subject is let go.

Councilman Cephas stated the first thing to do would be to look at the Charter i.e. specifically who will act in the Mayor's absence. Mayor Spratt asked if that had already been decided. Attorney Merriken read a Charter Amendment that was done stating the Council President will preside in the Mayors absence at meetings.

Comments

Councilmembers –

Councilman Earl Murphy asked if they could go back and take another look at the grass discharge ordinance. He recommended sending a letter first and then a scheduled fine structure. The consensus was to create a draft of the ordinance.

Councilman Russell Murphy thanked everyone for the comments regarding his father-in-law. He recommended that residents back into their driveway and then see how easy it is when you leave. Councilman R. Murphy thanked everyone involved in the Fundraiser.

Councilman Jerry Rhue thanked the people that come to the meetings. He felt all projects are moving forward. He also spoke on the infrastructure projects. He stated his thoughts are that parents should be responsible for their children instead of the Town having a curfew.

Councilwoman Bonnie Franz thanked people for supporting Councilman Russell Murphy.

Councilman Earl Murphy said he would like to see the Town have additional clean up days. He then spoke on how well the Town is doing financially. He stated that schools are winding down and asked all residents to be safe.

Councilman Cephas stated it was an honor to work with the community and the council. He felt you have to think of innovative ways for problem solving. It seems these days you have children raising children. He said the Town continues to grow.

Councilman Cephas spoke to Reverend Gillespie and said he is helping the community by being a good pastor. The reverend is going to help with a fundraiser for by securing donations. He said Cancer is awful. He asked that residents continue to pray for the young people.

Public Comments –

Ms. Patricia Finley spoke on the curfew and asked if it would be a good idea to speak to Social Services and get input from them.

Ken Heath was introduced and he then spoke on the county raising the height of the landfill.

Mr. Monroe Quailes had a question regarding the Ethics Commission members.

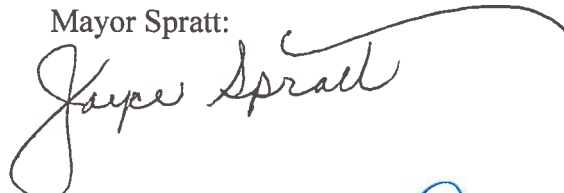
With no further business or discussion, the Open Session meeting of May 8, 2017 was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



John Avery
Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Councilmembers:

