

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

POST OFFICE BOX 327  
HURLOCK, MARYLAND 21643  
410-943-4181  
FAX 410-943-8556  
E-MAIL: townofhurlock@townofhurlock.org

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 November 13, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of November 13, 2017 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer: Chief Hutton

Roll call, present: Councilmembers; Franz, R. Murphy, E. Murphy, and Rev. Cephas  
Mayor Spratt  
Attorney Merriken  
Administrator/Clerk Avery

Approval of Agenda: E. Murphy/Cephas, vote 4 for/0 opposed

Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2017 – E. Murphy/Cephas, vote 4 for/0 opposed.

New Business: Mayor Spratt introduced Ms. Rebecca White, acting Director County Parks and Recreation, and Ms. Nancy Shockley who are here to ask public input on future projects. Ms. White asked residents what they would like to see so their ideas can be included in the County 5-year plan. Blanch Powell stated that the tennis courts are under used and asked if having instruction available would help with more interest. Ms. White said “pickle ball” has become very popular and some courts are being marked for that. There was a suggestion for an indoor sport center. Volley ball would be a good activity. Other suggestions included a roller skating rink, skate board park, swimming pool and community center. Councilman Cephas asked about getting open space funds and also for transportation. It has to be prioritized by the County Ms. White stated, they are trying to be more collaborative with the towns. Transportation is tough to fund. A question was asked if the County staffed any of the events? The answer was no.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Spratt said Shore Health will not be locating in Hurlock. She thanked everyone for the flowers that were sent and the support. Hurlock did not come out to vote; voter

turnout was very weak. The Mayor spoke on the many negative face book posts. Many comments were made from attendees. Councilman Cephas stated that we should stay positive. The Town needs to go forward together, and put these things behind. Councilman Cephas stated that new councilmembers need to go to classes for ethics and budgeting, etc. This needs to be a working Council. He wants to move swiftly on filling committees.

Department Reports: Chief Hutton gave a brief police department report. Mark Dahl gave the fire department report.

Old Business: Charter Amendment 2017-2 was introduced which creates the position of a Town Manager. Attorney Merriken stated that this fundamentally changes how the Town does business. The amendment is in the draft stages at this point. Councilman Cephas said all towns around us have town managers. Attorney Merriken spoke on a modification to the Ethics Ordinance changing the number of members from 3 to 5 has been approved by the State. The attorney said it is just introduced at this point.

Council comments: Councilman Cephas said it hurts him to see the hard feelings. The Town has to come together and wished Mayor elect Henry the best. Councilmember Franz stated she has received no clothing donations. R. Murphy said he was disappointed in the voter turnout, obviously 2/3 of the people don't care. He had some suggestions about moving the Town Meeting to 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments: Mayor elect Henry said he would not respond to negative comments, he hopes they will move on. A person spoke on the many negative comments that have been made. She said her children do not feel safe in our town. Many negative comments followed with much confusion.

Motion to adjourn – 7:30

Respectively Submitted;

  
John Avery

Mayor:

Councilmembers;

