

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 October 10, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of October 10, 2017 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer: Chief Hutton

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

Approval of Agenda: R. Murphy/E. Murphy, vote 5 for/0 opposed

Approval of Minutes: September 25, 2017 Franz/Rhue, vote 4 for/0 opposed, 1 abstain, Rev. Cephas had been absent.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Spratt had Chief Hutton introduce Louis Quarshie who was then sworn in by Mayor Spratt, as a new police officer. He was a Salisbury officer that Salisbury spoke very highly of.

Habitat is now working on the second house in Hurlock. The Mayor gave an update on the medical center situation. Discussion with another provider has gone well and the outlook on having another provider take over the practice is positive. Judges are still needed for "Strut your Mut" contest that will be held at Koski's Trucking.

Cederic Turner said that the class on Saving a Life scheduled at Full Gospel Church is full.

Fall Fest was a huge success, the weather was great, the Memorial Park Dedication and fireworks were terrific. Mayor spoke on the treasures report that was submitted. We moved

\$500,000 from a money market account at .19% interest to a CD at 2.27% interest. This will generate \$27,000 interest over the next 27 months.

Department Reports – Admin. Avery gave a public works report and explained that a fifth blower for the WWTP is now needed at a cost of \$50,000. He asked to have \$50,000 transferred from contingency funds to the Waste Water Maintenance account by Budget Amendment. Councilmember Cephas motioned to transfer the \$50,000 requested. Seconded by E. Murphy and voted with 5 for and 0 opposed. The motion passed.

Chief Hutton’s report for the month included 2 assaults, 1 burglary, 5 thefts including 1 shoplifting, 1 DWI and 1 marijuana possession.

Fire Department is now having bingo every Wednesday at 7 P.M. The following has improved over the last 6 weeks. Pit beef sandwiches sold out during Fall Fest. Ninety pounds of beef was used.

The Mayor has received many calls and texts about the Town going purple, like Talbot. It is for awareness, the Council thought it is a good idea.

Old Business: Attorney Merriken stated that Ordinance 2017-4 had been introduced at the September 25th meeting. Ordinance 2017-4 is a text amendment to the Hurlock Zoning Ordinance allowing, inherently, rail and truck terminals with associated warehouse facilities on property over 5 acres for property zoned C-2. Councilmember Rhue motioned to pass Ordinance 2017-4, seconded by Councilmember Franz. With no discussion the motion passed with a roll call vote:

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| R. Murphy | Aye |
| Rhue | Aye |
| Franz | Aye |
| E. Murphy | Aye |
| Cephas | Aye |

Attorney Merriken described the changes requested to the Ethics Ordinance. Councilmember Cephas had introduced changing the number of members from 3 to 5 and having them appointed by the Council instead of the Mayor, and establishing a term of 3 years. At this point it is just discussion, it must first be approved by the State then the Council. He had received a letter from the State Ethics Commission with some required changes and some optional changes. The attorney stated that the proposed Town changes would have no effect on the State changes. Following a Motion by Councilman Cephas, seconded by Councilman Rhue to submit the proposed changes to the State for approval a roll call vote was taken:

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|-----------|-----|
| R. Murphy | Aye |
| Rhue | Aye |
| Franz | Aye |
| E. Murphy | Aye |
| Cephas | Aye |

Attorney Merriken described a charter amendment that was proposed by Councilman Cephas. Currently department heads serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and as such may be terminated by the Mayor. The change would require Council approval of the termination as it is with the hiring of a department head. Councilman Cephas explained that a career employee should have protection if a new mayor comes in. Councilman Bill Mills proposed this change 20 years ago, it failed for 7 years under the mayor at that time. Mayor Spratt stated that she agrees with the change. E. Murphy and Councilman Rhue stated that it will create stability and is a good idea. With a motion by Councilman Cephas and second by E. Murphy Resolution 2017-1 was put to a vote. Motion passed with 5 yeas/0 Nays.

Councilmembers Comments:

R. Murphy named the winners of the yard contest for September; 3rd place 100 Webster, 2nd 210 Oak and 1st 103 Barnes Ct. Winners have been fairly dispersed over the Town's 4 Districts.

Councilman Rhue said a lot of business has been taken care of by the Council. Fall Fest was a great event, everybody profited that day.

Councilmember Franz thanked everyone for coming out on Saturday (Fall Fest).

Councilman E. Murphy said it was nice to see a great day, the vendors keep coming back.

Councilman Cephas thanked God he is living, he was very sick. It makes you appreciate life and people. He believes that he and the Mayor have found common ground, he sees a person in her that has heart. He said it has been an honor to work with this Council. He questioned recent odors coming from B&G and Amick. Administrator Avery stated that the problem is being addressed with both companies.

Mayor Spratt said that all 5 Councilmembers were at the Memorial Park Dedication Saturday.

Public Comments –

Lisa Murry thanked the Town for the Memorial Park. Town pride was tremendous, we have a beautiful memorial. A resident from Woodsedge stated that a cat had been buried in her flower bed. Chief Hutton said problems like these are wide spread and are going on in the County and Caroline County as well.

A number of concerns were raised that some kids are causing complaints, especially in Woodsedge. Chief Hutton said this is being investigated with the aid of the State Police and the County Sheriff's Department. Part of the problem is that Juvenal Services will not put these kids away. Councilman Cephas asked the Chief if we could put a camera out there. There was much discussion on this topic.

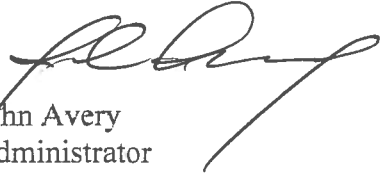
Cederic Turner spoke on the candidate discussion that will be held by the League of Women Voters October 19th at 6 P.M. at the Community Center.

Frank Bittner asked Councilman Cephas and the Council if the public could have time to speak during work sessions for citizens input.

Monroe Quailes spoke on seeing growth in town and hopes this trend continues. He hoped we could get together and help the police.

Motion to adjourn 7:30.

Respectively submitted,


John Avery
Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Councilmembers:

