

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 September 11, 2017 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Session Meeting of September 11, 2017 to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Hurlock Town Office on Charles Street in Hurlock, MD. There was a moment of silence held in remembrance for 9/11. 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 Rhue made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2017 Open Session Meeting with the addition of the person's name, Tynika Cummings, that purchased the Habitat house on Charles St. Councilmember E. Murphy 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 spoke about the donations that are going to Texas. The Veterans Memorial Park is under construction. The SHA is installing brick style crosswalks along Academy and S. Main Streets. That style crosswalk is being done at the request of the Town. They are an upgrade from normal crosswalks and are being done at no cost to the Town. The walk for suicide prevention on September 9th went well. A box has been placed in the Town Office parking lot for shoe donations. Those donations will raise funds to help with costs for a child that needs a service dog.

The vacant warehouse on Nelson Street is being bought by Ed James of Koski Enterprises. He is working to bring rail freight back to Hurlock. Fall cleanup will be September, 22, 23 and 24th.

Agenda Request – Mr. Lawrence Webster from the Woodsedge Community stated that on August 31st his house was struck by a number of bullets. He thanked the Hurlock Police Dept. for their response and support. It means a lot to he and his family for the quick response.

Department Reports – Admin. Avery stated that the State contractor will be back in Town replacing some sections of sidewalks under warranty.

Chief Hutton spoke on the fire works for the evening of Fall Fest. In will be a good show. He gave the Police Department report for the last month.

No fire department report.

Mayor Spratt introduced Mr. Jeff Hubbard, Chamber of Commerce President. He said he is excited to hear of the potential of rail freight coming back to Hurlock.

Old Business- Councilman Cephas spoke on the need for a Charter Change regarding the hiring and firing of Department Heads. It should be a process with approval of the Council. He stated that the Town should have a Town Manager. He said he is looking to the future and called for a work session to discuss these issues. Rev. Cephas spoke on Emergency Preparedness and the literature that he got from the Dorchester County Emergency Management. Rev. Dickerson distributed this literature to attendees. Mayor Spratt thanked him for the information.

Councilmembers Comments:

R. Murphy said we are still losing people because of the 9/11 attacks. He brought up a question about trash and general cleanliness of Family Dollar. Mayor Spratt said we had met with the District Manager and expressed our concerns regarding those issues. Councilman R. Murphy announced this month's winners of the yard contest.

Councilman Rhue spoke the about the 9/11 remembrance event that took place in Ocean City.

Councilmember Franz said there will be a coat drive that will be held November 18th. She also stated that people should not leave grass clippings in the streets.

Councilman E. Murphy spoke on bullets that were shot at the house in Woodsedge. Some of the bullets went into the house and one struck a vehicle outside. The Police Department has been cooperative. We need to work together to find out who did this, if you have any information contact the Police Department.

Councilman Cephas said he thought at some point the town should consider hiring an interpreter. He said the Town should look at; enhancing the website, installing bikeways, and consider legislature the State is introducing. President Trump plans on eliminating the CDBG program, these funds are necessary. Look at the proposed legislature for Sales Tax that could affect the

Town. Under new legislature the Public Information Act will be improved. It will make it harder for vendors to get personal information. He then spoke on the use of dirty politics and back stabbing. He said vote for who you think will do the best job. We should make our Town the best anywhere.

Mayor Spratt said the Fire Department has been offered property for a new fire house. They are working with an architect on plans.

Public Comments –

A concern was voiced that there may be an escalation in shootings. First it was a pellet gun now a firearm. A resident from Woodsedge has seen a lot of emphasis placed on infrastructure work, but nothing being done for people, children or elderly. We don't develop people. How do we get out a good message to people? Mayor Spratt said it has to start at home. Rev. Cephas spoke on the need for a youth center He said he and Norma Todd fought tooth and nail to get a youth center right after he first came on the Council. Rev. Cephas stated the Town needs a curfew. He is willing to have a Town Hall meeting to meet with people. Mayor Spratt said that YMCA started a free program at the school and no one came. People have tried to start programs. Another resident said that it is a parenting thing. The Chief said it is not a police problem, it is parenting.

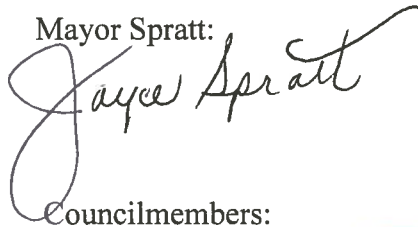
Motion to adjourn 7:20.

Respectively submitted,



John Avery
Administrator
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:



Councilmembers:

