

# 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](mailto:townofhurlock@townofhurlock.org)

MICHAEL E. HENRY  
MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
ROBERT MERRIKEN  
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.  
CHARLES A. CUMMINGS  
BONNIE FRANZ  
EARL H. MURPHY  
RUSSELL C. MURPHY, JR.

## MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING April 9, 2018

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry.

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Chief Hutton gave the opening prayer.

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion E. Murphy second Franz, approved 5/0.

Approval of Minutes: March 26, 2018 – R. Murphy/Cummings, vote 5 for/0 opposed.

Mayors Report: Mayor Henry said that it is his 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The Town will host the May 17<sup>th</sup> LESMA dinner at Suicide Bridge Restaurant, starting at 5:30. Habitat is looking for volunteers to help with construction. the first Saturday's of the month from 8:00 to noon.

Agenda Request: Mr. Jesse Camper spoke on the need for a community center in the North Dorchester area. Their group is a non-profit based in Federalsburg since 1977. They would like to see a coalition of non-profits and purchase land to build a community center. They have a food bank in Caroline County and are expanding into Dorchester County. They are collaborating with Ministers and Citizens and are using Pro Parties facility for an office. E. Murphy asked if they are working with Chris Adams to use the old bank building. They said they are not. Cephas said that Ministers and Citizens did planning to use the old middle school, however the County tore it down. Cephas thinks Adams building is not adequate. They need to find a location/land first. There are agencies that will help with building and grants, loans etc. Mr. Camper asked if the Town would support their project. The Mayor and the consensus of the Council was in support.

Public Works Report – Avery said the Boy Scout house roof has been replaced, the tree has been removed at the police station, the town office roof has been patched, he is waiting for a proposal to clean the storm water ditches and the engineering work for the force main replacement is underway.

Police Report: Chief Hutton gave a brief report and also demonstrated the new body cameras. He said they are due to be replaced and upgraded. it is included in our service contract and will be done at no additional cost. Councilman Cephas said he is proud that the Chief is ahead of other jurisdictions including the state police.

Old Business: Councilman Cephas said now is the time to move forward with going to a town manager form of government, every municipality our size has a town manager. We are growing, it would be one of the best things that has happened to the town. Cephas spoke on a property tax cut and asked the council for support for a .75% cut. He said it could be funded by reducing overtime, cut council salaries, give no bonuses this year and purchase no new vehicles. He can't see why this can't be done.

E. Murphy spoke about the idea of suppling dumpsters for small businesses in town. Cephas said this would be a pilot program and asked the Council how many thought this would be a good program. Consensus is the Council wants more information.

New Business: Avery described an application from Family Dollar for a temporary sign permit. E. Murphy motion to approve, second by Cephas, vote 5 in favor/0 opposed.

Cephas stated he would like to re-look at the issues with the blinking light intersection.

R. Murphy said he has gotten concerns about speeding on Charles St., standing water and dark areas due to street lights being out or inadequate.

Council Comments: E. Murphy said he would use his trailer to help residents during spring clean day. Cephas said he, the Mayor and Avery attended a meeting with the County Manager that went well. He is looking forward to more meetings. He spoke on Encall services that will the North Dorchester County residents. Representatives from the Governor's office are to tour the town in the future and get an idea of our needs. Cephas said he is running for the House of Delegates and has a lot to give.

Other comment that Tri-City Little League opening day is Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Henry swore Mr. Jack Lewis and Ms. Lynda Vinson as the new Council appointed Ethics Commission members.

Ms. Vinson asked about getting a sidewalk from 331 to Charles St. along 392.

E. Murphy motioned to go to closed session for discussion of a personnel matter, second by Cummings, vote 5 in favor/0 opposed.

Announcement; the Council will not return to open session.

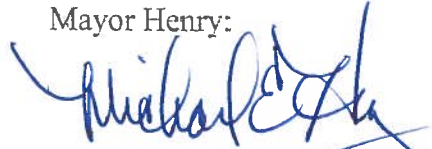
Adjourn 7:45

Respectfully Submitted:



John Avery  
Town Administrator

Mayor Henry:



Councilmembers:

