

# The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR  
JOHN H. AVERY  
TOWN MANAGER  
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 March 25, 2019

6:00 PM Call to Order by Mayor Henry

Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer – Rev. Cephas gave the opening prayer.

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion Cephas, second E. Murphy, approved 4/0

Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2019 Open Session – Cummings/R. Murphy, approved 4/0  
March 11, 2019 Closed Session – Cephas/Cummings, approved 4/0

Mayors Report: The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Unity Washington Church. Tickets are on sale at the Town Office for \$10. The Mayor attended a meeting last Thursday at the Board of Education and requested some items be donated from the old high school to the future Hurlock Museum. Items are called excess equipment by the Bd. Of Ed and require sealed bids to purchase them. Mayor Henry introduced Frank and Faye Fraley, Grand Marshalls from the Christmas Parade, and presented them with keys to the Town and a garden light that was made by the Mayor. The Mayor read a thank you note for the donation to the After-Prom Committee.

Agenda Request: Mr. Matt Heim from Oceana presented information regarding his company and off shore drilling and exploration. The drilling and exploration off the coast of Maryland and the mouth of the bay could have huge negative impacts on the bay and the fishing industry. Five companies have applied for permits to do off shore surveying using air gun noise blasts. The frequency and level of the noise blasts is catastrophic to fish and sea life. It is a very risky industry. He asked the Town for support by way of a resolution opposing the exploration and drilling. It was agreed the Town would offer support by means of a Resolution. Cummings

thanked him for coming and taking a stand to protect our way of life and the jobs.

**Public Works Report:** Avery gave a treasures and budget report through December 2018. Cash on hand at the end of February 2019 was \$3,044,000. This is down \$350,000 from the same time last year, however the town paid almost 900,000 from contingency funds for the force main leaks and replacement.

**Police Department Report:** Chief Hutton stated that there was one assault reported on Main St. that was closed with an arrest. Otherwise very quiet.

**Fire Department:** Chief Trego said there were 15 calls in February. May 4<sup>th</sup> will be a chicken barbeque and dance following in the evening. Avery said the community yard sale will be May 4<sup>th</sup> as well. It was moved from April 27<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with the Secretary yard sale being on the same day.

Lenny Pfeffer said the County Council is finishing work on their budget with the last work session scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:** Small Cell Ordinance 2019-3 was introduced by Councilman Cephas.

Councilman Cephas reported on the last Community Center meeting. He said the Census listed Cambridge as economically depressed but not North County. This affords Cambridge more economic opportunities than North County. He is looking at grocery stores and fast food restaurants etc. Being in an Opportunity Zone affords investment and tax credits. Hurlock should get the advantage of these credits. He attended the Bd of Ed meeting and came away with a different mindset. Teachers spoke on being disgraced by students whose actions have no repercussions. Citizens need to be involved.

**New Business:** Avery explained the minor sub-division request to divide 300 Broad St. into 2 parcels. Hurlock Board of Appeals has approved the request with a setback reduction and the Planning Commission has approved the plat. Motion was made to approve the plat by Cephas, second by E. Murphy, vote 4 in favor/0 opposed.

**Comments:** E. Murphy asked Lenny Pfeffer if the County Council would support Hurlock Grant Applications. Answer was unclear, he would but can't speak for the Council. Hurlock now has a newsletter that we be published quarterly, the first issue is available. It is called the "Hurlock Express". Condolences to Councilmember Franz who lost her son last week. Cummings reminded everyone that Little League will be starting in two weeks. Opening day to be April 13<sup>th</sup>. R. Murphy reminded people that he has a suggestion box and to take advantage of spring cleanup.

**Public Comments:** Councilman Pfeffer said the County's Comp Plan is being finalized. Monroe Quales said growth is moving toward north county. Ms. Susan Bautz asked Mr. Pfeffer how the County regulates the funds that go to the Bd. Of Ed. He said the funds go to them as a lump sum and the Bd. Of Ed uses them within their budget as they see fit.

The Council voted 4 in favor to have a brief meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> and then move to a budget work shop.

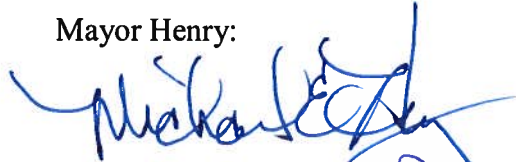
Adjourn 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



John Avery  
Town Manager

Mayor Henry:



Councilmembers:

