The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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MAYOR
JOHN H. AVERY
CLERK / TREASURER

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHRISTOPHER J. ADAMS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
GARY L. HENRY
MICHAEL D. NORDSTROM

MINUTES
OPEN SESSION MEETING
September 23, 2013
6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Paul Bovankovich said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Councilmembers Durham, Cephas, Nordstrom, Henry, Mayor Spratt, Attorney Robert Merriken, and Clerk Avery. Councilman Adams was absent.

The Agenda was approved with a Motion made by Councilman Durham, seconded by Councilman Henry and with no discussion, passed with a vote of 3-1. Councilman Cephas abstained.

The Minutes of the Open Session Meeting for August 12, 2013, were approved. Councilman Nordstrom made a Motion to Approve, with a second from Councilman Henry. The Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0. None opposed.

The Minutes of the Open Session Meeting for August 26, 2013 were approved. Councilman Durham made a Motion to Approve, with a second from Councilman Nordstrom. The Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0. None opposed.

The Minutes of the Open Session Meeting for September 9, 2013 were approved. Councilman Nordstrom made a Motion to Approve, with a second from Councilman Henry. Councilman Durham pointed out one small misprint on page 5, 5th paragraph. It should read, "sink **hole**", at 101 Miles Circle. The correction was noted. The Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0. None opposed.

Mayor's Report – Last Saturday, the Girl Scouts telephoned Mayor Spratt and asked if she would participate in a walk from the elementary school to the Town Office to plant

windmills for International Day of World Peace. It was a great experience.

Saturday afternoon the "Bridging the Gap" event was held with Pastor Jeff Phillips. There were games, exhibits and a puppet show. The children had a lot of fun. It is the hope that this event can be an annual event.

The Fall Festival will be held on October 5th. Clerk Avery gave an update on the trains. Mr. Avery said everything is moving forward. One train car needed brake certification. Things appear to be positive for the Festival.

County Councilman Rick Price's Report - County Councilman Price was unable to attend the meeting, however he left a report with Mayor Spratt of highlights of the last County Council Meeting. The County introduced legislation that allowed for placement of cameras on county school busses to deter vehicles from passing them while students are boarding or exiting the bus. A public hearing will be held in the near future. The Council also approved bids on contracts to do paving at marinas and portions of county roads, including Gravel Branch and Indiantown, which are in the North Dorchester area. The Council referred a proposal to support the Ag Tourism signs throughout the state to the Traffic Safety Committee. The Council is preparing a list of topics for the meeting on November 5th with the Maryland Department of Transportation and local legislators. If anyone has questions or suggestions, please write them down and get them to Councilman Price. The next County Council Meeting will be held on October 1, 2013 at 6:00.

Department Reports – Chief of Police Les Hutton stated the police department had their fingerprint audit and they received a 100% on the audit. On October 1, 2013, the cell phone law goes into effect. Handholding or texting on a cell phone is a primary offense. Another law coming into effect on October 1s, is a seat belt law. This would be a secondary offense. If the passengers in the rear seat, and the car is pulled over, the passengers can be cited. Councilman Nordstrom asked if there is a new law on children in car seats. Chief Hutton had no knowledge of anything new on that subject. Monroe Quailes asked about trailer hitches on the back of vehicles. Chief Hutton stated that it a commercial law. There was a rumor that all pickup trucks were being pulled over. It was the Chief's understanding that law is not being enforced.

Old Business – Attorney Merriken spoke about Resolution 2013-2, which is a Resolution that the Town of Hurlock will provide a Ballot question on whether the Town should build a new police station. Councilman Cephas is responsible for introducing the Bill. Councilman Cephas made a Motion to Approve Resolution 2013-2. Councilman Nordstrom seconded the Motion. Mr. Merriken read the question, which is non-binding Ballot question, if approved. **"Should the Town of Hurlock continue with it's plans to build a new police station for an approximate cost of one million two hundred thousand dollars to become compliant with current regulations, using funding that was previously allocated for certain loans that will be satisfied at the time the obligation on the new loan becomes due? "** The answer would be yes or no. The Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0. None opposed.

The second Resolution 2013-3 is a Resolution by the Town of Hurlock to consider whether the Mayor's salary should be modified. The question as proposed in the Resolution is, **"Should the Mayor's current annual salary of $28,000.00 be (choose only one response) increased, stay the same, or decreased?"** Councilman Cephas is responsible for introducing the Bill. A Motion was made by Councilman Henry to approve Resolution 2013-3. Councilman Cephas seconded the Motion. The vote was, Councilman Durham – Nay, Councilman Nordstrom – Nay, Councilman Henry – Aye, and Councilman Cephas – Aye. The Motion failed with a 2-2 vote.

Mr. Merriken stated he had circulated to the Council an Ordinance to pass the International Property Maintenance Code for 2012. He received some emails from the Councilmembers. Councilman Durham had a specific concern in regards to motor vehicles. Councilman Durham asked if there is a time frame to which Mr. Merriken answered there was none. Councilman Durham further feels because Hurlock is a small town, and not a very affluent community, this International Property Maintenance Agreement does not fit this Town. This agreement is made to insure the citizens to have their hedges trimmed and sidewalks swept of all grass, etc. and Hurlock is not like that. Councilman Durham therefore, felt the discussion should be held in a work session. Mr. Merriken stated most of the discussion should be public. Councilman Cephas suggested there be a public hearing to discuss the subject and went on to say that by Charter, there could be a work session with the public present. It was decided that the discussion was tabled for the present time. Mr. Jack Lewis asked Councilman Durham, in reference to his comments, about Homeowner's Associations. He stated they are locked into that and asked Councilman Durham if he was saying the Town didn't have to abide by the same rules. Councilman Durham replied that a Homeowner's Association has a different set of rules. Mayor Spratt suggested this discussion be tabled and examine the issue at a later date. All were in agreement to the suggestion.

New Business – Mayor Spratt introduced Scott Schilling from Bay Country Communications. Mr. Schilling was in attendance to discuss a new BCC franchise agreement for the Town. Councilman Cephas stated that the Town loves BCC but would love to see them extended into other parts of town. Mr. Schilling informed the Town, the business is now focusing their energies on the communications company. Councilman told Mr. Schilling that there are programs that could be looked at for funding. BCC has worked for 19 years in the County and made money. Councilman Cephas asked about recording Town meetings and Mr. Schilling was in agreement with that. He asked the Town to give them a chance to get back on their feel and they appreciate the Town working with them. Mayor Spratt said the new agreement looks better than the one before. Councilman Nordstrom made a Motion to accept the new agreement with BCC. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried. Councilman Cephas made a Motion for the Council to authorize the Mayor to sign the new agreement on behalf of them. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried.

Agenda Requests – Reverend Dickerson asked Mayor Spratt why isn't the Ministers and

Citizens Organization allowed to speak at the meetings? The Mayor answered that anyone is allowed to speak at a Town meeting.

Monroe Quailes cancelled his request to speak regarding Waterland Fisheries. Mr. Quailes wished to comment on the July 22, 2013 meeting that turned out to be ugly. He said while the meeting was going on, the Mayor slammed the gavel, but the tape was still running. He stated that the Mayor made a comment saying that she would not turn the Town over to someone like him and he wanted an explanation. Mayor Spratt explained it was exactly as she said.

Public Comment - Mayor Spratt explained that public comment time was for citizens to express concerns regarding municipal affairs regarding the Town. Ms. Blanch Powell wanted to say what a wonderful event the Fall Festival is. She has seen advertising for the Festival in other towns and communities. She stated that St. Andrews Church is having a big silent auction with as many as 100 items on the same day as the Hurlock Fall Festival. 100% of this money goes to the Maryland Food Bank to buy enough food to feed 130 families.

Mr. Earl Murphy who lives in the Woodsedge Development has plans in the works for Halloween this year and will coordinate these plans with Chief Les Hutton and Clerk Avery. Mayor Spratt stated that trick or treat would be from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Bovankovich said she feels so good that there are such good people in the Town doing such wonderful things for people in need.

Mr. Frank Bittner stated there is a committee that has been meeting for two weeks, is currently a small group. The name will be the Hurlock Citizens and Seniors Association. A decision has been made to go forward with their first public meeting, which will be held at the Hurlock Pizza Palace this Thursday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. The group determined the reasons for putting this committee together should be should be announced publicly. One reason is the feeling there is a lack of communication in the Town. This administration was elected four years ago to bring about change in the Town. It appears there is a lack of a unified vision. Only citizens can change that. The committee members lack incentives for citizen participation. He went on to say 2010 was a terrible year, and during that year there was a bad snowstorm, in which everyone worked together. Mr. Bittner feels that no community should deny the community a simple show of hands. Mr. Earl Murphy feels the elected official should go back to their district and find out from these citizens what their interests and feelings are for the community. Councilman Cephas agreed with Mr. Murphy, citizens should interact with their constituents. Don't come to a public meeting with a disinterested attitude. Councilman Cephas went on to say that there are things you might want to get done and you think if you get elected, you will change things. When you get on this side of the table, you find out you cannot do these things by yourself.

A citizen spoke that Prospect Heights has calmed down and greatly appreciated the Mayor working on the situation. Councilman Cephas thanked Clerk Avery for coming

out to the area to make sure the families were taken care of.

A question was asked if the train situation that occurred that morning would affect the Train Rides for Fall Festival. Mayor Spratt said everything should be fine.

Mr. G. Turner questioned if it was true that some of the county residents are being charged 2 Bay Fees. Clerk Avery answered it that is being done, it is being done by the County and is an error. There should only be 1 Bay Fee and it should be included on the Town water bill.

An announcement was made by Paul Grabe regarding to a Community Yard Sale to be held at Woodsedge this weekend.

Councilman Durham made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: Mayor Spratt:

Councilmembers:

MOTIONS AND VOTES BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
OPEN SESSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Councilman Durham. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion and it passed with a vote of 3-1. Councilman Cephas was opposed.

Councilman Nordstrom made a Motion to approve the minutes of August 12, 2013. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion to approve the minutes was passed and carried. None opposed.

Councilman Durham made a Motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2013. Councilman Nordstrom seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion to approve the minutes was passed and carried. None opposed.

Councilman Nordstrom made a Motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2013. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion to approve the minutes was passed and carried. None opposed.

Councilman Cephas introduced the Bill for Resolution 2013-2, and then made a Motion to approve Resolution 2013– 2, be placed on the election Ballot for a new police station. Councilman Nordstrom seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried. None opposed.

Councilman Cephas introduced the Bill for Resolution 2013-3, and Councilman Henry made a Motion to approve Resolution 2013-3 be placed on the election Ballot, for the Mayor's salary to stay the same, be decreased, or be increased. Councilman Cephas seconded the Motion. The vote was a follows: Councilman Durham – Nay, Councilman Nordstrom –Nay, Councilman Henry – Aye, and Councilman Cephas – Aye. With a vote of 2-2, the Motion failed.

Councilman Nordstrom made a Motion to accept the new agreement between the Town and Bay Country Communications. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried. None opposed.

Councilman Cephas made a Motion to authorize approval of Mayor Spratt to sign the agreement on their behalf. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried. None opposed.

Councilman Durham made a Motion to adjourn the Town meeting. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried. None opposed.