

**HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Olem called the June 11, 2024, Town Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Mayor Sheila Olem; Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick; and Councilmembers Naila Alam, Cesar del Aguila, Pradip Dhakal, Keven LeBlanc, and Donielle M. Scherff.

Staff present during the meeting: William H. Ashton II, Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Town Clerk; Captain Steve Pihonak, Herndon Police Department; and Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Mayor Olem led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Determination of a Quorum

Mayor Olem determined there was a quorum of all Councilmembers present. Mayor Olem reminded the Council of the meeting decorum.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor Olem stated that Town offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth. She encouraged everyone to attend the Juneteenth celebration at Arts Herndon on Saturday, June 15, which is free and open to the public. She reviewed the event schedule, stating that it will start at 11:00 a.m., with a ticketed beer tasting from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., a jazz concert at Arts Herndon at 7:00 p.m., and will include other activities throughout the day.

Mayor Olem stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the "Longest Day of Play" on Thursday, June 20, to kick off the summer. There will be "Popsicles in the Park" events throughout the day at several of the Town parks.

Mayor Olem stated that the summer meeting schedule begins this month. The next Town Council work session will be on Tuesday, July 9, and the next regular meeting is on Tuesday, July 16. She stated that the Town offices will be closed on

Thursday, July 4, and wished everyone a happy and safe Independence Day. On July 4, the Town will host its annual celebration starting at 6:30 p.m. at Bready Park, with the fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. More information is available on the Town's website.

3. Presentations/Reports/Comments

a. Proclamation to recognize LGBTQ+ Pride Month

Mayor Olem and Councilmember LeBlanc read the Proclamation to Recognize June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month into the record.

b. Proclamation to recognize Juneteenth Day

Mayor Olem recognized Councilmember Scherff to read the Proclamation to Recognize June 19, 2024, as Juneteenth Day, into the record.

Mayor Olem stated that members of the audience are invited to comment on the proclamations during the "Comments from the Audience" portion of the agenda.

c. Town Manager Report

William H. Ashton II, Town Manager, stated that there will be a residents' meeting on Ferndale Avenue safety improvements on Thursday, June 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He stated that the meeting will be held with the Town's engineering staff in order to gather stakeholder input. He indicated that notices had been sent to the affected residents and additional information was posted on the website.

Mr. Ashton stated that there will be a "pardon our dust" meeting on Tuesday, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. for the Hunters Creek bridge project. He advised that the bridge project is moving forward, and staff is going to discuss how the project will impact the neighborhood.

Mr. Ashton stated that he enjoyed speaking with Nikolas Johnson, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who is coordinating the Que Pasa festival in Herndon. He stated that they had a good conversation regarding the upcoming event.

d. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember Scherff: welcomed everyone in attendance and provided comments on the proclamations to recognize LGBTQ+ Pride Month and Juneteenth Day. She reviewed the schedule for the June 15 Juneteenth event, which also includes a talk about Henry Simms, one of the Town's early Black business owners. She is excited to work with new and old partners on community cultural festivals.

Councilmember Alam: welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting that evening. She stated that a Pakistan Day event is planned for August 18.

Councilmember LeBlanc: discussed several events he recently attended, including: (1) grand opening for Bricks and Minifigs, (2) ribbon cutting for Hawkeye 360's new headquarters, and (3) Carroll House dedication of the historical interpretive panels, hosted by the Herndon Historical Society.

Councilmember LeBlanc provided comments on the proclamation to recognize LGBTQ+ Pride Month, as the first LGBTQ+ elected member of the Town Council. He discussed the history of Pride Month, honoring the courageous individuals who sparked a movement at the Stonewall Inn, the sacrifices of those that went before, and emphasized commitment to being a community where everyone is seen, heard, and valued.

Councilmember LeBlanc provided comments on the proclamation to recognize Juneteenth Day, stating that it honors the Town's commitment to uplift the voices of the diverse community.

Councilmember del Aguila: offered congratulations to Councilmember LeBlanc for a successful Herndon Pride event; and commented on the number of events that have occurred and are upcoming within the Town. He thanked his colleagues that have supported the Community Cultural Festival Donation Program.

Councilmember Dhakal: provided comments on the proclamations to recognize Juneteenth Day and LGBTQ+ Pride Month, stating that he was honored to celebrate the diversity that makes up Herndon's vibrant community.

Councilmember Dhakal discussed several events he recently attended, including: (1) Herndon Pride; thanking Councilmember LeBlanc and Arts Herndon for their work on the event, (2) encouraged the public to attend the upcoming Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 15; thanking Councilmember Scherff for her work on the event, (3) Taekwondo black belt exam organized by the American Taekwondo and Martial Arts Academy, where he presented several black belts, (4) Carroll House historical interpretive panels dedication, (5) grand opening for Bricks and Minifigs, and (6) Herndon High School graduation; commenting on his work over the past year with Herndon High School students; and congratulating the graduates and their families.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: echoed his colleagues' comments on the proclamations to recognize LGBTQ+ Pride Month and Juneteenth Day.

Vice Mayor Hedrick stated he was impressed with commemorations across the nation honoring the 80th anniversary of D-Day; noting that there are still a few World War II veterans in Herndon; and expressing his gratitude and remembrance.

He stated that in looking at the proclamations read that evening, it is apparent that there are still things worth fighting for, as there were during World War II. He thanked everyone in attendance for coming to the meeting that evening.

Mayor Olem: echoed Vice Mayor Hedrick's comments about D-Day commemorations.

Mayor Olem provided comments on the proclamation to recognize June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month, thanking Councilmember LeBlanc for reading the proclamation. She stated that Herndon has recognized Pride Month since 2014, and recalled the first year that the Town issued the proclamation.

Mayor Olem provided comments on the proclamation to recognize Juneteenth Day, thanking Councilmember Scherff for reading the proclamation. She provided comments on Darryl Smith, who was the first Black police officer hired in the Town, who was subsequently elected to the Town Council, and served as Vice Mayor.

Mayor Olem discussed several events she recently attended, including: (1) Carroll House historical interpretive panels dedication, (2) Herndon Pride, thanking those that worked at and supported the event, (3) grand opening for Bricks and Minifigs, (4) Friendly Sympathetic Help (FISH) Fling; recognizing the hard work that their volunteers have done throughout the year, and (5) ribbon cutting for Hawkeye 360's new headquarters, stating that both Governor Youngkin and Congressman Connolly attended and spoke highly of Herndon at the event.

4. Comments from the Audience

Mayor Olem reviewed the process and asked those who wanted to provide comments from the audience to come forward.

The following individuals provided comments:

- Bessie Denton, 496 Virginia Avenue, Herndon: provided comments on the proclamation to recognize Juneteenth Day; discussed the history and memorialization of Juneteenth; and expressed concern over a lack of communication about the Juneteenth event in Town. She invited the Council to an event at Heritage Fellowship Church.
- Jo Ormesher, Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon: thanked the Town Council for establishing the Community Cultural Festival Donation Program, and discussed the Herndon Pride event and upcoming Juneteenth event, both of which are being held at Arts Herndon.

- Kyle Rohen, 2100 block of Astoria Circle, Herndon: provided comments on the proclamation to recognize LGBTQ+ Pride Month, remarking on the difference between the first proclamation presentation and this year, and noted the community support at the Herndon Pride event.
- Steve Mundt, 814 Locust Street, Herndon: provided his observations of the Town Council being in a "fishbowl," and shared his concerns related to community donations; the optics of the Stars and Stripes NOVA Committee event; and on a former mayor's request for a lifetime golf pass to the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.
- Stevan Porter, 905 Vine Street, Herndon: provided comments on the proclamations to recognize LGBTQ+ Pride Month and Juneteenth Day; thanking Councilmembers LeBlanc and Scherff for their work on these events. He shared his concerns about transparency related to community donations and the public's perception of the funds.

5. Consent

- a. Resolution 24-G-35 to approve the submission of a Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Smart Scale application to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the 'Herndon Parkway Improvements at Sunset Park Drive' intersection project**
- b. Ordinance 24-O-19 to approve and authorize the mayor to sign a Third Lease Extension between the Town of Herndon and The Elden Street Players d/b/a NextStop Theatre Company for space at 397 Herndon Parkway for storage**
- c. Ordinance 24-O-20 to approve and authorize the mayor to sign a Fifth Lease Extension between the Town of Herndon and The Elden Street Players d/b/a NextStop Theatre Company for space at 397 Herndon Parkway for rehearsal**
- d. Resolution 24-G-36 to award contract IFB# B-24-01, Dranesville Road Water Main Replacement**
- e. Resolution 24-G-37 to authorize the Town Manager to grant Encroachment Agreements for the Streeterly Pilot Program**
- f. April 23, 2024 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes**
- g. April 30, 2024 Town Council Special Meeting - Strategic Plan Minutes**

On motion of Councilmember LeBlanc, seconded by Councilmember Dhakal, the Consent Agenda items were approved and carried by unanimous roll call vote, as presented, without comment. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Dhakal, LeBlanc, and Scherff, Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor Olem voting "Aye."

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Olem adjourned the June 11, 2024, Town Council Regular Meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Amanda E. Moraw Kertz

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Chief Deputy Town Clerk



Minutes approved by Town Council: August 13, 2024

[Note: Approved resolutions and ordinances are filed in the Town Clerk's office.]