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**HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

The Town Council met in public session on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Mayor Sheila A. Olem; Vice Mayor Cesar del Aguila; and Councilmembers Pradip Dhakal, Signe Friedrichs, Sean M. Regan, and Jasbinder Singh.

Councilmember Naila Alam was absent.

Staff present during the meeting: William H. Ashton II, Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Scott Robinson, Director of Public Works; Page Kalapasev, Director of Information Technology; Cindy Roeder, Director of Parks and Recreation; Captain Steve Pihonak, Herndon Police; Lauri Sigler, Deputy Town Attorney; Tammy Chastain, Deputy Director of Public Works; Amanda Kertz, Chief Deputy Town Clerk; and Margie Tacci, Deputy Town Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Olem led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Mayor Olem called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked Margie Tacci, Deputy Town Clerk, to call the roll for attendance. Following the roll call, Mayor Olem confirmed a quorum was present, with Councilmember Alam absent.

Mayor Olem reminded those participating to follow the town's meeting guidelines, which include: refrain from participation unless and until recognized by the chair; be respectful; refrain from threatening or intimidating language; profane, vulgar, obscene, or threatening remarks are not permitted; and attacks or other harmful are not tolerated.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vote on May 10, 2022

Town Council Public Hearing Minutes

On motion of Councilmember Friedrichs, seconded by Councilmember Dhakal, and carried by a 6-0 roll call vote, the minutes of the May 10, 2022 Town Council Public Hearing were approved. The vote was: Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Singh, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

Vote on May 17, 2022

Town Council Work Session Minutes

On motion of Councilmember Dhakal, seconded by Vice Mayor del Aguila, and carried by a 6-0 roll call vote, the minutes of the May 17, 2022 Town Council Work Session were approved. The vote was: Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Singh, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

Vote on May 24, 2022

Town Council Public Hearing Minutes

Vice Mayor del Aguila moved to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 Town Council Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Friedrichs.

Revision

Mayor Olem stated there was a small typographical error on page four of the minutes, and she asked to revise the May 24, 2022 public hearing minutes as follows:

- "...stated that past Saturday, she helped to award scholarships on behalf of the ~~World~~ Federal Water Quality Association..."

With the concurrence of Council, the Town Clerk's office was directed to make the correction that Mayor Olem requested.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Singh, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

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**Vote on
May 26, 2022
Town Council
Strategic Planning Initiatives Meeting Minutes**

On motion of Councilmember Friedrichs, seconded by Councilmember Regan, and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote, the minutes of the May 26, 2022 Town Council Strategic Planning Initiatives Meeting were approved. The vote was: Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent. Councilmember Singh abstained from the vote.

**Vote on June 7, 2022
Town Council Work Session Minutes**

On motion of Councilmember Dhakal, seconded by Vice Mayor del Aguila, and carried by a 6-0 roll call vote, the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Town Council Work Session were approved. The vote was: Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Singh, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor Olem stated that the next Town Council Strategic Planning Initiatives Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 6:00 p.m., in the Herndon Police Department (HPD) Community Room. She stated that staff will post the meeting recording on Granicus when it becomes available.

Mayor Olem shared that the Herndon Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (HDEIC) will have their first meeting on Thursday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., in the HPD Community Room.

Mayor Olem stated that individuals can now play pickleball at the Herndon Community Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. She stated there is a Fairfax County Park Authority project underway to add pickleball to the tennis courts in Chandon Park, off Palmer Drive, in Herndon.

AMEND THE AGENDA

Mayor Olem was advised earlier that day of a numbering inconsistency on the Consent agenda, and that there was a need to amend the agenda. With the concurrence of Council, Mayor Olem asked for a motion to amend the agenda and direct the Town Clerk to make the appropriate changes to the record to reflect the correct resolution numbers, as follows:

- Item #7, Resolution 22-G-52 TO Resolution 22-G-53;
- Item #8, Resolution 22-G-53 TO Resolution 22-G-54; and

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- Item #9, Resolution 22-G-54 to Resolution 22-G-55.

Councilmember Dhakal moved to amend the agenda to correct the numbering inconsistency on the Consent agenda, as stated by Mayor Olem. Motion seconded by Councilmember Friedrichs.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Singh, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

PRESENTATION

3. To express appreciation to Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk, for dedicated service to the Town of Herndon

Mayor Olem stated that the Town was pleased to recognize Viki Wellershaus, Town Clerk, for her dedicated service to the Town. She recognized William H. Ashton II, Town Manager, and Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney, for comments.

On behalf of the Town, Mr. Ashton thanked Ms. Wellershaus for her over 29 years of service. Mr. Ashton stated that he worked with her much of that time, starting when he was the Director of Information Technology, and that she was one of the hardest working individuals anywhere. Her knowledge of the State and Town Code, legal requirements, and records retention was unparalleled. He stated that she set a high bar, was a consummate professional, and she left a good team in place. He wished her the best in retirement.

Ms. Yeatts echoed Mr. Ashton's comments. She stated that one of the reasons she came to the Town from Hampton was because of Ms. Wellershaus' reputation as a Clerk around the State. She stated that Ms. Wellershaus was always looking out for the citizens, Council and board and commission members, and staff. She thanked Ms. Wellershaus for her service, dedication, and loyalty to the Town, along with her personal friendship.

Mayor Olem congratulated Ms. Wellershaus on her retirement. Mayor Olem has known Ms. Wellershaus through much of her time in the Town, starting in the 1990s. She applauded Ms. Wellershaus for her integrity and dedication to the Town, stating that she served with five town managers, 15 town councils, and seven mayors. Mayor Olem personally thanked Ms. Wellershaus for her guidance and friendship, from her time as a resident, through being elected as mayor.

Mayor Olem shared that she received messages from all over the community expressing appreciation to Ms. Wellershaus, including state and county officials, former mayors, councilmembers, town managers, staff, and many citizens. She read into the record letters from former mayors Tom Rust, Rick Thoesen, and Lisa Merkel. She shared comments from Senator Jennifer Boysko, who is working on a commendation honoring Ms. Wellershaus that will be read on the General Assembly floor in 2023.

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Mayor Olem recognized the Town Clerk's office staff, Ms. Kertz and Ms. Tacci, who provided comments on Ms. Wellershaus' guidance and leadership.

Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Singh, Regan, and Vice Mayor del Aguila commented on Ms. Wellershaus' service to the Town and expressed congratulations on her retirement.

Councilmember Friedrichs expressed appreciation on behalf of former mayor Mike O'Reilly, along with Peggy O'Reilly.

The following individuals came forward to provide comments on Ms. Wellershaus' retirement:

- Barbara Glakas, 939 Barton Oaks Place;
- Bill McKenna, Former Town Councilmember, 124 Fortnightly Boulevard;
- Art Anselene, Former Town Manager, 714 Huntsman Place;
- Marge Shapira, 1109 Iron Ridge Court; and
- Keven LeBlanc, 818 Locust Street.

Ms. Wellershaus provided brief comments on her recognition.

4. Comments from the Town Manager

Staff Update

Mr. Ashton stated that the new Town Clerk, Kirstyn Jovanovich, will start on Monday, October 3. He encouraged everyone to stop by and meet her.

W&OD Trail Arrest

Mr. Ashton provided information about the Herndon Police Department's (HPD) work with other jurisdictions, especially the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), to catch the suspect accused of incidents on the W&OD trail. He thanked the community for assisting the police in this arrest.

Strategic Planning Initiatives Meeting

Mr. Ashton stated that the moderators for the Town Council Strategic Initiatives Planning Meeting would like to start at 6:00 p.m. on September 27. He previously said the start time was 7:00 p.m. With Council's concurrence, Mr. Ashton stated staff would move the meeting start time to 6:00 p.m.

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Mr. Ashton stated that he and the moderators would send Council an update on past initiatives by that weekend. He asked the Council to send new initiatives to his office by close of business on Monday, September 19. As a reminder, he stated the Council's policy was to submit one initiative each.

Spring Street

Mr. Ashton provided an update on what staff was doing on Spring Street to address safety concerns that several residents had brought to the Town's attention. He stated that staff is forming short, medium, and long-term solutions, and a seven-day traffic study is underway. Staff would release the data from the study as soon as it was available. Next, staff would pour the foundation for a "your speed" sign on southbound Spring Street, which research suggests could have up to a five miles per hour reduction on average speed. A few days after it was installed, he would like to run another speed study to review the sign's impact on speed.

Mr. Ashton stated that engineering staff was working on concepts for Spring Street over the next several weeks. One of the factors was cut through traffic. Based on staff observations, it appeared vehicles were going through the light at Sterling Road, driving onto Locust Street, and turning onto Spring Street. Staff is going to run a network study to examine the impact of this traffic movement. They would like to encourage vehicles to drive onto Elden and Monroe Streets.

Regarding long-term suggestions, Mr. Ashton stated there were a lot of conversations about including sidewalk, curb and gutter improvements on Spring Street in the CIP. Staff has to gather more data, including on stormwater management, before they can move forward. He stated that a project of this magnitude could take several years to complete.

Mr. Ashton thanked the residents for their input, and he looked forward to hearing their comments. He emphasized that staff was working on the various solutions he outlined that evening.

5. Comments from the Town Council

Councilmember Regan: No comments.

Councilmember Singh: No comments.

Councilmember Dhakal: Stated that he was glad to see the suspect from the incidents on the W&OD trail caught. He expressed kudos to HPD and FCPD for working together on this arrest.

Councilmember Dhakal looked forward to public comment on Spring Street. He hoped the action taken on Spring Street could be a case study for similar traffic situations in Town. He suggested that in the short-term, they may want to consider stop signs and

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bright crosswalks on Spring Street. He appreciated the Town Manager outlining several solutions and suggested that those interested listen to last week's work session discussion on this issue for more information.

Councilmember Dhakal asked Mr. Ashton for an update on the safety concerns between the Herndon Middle School (HMS) baseball fiends and McDonalds.

Mr. Ashton stated he did not have any information to add to what he shared at last week's meeting. Staff was continuing to work with McDonalds, and they are trying to set up a meeting with McDonalds' regional leaders. HPD kept a presence near McDonalds to act as a deterrent.

Mr. Ashton discussed a fence that was open between the two properties, and the Fairfax County Public Schools head of security told him that he would prefer to close it. However, there was a standing policy from the Fairfax County School Board to allow pedestrians to go between the school and community. To change this situation, citizens would need to approach the School Board about the fence.

Councilmember Dhakal also thanked Mr. Ashton for addressing some of the traffic issues at Park Avenue and Monroe Street intersection., which he brought up at the work session last week.

Councilmember Dhakal stated that, as Mayor Olem mentioned earlier, the HDEIC was meeting on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m., in the HPD Community Room. He encouraged those interested to attend and provide comments.

Councilmember Friedrichs: Thanked the citizens that were attending that evening to comment Spring Street. She appreciated them bringing this matter to Council's attention. She shared she was reaching out to her contact at Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) for feedback on the street.

Vice Mayor del Aguila: Echoed his colleagues' comments about safety concerns on Spring Street. He understood there was some frustration amongst the citizens, who thought that Council could not do anything to address the situation. He stated that the Council goes through a process with several steps that may involve committees like the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory and Traffic Engineering Improvement Committees. He said there would be short-term, medium, and long-term strategic solutions. For the short-term, he thought that the Town could apply a "Minimum Viable Product" to address the traffic issues sooner. He thought that the Town's response to Spring Street could be a template to address similar matter in the future.

Mayor Olem: Mayor Olem stated that last month, she attended the Chamber's Innovate Conference in Herndon, where they heard from several speakers from around the region about preparing for tomorrow's workforce. Councilmember Friedrichs joined her at this event.

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Earlier that day, Mayor Olem joined Governor Youngkin, Fairfax County officials, the Virginia Department of Agriculture, and several Councilmembers for the ribbon cutting at Beanstalk Farms, a vertical sustainable farm. She explained their farming concept and stated that she enjoyed touring the facility.

Mayor Olem expressed kudos to HPD for arresting the individual suspected of incidents on the W&OD Trail.

Mayor Olem agreed with the safety concerns on Spring Street. She stated that when she walks in that area, she carries a light or uses the flashlight on her cell phone so she can be seen. She encouraged those interested in driving safety to get involved with community organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving. She stated that distracted driving and pedestrian safety are problems throughout the country. She knew staff was working to address the concerns on Spring Street.

Comments and Disclosures for the Record

Mayor Olem asked Ms. Tacci if she received comments for the record or Transactional Disclosure Declarations from Council on any items listed on that evening's agenda.

Ms. Tacci stated that comments were received for the record on item #6, Comments from the Audience, concerning Spring Street and NatureFest.

The Town Clerk did not receive additional public comments or statements from Council for any other items listed on the agenda.

6. 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:

- Della Brown, 302 Missouri Avenue, representing the Friends of Runnymede Park, provided information about NatureFest on Sunday, September 25.

The following individuals provided comments expressing concerns about traffic safety on Spring Street:

- Stephanie Frye, 104 Bicksler Lane;
- Rob Morris, 701 Nash Street;
- Stevan Porter, 905 Vine Street;
- Ellie and Tim Morrow, 631 Spring Street;

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Following their comments, Councilmember Regan asked Mr. Morrow to repeat his suggestion about banning turns.

Mr. Morrow stated his suggestion was to implement either a “no turn” or “no through traffic” rule for residential Spring and Locust Streets during rush hours.

- Keven LeBlanc, 818 Locust Street;
- Kevin Frye, 104 Bicksler Lane; and
- Alan Meyers, 640 Spring Street.

CONSENT

- 7. Resolution 22-G-53, to award contract IFB #23-01, Traffic Signal Installation Maintenance & Repair**
- 8. Resolution 22-G-54, to approve a Temporary License Agreement to use a designated public space in the alley adjacent to Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern for outdoor seating for an event**
- 9. Resolution 22-G-55, to establish the Herndon Town Council meeting schedule for January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023**

On motion of Vice Mayor del Aguila, seconded by Councilmember Regan, the Consent agenda items were approved and carried by a 6-0 roll call vote, without comment. The vote was: Councilmembers Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Singh, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting “Aye.” Councilmember Alam was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor del Aguila moved to adjourn the September 13, 2022 public hearing at 8:37 p.m., and Councilmember Dhakal seconded the motion. The question was called on the motion, which carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Dhakal, Friedrichs, Regan, Singh, Vice Mayor del Aguila, and Mayor Olem voting “Aye.” Councilmember Alam was absent.

Amanda E. Morrow Kertz

**Amanda E.M. Kertz
Chief Deputy Town Clerk**



Minutes approved by Town Council: November 15, 2022

[Note: Approved resolutions and ordinances are on file in the Town Clerk’s office]

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