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**HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

The Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 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; Cindy Roeder, Director of Parks and Recreation; Marjorie Sloan, Director of Finance; Scott Robinson, Director of Public Works; Mike Mueller, Golf Course Manager; Page Kalapasev, Director of Information Technology; Dave Bracamonte, Systems Manager; and Margie Tacci, Deputy Town Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Olem called the March 28, 2023, Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Determination of a Quorum

Mayor Olem determined there was a quorum, with all members present.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor Olem stated that due to the AV upgrades currently happening in the Council Chambers, there is no amplified sound for tonight’s meeting. She asked those participating in the meeting to speak loudly so the public could hear their comments. She stated that while the meeting is not live broadcast due to the construction, the meeting is being recorded and will be posted on the Town’s website once it is processed.

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Mayor Olem congratulated Vice Mayor Hedrick and his family on the arrival of their new baby.

Mayor Olem discussed two upcoming spring events, which are (1) Hoppy Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, (2) Herndon Parks and Stream Clean-Up on Sunday, April 15, 2023, and (3) Spring Clean-Up, on each resident's trash day, from April 26 to 28, 2023. She stated that information about these events is posted on the Town's website.

Mayor Olem reminded those participating to follow the Town's meeting guidelines that are displayed in the Council Chambers.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

a. Proclamation to Recognize Vietnam Veterans Day

Mayor Olem recognized and read the Proclamation to Recognize Vietnam Veterans Day into the record. She thanked all veterans for their service to the United States and emphasized the brave contributions Vietnam War veterans.

b. Town Manager Report

William H. Ashton II, Town Manager, stated that the Council had requested that he give a regular update on the Comstock project. While he does not have anything to report at this time, he will provide an update at each Town Council regular meeting.

c. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember del Aguila: speaking in Spanish, he welcomed those in attendance for the meeting that evening.

Councilmember del Aguila provided comments about a visit to Floris Elementary School where he spoke with English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students. During the visit, he discussed his experience as a non-English speaker attending Kindergarten. He stated that the Herndon community is very diverse with many different cultures represented.

Councilmember Dhakal: welcomed those in attendance for the meeting that evening and thanked them for coming to the Council meeting. He encouraged them to continue to provide their thoughts and ideas to the Council.

Councilmember Dhakal provided updates on several events that he attended, including: (1) a meeting at Herndon Elementary School on the school's renovations, which will include a large expansion, accessibility improvements, and other features, (2) ribbon cutting for the Mason Enterprise Center at Office Evolution, (3) Makers Lab Grand Opening at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, a space that provides tools and equipment for the community to use for various projects, (4) Herndon Police Department

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Recognition Dinner, which honored and recognized Herndon Police officers for their service, and (5) Heritage Night at Herndon Elementary School, where diversity and various heritages in the community were showcased.

Councilmember Dhakal wished all those who celebrate a Happy Ramadan, which started on March 22, 2023.

Councilmember Scherff: stated that she attended the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) meeting on March 23, 2023. The NVRC is an inter-jurisdictional organization and the primary topic discussed at the meeting was water. At the meeting, she learned that there are \$2.6 million in block grants available to small municipalities for programs related to energy efficiency and conservation. She has provided the information on the grant program and several associated webinars to staff.

Councilmember Scherff stated she was proud to welcome several neighbors who are attending a Council meeting for the first time. She thanked Opportunity Neighborhoods, Community Connectors, and Neighborhood Ambassadors, who are assisting the residents in sharing their comments. She wanted to acknowledge how hard the residents worked in preparing their statements and said that the individuals will provide their comments in Spanish first, followed by a translator, who will speak in English. She asked for some flexibility in the time limit since the comments will be provided in both languages.

Councilmember Alam: welcomed those in attendance for the meeting that evening.

Councilmember Alam advised that during the month of Ramadan she will be leaving the Council meetings for five minutes or so to break her fast at sunset.

Councilmember Alam shared that she attended the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia - 2023 Shape of the Region Conference - about aging in Northern Virginia.

Councilmember LeBlanc: welcomed those in attendance for the meeting that evening.

Councilmember LeBlanc stated that he attended the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce's Stars Over Dulles Awards Gala on March 23, 2023. He recognized several Herndon-based businesses that received awards at the event, including: (1) Minority-Owned Business of the Year: Nothing Bundt Cakes, (2) Lift Off – Small Business Award: Office Evolution, and (3) Eileen Curtis Lifetime Achievement Award: Northwest Federal Credit Union. He also mentioned that Dev Technology Group received the Equity and Inclusion Award, and he echoed Councilmember Dhakal's comments about the ribbon cutting for the Mason Enterprise Center at Office Evolution in Herndon.

Councilmember LeBlanc highlighted the upcoming performance of "In the Heights" at NextStop Theatre in Herndon and stated that through grants, NextStop had about 176 tickets available for \$5.00 for members of the under-resourced community.

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Vice Mayor Hedrick: thanked his colleagues for their best wishes and welcomed those in attendance for the meeting that evening.

Vice Mayor Hedrick echoed Councilmember Dhakal's comments about the Herndon Police Department Recognition Dinner. He stated that it was a wonderful event that recognizes the work Herndon's officers do in the community to build connections.

Mayor Olem: welcomed those attending tonight's meeting and thanked the organizations that are assisting, including Opportunity Neighborhoods.

Mayor Olem echoed her colleagues' comments on the official opening of the Mason Enterprise Center – Herndon, where she was honored to help cut the ribbon.

Mayor Olem stated that she attended the Northern Virginia Transportation Roundtable presented by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and Intelligent Transportation Society of Virginia. She noted there are upcoming grant opportunities for transportation projects and that there was a lot of discussion about distracted driving. She said newer technology was coming out to assist both transportation workers and drivers to be more alert. She urged all drivers in the Town to be aware and alert to pedestrians.

Mayor Olem stated that she is excited for Friday Night Live and the Herndon Farmers Market to start in May, which are events she looks forward to every summer.

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:

- Jay Hadlock, 515 Alabama Drive, thanked the Mayor and Town Council for recognizing Vietnam Veterans Day. Mayor Olem thanked Mr. Hadlock for his service.
- Javier Menjivar, 460 Virginia Avenue, through a translator, provided comments on costs at the Herndon Community Center. He suggested that the Town offer a family membership fee for the Community Center.
- Ann Vayda, 631 Oak Street, thanked all veterans for their service and she congratulated Vice Mayor Hedrick and his family on their newest addition. She provided comments on various topics, including customer service from Town staff, buildings in the historic district, and the number of vehicular accidents on Spring Street between Nash and Oak Streets.

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- Eva Velis, 503 Florida Ave, Apartment #202, through a translator, provided comments on costs at the Herndon Community Center. She also requested more bilingual staff members at the Community Center.
- Ana Chavarria, 665 Dulles Park Court, Apartment #202, through a translator, provided comments on costs at the Herndon Community Center.
- Carmen Paredes, 2110 Wordsword Court, Apartment #305, provided comments on costs at the Herndon Community Center. She also asked the Council to consider offering discounts or benefits to non-residents that support the Herndon community through organizations like Neighborhood Ambassadors. She also requested more bilingual staff members at the Community Center.
- Bessie Denton, 496 Virginia Avenue, asked for the status of several programs the Town had before the pandemic, and wanted to know if they are going to resume, including: (1) Community Roundtables, (2) citizens academy at the Neighborhood Resource Center, and (3) the ride-along program with the Herndon Police Department.
- Barry Clendenin, 520 Fillmore Street, echoed Mr. Hadlock's comments about the Town recognizing Vietnam Veterans Day. He appreciates that this day is listed on the Town Calendar, and he hopes the Town will continue distributing the annual calendar.

[Note: Councilmember Alam left the dais at 7:31 p.m. and returned at 7:36 p.m.]

5. CONSENT

- a. Resolution 23-G-24 to authorize the submission of a Creative Communities Partnership Grant Application/Virginia Commission for the Arts;**
- b. Resolution 23-G-25 to authorize the Town Manager to sign an Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding with Northwest Federal Credit Union to host the 2023 Herndon Festival;**
- c. Resolution 23-G-26 to award contract IFB #B-23-02, Herndon Community Center Natatorium HVAC Retrofit;**
- d. Resolution 23-G-27 to repeal Resolution 20-G-13, State of Local Emergency and Disaster;**
- e. March 7, 2023 Town Council Work Session Minutes;**
- f. March 10-11, 2023 Town Council Retreat Minutes; and**
- g. March 14, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes.**

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

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Olem adjourned the March 28, 2023 Town Council Regular Meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Amanda E. Monaw Kertz

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Chief Deputy Town Clerk



Minutes approved by Town Council: April 11, 2023

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