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HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 24, 2023

The Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 24, 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; Chief Maggie DeBoard, Herndon Police; Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development; Page Kalapasev, Director of Information Technology; Marjorie Sloane, Director of Finance; Scott Robinson, Director of Public Works; Maria Lee, Budget Manager; Dave Bracamonte, Systems Manager; and Margie Tacci, Deputy Town Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Olem called the January 24, 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 Olem reminded those participating to follow the Town's meeting guidelines that are displayed in the Chambers.

Withdrawal of Consent Agenda Item

Mayor Olem stated that that the applicant withdrew the application for the temporary license agreement listed as item 'C' on #6, the Consent Agenda. Therefore, Resolution 23-G-15 to approve a Temporary License Agreement to use a designated public space

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in the alley adjacent to Jimmy's Old Town Tavern for outdoor seating for an event will be removed from the agenda. With the concurrence of Council, the agenda was so amended.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor Olem recognized two dedicated community members for recent achievements. She congratulated Melissa McKenna, who is the new President and CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Jimmy Cirrito, owner of Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, who was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston.

Mayor Olem stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has several upcoming events, including "Puzzle Palooza" on Sunday, February 5, and the "Very Important Person Dance for Kids" on Saturday, February 11. Registration is available on the Town's website under "Recreation."

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

a. Comments from the Town Manager

William H. Ashton II, Town Manager provided an update on the Herndon Parkway and Queens Row Street traffic light. He advised that the materials for the traffic light have arrived, and the vendor has poured the new foundation for the light. The foundation must cure for a few weeks, which may be affected by the cold weather.

Mayor Olem thanked the Town Manager for his update and expressed appreciation for the improvements that completed at the Herndon Parkway and Monroe Street intersection.

b. Comments from the Town Council

Councilmember del Aguila: No comments.

Councilmember Dhakal: No comments.

Councilmember Scherff: Stated that she was glad to share positive feedback from a resident, who was pleased to see high school students being able to take advantage of new Fairfax Connector bus routes in Town.

Councilmember Scherff stated that she had observed a new curb on Ballou Street that abruptly stops on the street after going around a curve. She thought it may be an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issue and indicated that wants to discuss this further at another meeting.

Councilmember Alam: Stated that she was glad to see new crosswalks and sidewalks near Bruin Park.

Councilmember LeBlanc: Stated that today is “National Compliment Day,” and he encouraged everyone to give one another compliments. He offered kudos to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for doing an excellent job on improvements at the Van Buren Street and Herndon Parkway intersection.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: Echoed Councilmember LeBlanc’s “National Compliment Day” sentiments by stating that Councilmember LeBlanc had an excellent speaking voice.

Mayor Olem: Provided updates on several community events she attended, including:

- Food for Neighbors food drive at Herndon Middle School on Saturday, January 14. Mayor Olem volunteered at the event, alongside Colonel Dronia, Commander of the German Armed Forces of the USA and Canada, and members of his staff.
- Ribbon Cutting at Knossos Restaurant, located at 150 Elden Street, on January 14.
- Virginia Municipal League’s (VML) annual Local Government Day on Thursday, January 19, where she and members of Council met with state representatives to discuss General Assembly legislation.
- Washington Airports Task Force General Meeting and Williams Trophy Presentation. The trophy was presented to “The Silver Line” to honor the regional work and cooperation between Fairfax and Loudoun counties, the Town of Herndon, MWAA, and WMATA. Mayor Olem also gave remarks 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:

- William Campenni, 1104 Iron Ridge Court, mentioned “National Compliment Day.”
- Stevan Porter, 905 Vine Street, gave comments on General Item A) Resolution 23-G-14 Town Council Guidance on the development of the Town Manager’s proposed FY 2024 Budget.
- Bessie Denton, 496 Virginia Avenue, invited everyone, including the Mayor, Town Council, and members of the Herndon Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, to upcoming Black History Month events at Heritage Fellowship Church.

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- Walter Shorter, 559 Early Fall Court, echoed Mr. Porter's comments on Resolution 23-G-14. He acknowledged the Town Manager and the staff and thanked them for their work over the past few years.

5. GENERAL

a. Resolution 23-G-14 to provide Town Council Guidance on the development of the Town Manager's proposed FY 2024 Budget

William H. Ashton II, Town Manager, provided an overview of the proposed resolution, which provides guidance to the Town Manager about Council's overall priorities and goals for the FY 2024 Budget. He highlighted several points, including: 1) maintaining tax rates at current levels, 2) finding external funding sources, with a focus on transportation projects, 3) addressing items that were deferred during the pandemic, such as vehicle replacement, 4) being ready to implement downtown redevelopment, 5) recruiting and maintaining employees, 6) long-term planning measures, like the Comprehensive and Transit Related Growth (TRG) Plans, 7) preparing for inflationary pressures and a recession, and 8) incremental water and sewer rate increases to address commodity prices and the costs of an aging system.

Providing updates on budget related items, Mr. Ashton stated that staff is going to present a mid-year budget amendment with a cost of living adjustment for employees to Council in the next month. He emphasized that state code requires the Town to update its Comprehensive Plan and because that the process could take two years, they should prepare for it now. Additionally, staff is finalizing a water and sewer rate study that they will present in time for the Council to consider with the FY 24 Budget. Staff recommends approval of the proposed ordinance, as presented.

There was brief discussion between Council and staff.

Responding to Councilmember Scherff, Mr. Ashton confirmed that the Town is ready to move forward with downtown redevelopment once Comstock lifts the market pause. He emphasized that the majority of Town funding for downtown redevelopment is appropriated and in a reserve account.

Responding to Councilmember Alam, Mr. Ashton stated that staff is working on "green" improvements for Town buildings as part of a Capital Improvement Project. Staff is looking at whether they can include electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in that project. Additionally, staff is exploring ways to encourage EV stations on private property.

Mr. Ashton appealed to the public to provide input during the development of the FY 2024 budget, especially in February and March. Staff was planning a public relations push to encourage public comments during that time. Mayor Olem also asked citizens to continue to give their thoughts on the budget.

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Councilmember del Aguila moved approval of Resolution 23-G-14 to provide Town Council Guidance on the development of the Town Manager's proposed FY 2024 Budget, as presented. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dhakal.

There were brief comments from Council.

The question was called on the motion, which was carried by unanimous roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Dhakal, LeBlanc, Scherff, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye."

6. CONSENT

a. December 13, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

b. January 3, 2023 Town Council Work Session Minutes

[Note: Earlier in the meeting, Resolution 23-G-15 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, was removed from the Consent Agenda.]

On motion of Vice Mayor Hedrick, seconded by Councilmember Dhakal, 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, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor Olem voting "Aye."

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Olem adjourned the January 24, 2023 Town Council Regular Meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Amanda E. Monan Kertz

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Chief Deputy Town Clerk



Minutes approved by Town Council: February 14, 2023

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