



**HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

The Town Council met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 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 Cesar del Aguila, Pradip Dhakal, Keven LeBlanc, and Donielle M. Scherff.

Councilmember Naila Alam was absent.

Staff present during the meeting: William H. Ashton II, Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Chief Maggie DeBoard, Herndon Police; Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Town Clerk; Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development; Marjorie Sloan, Director of Finance; Cindy Roeder, Director of Parks and Recreation; Fadrique Iglesias, Community Planner; Dave Bracamonte, Systems Manager; and Margie Tacci, Deputy Town Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Olem called the October 10, 2023, Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Olem led 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 six Councilmembers present, with Councilmember Alam absent. Mayor Olem reminded those participating in tonight's meeting to follow the Town's meeting guidelines that are displayed in the Council Chambers.

Announcements

Mayor Olem stated that the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade is this Saturday, October 14, 2023. The parade starts at 9:00 a.m. and street closings and detours in Downtown Herndon are between 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

a. Proclamation in Recognition of Community Media Day

Mayor Olem read the proclamation recognizing October 20, 2023, as "Community Media Day" in the Town of Herndon.

b. Proclamation in Recognition of Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month

Councilmember del Aguila read the proclamation recognizing October 2023 as “Bicyclist and Pedestrian Awareness Month” in the Town of Herndon.

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, had no updates for the Council at that time.

d. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember del Aguila: stated that he met with a group last week who are concerned about housing. He asked if the Town Manager had any updates on that topic.

Mr. Ashton stated he is meeting with Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill later that week and he intended to discuss that matter with him.

Councilmember del Aguila asked if there had been any changes to the mini-festivals process since the last work session, to which Mr. Ashton answered yes.

Councilmember del Aguila stated that he would like to discuss the donation process further at the Council’s next work session meeting. He stated he knew of several groups that wanted to request donations from the Town.

Councilmember Dhakal: provided comments on the proclamations to recognize: (1) Community Media Day, thanking Nancy Rose, Executive Director of Herndon Community Television (HCTV) and the HCTV organization, and (2) Bicyclist and Awareness Month, thanking the bicyclists and pedestrians in the community, and reminding everyone to pay attention to bicyclist and pedestrian safety.

Councilmember Dhakal shared that he enjoyed attending the following recent events: (1) World Culture Festival in Washington, DC, on Saturday, September 30, 2023, with Councilmember Scherff, (2) NextStop Theatre’s performance of “39 Steps,” (3) Hispanic Business Reception (hosted by the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce), and (4) Association for Conflict Resolution’s General Convention, held at Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, where he participated as one of the panelists on conflict resolution and management in local government.

Councilmember Scherff: echoed Councilmember Dhakal’s comments on attending recent events. She provided further comments on her experience at the World Culture Festival.

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Councilmember Scherff stated that on receiving the Annual Report and results from the business survey, it was her understanding that the Council is reinvigorating and creating new events, and she is excited to partner with community groups on these events. She asked for the community's input on what is working and what is not related to these new events.

Councilmember Scherff reminded everyone that there is an American Flag recycling box in front of the Herndon Moose Lodge available for public use. The American Legion will dispose of flags placed there properly and respectfully.

Councilmember Scherff shared information on the following recent events: (1) Community Foundation's Raise the Region Gala, which she attended with Councilmember LeBlanc, (2) "Herndon History Photo Exhibit" at Arts Herndon, and (3) Hispanic Business Reception, commenting on the work that the Town has done in the community. She offered kudos to the Director of Parks and Recreation, Cindy Roeder, for her work in providing opportunities for all members of the community to participate in activities at the Herndon Community Center.

Councilmember LeBlanc: echoed his colleagues' comments on attending recent events. He stated that he also attended Herndon High School's Showcase of Bands, where he enjoyed presenting several awards to the winning bands. He offered kudos to the Mason Enterprise Center–Herndon, especially to Vijay Vaswani, Director for the Mason SBDC Regional Partnerships, for their success in Town and with the local small business community.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: shared that he enjoyed attending the following recent events: (1) a recent Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance event, where he represented the Town and discussed the future of transportation in the region, (2) echoed his colleagues' comments on the Hispanic Business Reception, and 3) Virginia Municipal League (VML) Annual Conference and Mayors Institute, where he participated in discussions about the growth of artificial intelligence (AI) and its application to local government.

Vice Mayor Hedrick addressed the recent terrorist attacks in Israel. He expressed that it was a heartbreaking situation that affected and directly impacted many members of the community. Vice Mayor Hedrick stated that he believes disharmony and discord begin at the local level, and he said that it cannot go unchecked. He provided further comments on his reactions to the tragic events.

Mayor Olem: stated that she attended the VML conference that past weekend with Vice Mayor Hedrick, and there was a lot of discussion regarding civility and about events occurring at the national and international level that have not been civil. She stressed the importance of being civil to one another and encouraged everyone to continue to do so in the Town. In relation to the VML Conference, Mayor Olem mentioned the request in the Town's legislative program to allow speed cameras in locations other than school districts, which has to be heard by the Virginia General Assembly.

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Mayor Olem shared that she enjoyed attending the following recent events: (1) Hispanic Business Reception, where she presented the Town's proclamation recognizing National Hispanic American Heritage Month, and (2) "Readers Are Leaders" event held at the Golf Course on Friday, September 29, 2023, where she presented a proclamation honoring the organization and its founder, Wendell Byrd, who is a former teacher at Hutchison Elementary School.

Mayor Olem provided comments on the proclamations recognizing Community Media Day and Bicycle and Pedestrian Awareness Month. She thanked HCTV for all the work they do for the Town and encouraged the public to watch or stream the community media channel. She thanked Councilmember del Aguila for requesting and reading the proclamation recognizing Bicycle and Pedestrian Awareness Month.

Disclosures for the Record

Mayor Olem asked Margie Tacci, Deputy Town Clerk, if she received Transactional Disclosure Declarations from Council.

Ms. Tacci stated that Councilmember Alam entered a Signed Transactional Disclosure Declaration into the record on General Item 5(a), indicating that she is organizing the Yom-e-Azadi: 1st Annual Pakistan Heritage Day event. She indicated that she will recuse and disqualify herself from voting or participating in discussion on this item.

The signed disclosure statement has been entered into the record with the Town Clerk and Town Attorney.

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:

- Barbara Glakas, 935 Barton Oaks Place: provided comments on the following: (1) reception for an exhibit on Herndon History at Arts Herndon, (2) Friday Night Live events, and (3) September 18 Town Council initiatives meeting.
- Nancy Rose, Executive Director, Herndon Community Television (HCTV), 730 Elden Street: read a letter into the record from Charlie Waddell, former Chair of HCTV and former resident.

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5. GENERAL

a. **Resolution 23-G-69 to award a donation and disburse funds to the Global Beat Foundation in support of the Pakistan Heritage Day Celebration event**

Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Town Clerk, presented the staff report dated October 10, 2023. The Town received a donation request for \$3,060 to support the Pakistan Heritage Day Celebration event being held at the Herndon Community Center on October 21, 2023. Councilmember Alam is hosting the event with the non-profit partner, the Global Beat Foundation, which is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

At last week's work session, the Council requested changes to the event flyer and that the facility fee be changed to an in-kind donation. She stated that the proposed donation request totaled \$3,020, which is now comprised of: (1) \$2,015 for event logistics, and (2) in-kind donation of \$1,005 for the Herndon Community Center rental fees. Ms. Jovanovich stated that a revised event flyer and the cost estimate are included in the agenda materials, and the Global Beat Foundation has confirmed that they are partially supporting the event. She stated that the disbursement of the donation is at the discretion of the Town Council and requested their guidance on this request.

There was discussion among the Council and staff on the proposed resolution awarding the donation, including: (1) line items in the cost estimate, (2) information provided in the event flyer, and (3) Community Cultural Festivals policy and process, (4) in-kind donation toward the rental fees.

Responding to Councilmember LeBlanc, Ms. Jovanovich stated that she did not have additional information at that time on either the level of support the non-profit would provide or on the age restriction listed on the event flyer.

Responding to Vice Mayor Hedrick, Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney, stated that at that time, she did not have information beyond what the Town Clerk provided regarding the age restriction listed on the event flyer.

Motion to Approve

Councilmember del Aguila moved to approve Resolution 23-G-69 to award a donation and disburse funds to the Global Beat Foundation in support of the Pakistan Heritage Day Celebration event, as presented.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Dhakal.

There were comments from the Council.

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Amendment to the Motion

Vice Mayor Hedrick moved to amend the motion on the floor to add the following language to the end of the resolution title: following “Celebration event,” add “conditioned upon removal of any language that can be construed as supporting or causing age discrimination, including advertising or otherwise.” Amendment seconded by Councilmember Scherff.

Councilmember del Aguila, the motion maker, accepted the proposed amendment to the motion.

There were comments from the Council.

Councilmember Scherff stated, for the record, that she believes the non-profit should have “skin in the game,” and thought that the Town should provide a definition of what that is, whether it is cash or an in-kind donation. She asked her colleagues to keep in mind that the Town requires a non-profit partner for these events for accounting purposes, and she has not spoken to Councilmember Alam about how this non-profit is involved in the event. She provided further comments on the process for funding future Community Cultural Festivals that was discussed at a recent work session.

Following further comments from Council, Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney, stated there is a consensus of Council to amend the motion, and therefore the vote will be on the amended motion.

The question was called on the amended motion, which carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Dhakal, LeBlanc, Scherff, and Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor Olem voting “Aye.” Councilmember Alam was absent.

6. CONSENT

a. September 5, 2023, Town Council Work Session Minutes

b. September 12, 2023, Town Council Meeting Minutes

c. September 18, 2023, Town Council Special Meeting – Council Initiatives Minutes

On motion of Vice Mayor Hedrick, seconded by Councilmember LeBlanc, the Consent Agenda items were approved and carried by 6-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Dhakal, LeBlanc, Scherff, and Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor Olem voting “Aye.” Councilmember Alam was absent.

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7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Olem adjourned the October 10, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Amanda E. Monaw Kertz

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Chief Deputy Town Clerk



Minutes approved by Town Council: November 14, 2023

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