



**HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

The Town Council met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 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 [arrived at 7:01 p.m.], and Councilmembers Naila Alam, Cesar del Aguila, Keven LeBlanc, and Donielle M. Scherff.

Councilmember Pradip Dhakal was absent.

Staff present during the meeting: William H. Ashton II, Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Town Clerk; Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development; Chief Maggie DeBoard, Herndon Police; Marjorie Sloan, Director of Finance; Scott Robinson, Director of Public Works; David Stromberg, Zoning Administrator; Fadrique Iglesias, Community Planner; Dave Bracamonte, Systems Manager; and Amanda Kertz, Chief Deputy Town Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Olem called the October 24, 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 five Councilmembers present, with Vice Mayor Hedrick having not yet arrived and Councilmember Dhakal absent. Mayor Olem reminded those participating in that night's meeting to follow the Town's meeting guidelines that are displayed in the Council Chambers.

Announcements

Mayor Olem stated that the next Town Council meeting is a work session on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. This meeting was moved because Tuesday, November 7, 2023, is Election Day. If residents had not already voted, she encouraged them to vote at their designated polling place.

Mayor Olem stated she is looking forward to Halloween on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. She encouraged those participating in trick-or-treating events to visit Fairfax County's website for Halloween information and safety tips.

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Additionally, Mayor Olem stated that the Town's Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting the "Pumpkin Plunge" on Friday, October 27, 2023, at the Herndon Community Center. Registration and additional information are available on the Town's website.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

a. Proclamation in Recognition of Muslim American Heritage Month

Councilmember Alam read the proclamation recognizing October 2023 as "Muslim American Heritage Month" in the Town of Herndon.

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

b. Town Manager Report

William H. Ashton II, Town Manager, stated that Town offices are closed on Friday, November 10, 2023, to observe Veterans Day. He announced the hours for the Herndon Golf Course, Herndon Community Center, and stated that trash collection will occur as normal. He stated that American Legion Post 184 will hold the annual Veterans Day Observance on November 11, 2023, 11:00 a.m. on the Town Green

Mr. Ashton provided an update on communications with Comstock. They advised him that the fire marshal approved the building permit package, which will be reviewed by the Town next. He stated this process is necessary because Comstock submitted their initial plans under an older version of the Building Code and the plans have to be brought in line with the current Code.

c. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember Scherff: thanked Mr. Ashton for sharing an update on Comstock during his report.

Councilmember Scherff wished those present a happy Muslim American Heritage Month. She stated that she was pleased to attend an event last Saturday recognizing Pakistan Heritage Day that was spearheaded by Councilmember Alam.

Councilmember Scherff stated that evening, a member of the audience met her with the greeting "peace be with you." She expressed appreciation to that individual and provided comments on the importance of having a welcoming and inclusive community.

Councilmember Alam: thanked her colleagues on the Town Council, along with the Town staff, who assisted with the Pakistan Heritage Day event that was held that last weekend.

Councilmember LeBlanc: welcomed those in attendance and stated that it was great to see many people attending that night's meeting.

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Councilmember LeBlanc stated that the week of October 23 to 27, 2023, is “Global Health Equity Week.” He stated that he has been personally focused on health equity solutions for the past 20 years. He emphasized the importance of health equity, stating that this week focuses on the shared responsibility to empower individuals on their own health journeys, through technology and data, access to care, and global health collaboration.

Councilmember LeBlanc stated that he enjoyed attending the Committee for Dulles Membership Appreciation event with Mayor Olem and Vice Mayor Hedrick. It was held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, and was hosted by the German Military Armed Forces Command of the United States and Canada.

Councilmember LeBlanc stated that there are many events celebrating Halloween next week. He encouraged residents to visit the various Halloween decorations and light displays that are up around the Town.

Councilmember del Aguila: welcomed those in attendance for that night’s meeting.

Councilmember del Aguila provided comments on diversity, equity, inclusion, and building a more diverse and welcoming community.

Councilmember del Aguila thanked his colleagues for their discussion of equity at last week’s work session. He affirmed his commitment to equity, equality, and inclusion.

Councilmember del Aguila thanked Councilmember Alam for requesting the proclamation recognizing Muslim American Heritage Month.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: welcomed those in attendance and stated that it was great to see many members of the community in the audience for that night’s meeting.

Mayor Olem: echoed her colleagues’ comments welcoming those in attendance for that night’s meeting. She stated it was nice to see several individuals in the audience that she has previously met at the All Dulles Areas Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center in Sterling.

Mayor Olem expressed kudos to the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and the Herndon Police, for their work in making the Herndon Homecoming Parade a success.

Mayor Olem echoed Councilmember LeBlanc’s comments about the Committee for Dulles Membership Appreciation event, which she enjoyed attending at Dulles Airport. She expressed appreciation to the German Armed Forces Command of the United States and Canada for hosting the event.

Mayor Olem encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans Day Observance hosted by the American Legion Post 184 on November 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. on the Town Green. The Naval JROTC from Herndon High School also plans to participate in the event.

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Mayor Olem stated that November is “Native American Heritage Month.” She encouraged everyone to recognize this month by learning more about Native American heritage and to visit the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.

Comments and Disclosures for the Record

Mayor Olem asked Amanda Kertz, Chief Deputy Town Clerk, if she received comments for the record.

Ms. Kertz stated that comments were provided to the Council and entered into the record on General item 6(a), Resolution 23-G-71 to identify holidays to be included in the Town Calendar and to revise the Thursday Farmers Market listing in the Town Calendar.

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 on the proclamation to recognize Muslim American Heritage Month:

- Dr. Omar Altalib, 11776 Stratford Place, Reston;
- Abdul Rashid Abdullah, 504 Woodshire Lane, Herndon;
- Naveed Bokhari, Deputy Chief of Mission, the Embassy of Pakistan, Washington, DC;
- Rizwan Jaka, volunteer Chair of All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Interfaith and Government Relations, 46903 Sugarland Road, Sterling;
- Yasmeen Durani, 1155 Cypress Tree Place, Herndon, who also spoke on behalf of her sister, Ghazala Ali;
- Rachel Reibach, representing the office of Senator Tim Kaine;
- Rizwan Mercari, 42711 Raven Glass Drive, Ashburn; and
- Naveen Shaikh, 10409 Manhattan Lane, Great Falls.

The following individuals provided comments on other subjects:

- Barry Clendenin, 520 Filmore Street, Herndon, submitted written comments for the record and spoke on: (1) General item Resolution 23-G-71 to identify holidays to be included in the Town Calendar and to revise the Thursday Farmers Market listing in the Town Calendar, and (2) Council’s discussion on equity from the October 17, 2023, Town Council work session.

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- Walter Shorter, 559 Early Fall Court, Herndon, Vice President of the Four Seasons Recreation Association, provided comments on: (1) proclamation to recognize Muslim American Heritage Month, and (2) Resolution 23-G-71 to identify holidays to be included in the Town Calendar and to revise the Thursday Farmers Market listing in the Town Calendar.
- Barbara Glakas, 935 Barton Oaks Place, Herndon, submitted written comments for the record and spoke on: (1) proclamation to recognize Muslim American Heritage Month, and (2) Resolution 23-G-71 to identify holidays to be included in the Town Calendar and to revise the Thursday Farmers Market listing in the Town Calendar. She encouraged the Town to do more advertising of events, similar to what the Town does to publicize the Herndon Hometown Holidays.
- Mike Bradley, 753 Grace Street, Herndon, submitted written comments for the record and spoke on increasing the number of trees in Herndon. He requested the Town Council's support of the Herndon Family Tree project in time for the spring planting season.
- Ann Vayda, 631 Oak Street, Herndon, provided comments on a discussion that was held during the Roundtable portion of the October 17, 2023, Town Council work session about conducting a survey of contributing structures in the Historic District.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. **Resolution 23-G-70 to approve Special Exception Application SE #23-02, to allow product repair services for cell phones and computers in a multi-tenant commercial office building in a Commercial Office, CO, zoning district**

Certificates of Publication were filed from the Editor of the *Fairfax County Times Newspapers*, showing that notice of said public hearing items had been duly advertised in the Friday, October 13, and October 20, 2023, issues.

Mayor Olem opened the public hearing and recognized Fadrique Iglesias, Community Planner, who presented the staff report and PowerPoint dated October 24, 2023. He reviewed the location at 1020 Elden Street, Suite 206, the existing zoning, and land use designation. He provided an overview of the special exception application, including the proposed uses, layout, hours of operation, and parking.

Mr. Iglesias stated that following analysis, staff recommends approval of SE #23-02 with conditions as listed in the draft resolution.

There was brief discussion among Council and staff on this item.

Mayor Olem asked if the applicant or applicant's agent would like to address the Council on this item.

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Yonatan Mekonnen, 911ifixit.com Phone Repair, LLC, applicant, provided comments on the application and discussed how the business disposes and recycles electronic waste.

There was brief discussion between the Council and Mr. Mekonnen on this item.

Mayor Olem called for comments from the audience. Seeing none, she closed the public hearing and moved to Council level for discussion and action.

Councilmember LeBlanc moved to approve Resolution 23-G-70 to approve Special Exception Application SE #23-02, to allow product repair services for cell phones and computers in a multi-tenant commercial office building in a Commercial Office, CO, zoning district, as presented.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Scherff.

[Note: Councilmember Alam left the dais at 8:03 p.m. and returned at 8:06 p.m.]

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

6. GENERAL

a. Resolution 23-G-71 to identify holidays to be included in the Town Calendar and to revise the Thursday Farmers Market listing in the Town Calendar

William H. Ashton II, Town Manager, provided comments on the proposed resolution. He stated that the purpose of the proposed resolution is to memorialize the events that the Town Council wants to include in the Town Calendar. The proposed calendar includes: (1) important Town information and events, (2) local, State, and Federal holidays, (3) standard holidays recognized by Fairfax County Public Schools, and (4) the Farmers Market listing on Thursdays, with a note indicating that the event is subject to change.

There was brief discussion among Council and staff on this item.

Mayor Olem stated, for the record, that she appreciated those who wrote to the Town Council and attended meetings to provide their comments on this item.

Councilmember del Aguila moved to approve Resolution 23-G-71 to identify holidays to be included in the Town Calendar and to revise the Thursday Farmers Market listing in the Town Calendar, as presented.

Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Hedrick.

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There were brief comments from the Council about the Thursday Farmers Market listing in the Town Calendar.

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

7. CONSENT

- a. Ordinance 23-O-19 to amend and reenact Chapter 54 (PERSONNEL), Article I (In General), Article II (Pay)**
- b. Resolution 23-G-72 to adopt the Community Cultural Festivals Policy Statement**
- c. September 19, 2023, Town Council Work Session Minutes**
- d. September 26, 2023, Town Council Meeting Minutes**

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Olem adjourned the October 24, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Amanda E. Moraw Kertz

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Chief Deputy Town Clerk



Minutes approved by Town Council: December 12, 2023

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