



**HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Olem called the Tuesday, March 12, 2024, Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, 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; Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Town Clerk; Lieutenant Charles Findley, Herndon Police Department; and Dave Bracamonte, Systems Manager.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Mayor Olem led the audience in 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 all Councilmembers present and reminded the Council of the meeting decorum.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor Olem announced several upcoming events with the Department of Parks and Recreation, including: (1) the Kids' Trout Fishing Derby on Saturday, March 16, 8:00 a.m. to noon, at the back of Runnymede Park, (2) the Aqua Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, and (3) Mayor's Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Sunday, April 21, for which applications are due by Monday, March 18, 2024. Details for these events are found on the town's website under Parks and Recreation.

Mayor Olem stated that the annual spring clean-up will occur during the week of April 21, 2024, on each resident's regular trash collection day.

Additionally, Mayor Olem stated that Fairfax County Supervisor Bierman for the Dranesville District is holding a community meeting on Fairfax County's proposed budget at Herndon High School on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. She encouraged residents to attend and provide their comments on the County's budget.

3. Presentations/Reports/Comments

a. Town Manager Report

William H. Ashton II, Town Manager, did not have any comments.

b. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember del Aguila: thanked his colleagues for supporting his "sources of additional revenue channels" ideas and thanked them for contributing to a robust discussion at last week's work session. He also thanked his colleagues for supporting his idea that would be presented at the Council's closed session later that evening.

Councilmember del Aguila expressed appreciation to those who have provided comments on the budget and encouraged the public to continue sending in their comments. He looked forward to working on the FY 2025 budget.

Councilmember Dhakal: wished a Happy Ramadan to those in the community who observe it.

Councilmember Dhakal discussed several events he recently attended, including: (1) National Capital Area Open Tae Kwon Do Championship with Councilmember LeBlanc that past Saturday; he congratulated Grandmaster Lee and H.K. Lee Academy for 50 years of operation, (2) Himalayan clinic volunteer appreciation event, also that past Saturday, and (3) NextStop Theatre's production of "School Girls/American Mean Girls," encouraging the community to see the show.

Councilmember Dhakal stated that he will be on a family trip to Nepal over the next several weeks and will miss the next four Council meetings. He indicated that he would be back for the April 16, 2024, work session.

Councilmember Scherff: congratulated community volunteer Renee Gorman, founder of "She Believes In Me," who was named the Rotary Club of Herndon-Reston's 2024 Citizen of the Year.

Councilmember Scherff welcomed feedback on the Town's budget through the Town Clerk's office, and she encouraged citizens to attend Supervisor Bierman's budget forum Mayor Olem referenced in her announcements.

Councilmember Scherff thanked the Town Manager's office for coordinating a meeting with her, Councilmember del Aguila, and the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce about Friday Night Live. She emphasized that it was not the intention of anyone to cancel Friday Night Live.

Councilmember Scherff welcomed the scouts in the audience who were attending the Town Council meeting.

Councilmember Alam: wished everyone a Happy Ramadan. She indicated that she would step away for a few minutes during meetings throughout Ramadan to break her fast.

Councilmember LeBlanc: wished peace and happiness to those who celebrate Ramadan.

Councilmember LeBlanc wished everyone a Happy Women's History Month, and he recognized his female colleagues on the Council and in staff leadership. Councilmember LeBlanc listed several events happening during Women's History Month, including: (1) event by the Herndon Historical Society focusing on prominent women in Herndon's history, (2) Arts Herndon sharing the Welsh Women's Peace Appeal, and (3) NextStop Theater's current show, "School Girls/American Mean Girls," which he found to be very impactful.

Councilmember LeBlanc encouraged those interested to attend a Holi Festival celebration in Reston on March 23, 2024, and stated he is proud to be a sponsor for the event.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: stated that he recently attended his first Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's Planning Coordination Advisory Committee (NVTAPCAC) meeting. He noted NVTAPCAC's importance in funding regional multi-modal projects, highlighting the significance of developing the area's transportation network.

Mayor Olem: shared that she and her children attended H.K. Lee's Tae Kwon Do Academy in the past.

Mayor Olem echoed congratulations to Renee Gorman of "She Believes in Me" for being named the Rotary Club's 2024 Citizen of the Year.

Mayor Olem shared that she attended the Food for Neighbors Red Bag Event on Saturday, March 9, 2024, where Colonel Dronia of the German Armed Forces Command of the United States and Canada presented a generous donation of \$5,555.55 to the organization. At a previous event, Colonel Dronia provided a donation to Ms. Gorman's group, "She Believes in Me."

Mayor Olem stated that she recently met with two James Madison University students who graduated from Herndon High School, and she enjoyed sharing information with them about the Town and local government.

[Note: Councilmember Alam left the dais at 7:17 p.m. and returned at 7:24 p.m.]

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:

- Stevan Porter, 905 Vine Street, Herndon: provided comments on the recent fire incident in Sterling, where a firefighter lost his life in the line of duty. He shared that he passed on the expressions of sympathy and support from Herndon on to the fire and rescue community in Loudoun County. He indicated that the only recognized source of donations for the first responders is the Loudoun County First Responders Foundation.
- Betsy Denton, 496 Virginia Avenue, Herndon: provided comments on the audio at Town Council meetings and asked that the Councilmembers speak louder at the dais. She provided comments on restarting roundtables and similar events to allow the community to engage with the Council
- Radi Paskalev, 1078 Trevino Lane, Herndon: provided comments on traffic safety issues on Trevino Lane and expressed concerns about staff following up with tickets submitted to the Herndon on the Go App.
- Andrew Butsick, 1029 Boros Court, Herndon: echoed the comments of the previous speaker on traffic safety issues on Trevino Lane. He asked the Town to consider short-term solutions to address traffic on Trevino Lane and noted his observation of signal timing issues on Elden Street.

5. Consent

- a. January 16, 2024 Town Council Work Session Minutes**
- b. January 18, 2024 Town Council Special Meeting - Council Initiatives Minutes**

c. January 23, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes

d. February 6, 2024 Town Council Work Session Minutes

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

6. Closed Meeting

a. A Closed Meeting pursuant to:

- **Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), a matter involving a discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the downtown because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the town's bargaining position or negotiating strategy; and**
- **Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual and probable litigation, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and**
- **Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, relating to real estate in the downtown.**

Mayor Olem stated that the Council needed to go into a closed meeting and that the appropriate meeting notices were provided in accordance with state law. The closed meeting was held in the Hoover Conference Room in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia.

Councilmember del Aguila moved that the Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss the following as permitted by the Code of Virginia:

- **Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), a matter involving a discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the downtown because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the town's bargaining position or negotiating strategy;**
- **Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual and probable litigation, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and**

- Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, relating to real estate in the downtown.

Councilmember Scherff seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Dhakal, LeBlanc, and Scherff, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor Olem voting “Aye.”

At 7:31 p.m. Mayor Olem called a brief recess, and at 7:37 p.m., the closed meeting reconvened in the Hoover Conference Room, all members present, with Mayor Olem presiding.

Councilmember Scherff moved to come out of the closed meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Dhakal and carried by unanimous roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Dhakal, LeBlanc, and Scherff, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor Olem voting “Aye.”

The Council came out of closed meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Councilmember LeBlanc moved to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, in the closed meeting just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed meeting and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed in a closed meeting under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as cited in that motion. Motion seconded by Councilmember Dhakal and carried by unanimous roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Dhakal, LeBlanc, and Scherff, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor Olem voting “Aye.”

Aye: 7
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Olem adjourned the March 12, 2024 Town Council Regular Meeting at 8:49 p.m.



Amanda E.M. Kertz
Chief Deputy Town Clerk



Minutes approved by Town Council: April 23, 2024

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