



City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Mayor Deanna R. Reed, Vice-Mayor Dany Fleming, Council Member Laura Dent, Council Member Nasser Alsaadun and Council Member Monica Robinson

Also Present: 5 - City Manager Ande Banks, City Attorney Chris Brown, City Clerk Pam Ulmer, Chief Matthew Tobia and Police Chief Joseph Tucker

2. Moment of Silence

Mayor Reed offered a moment of silence

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Special Recognition

4.a. Proclamation recognizing March 2026 as Youth Art Month

Mayor Reed read the proclamation recognizing March, 2026 as Youth Art Month, to Eva Camunas, art teacher at Spotswood Elementary.

4.b. Consider approving remote participation.

Chris Brown, City Attorney, stated that Council Member Dent would like to attend the meeting via virtual platform as she is ill. This requires the approval of Council.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Alsaadun, to approve the remote participation. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

5. Consent Agenda (any item placed on the consent agenda shall be removed and taken up as a separate matter, if so requested by any member of Council, otherwise all items will be voted on with one (1) motion)

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

- 5.a.** Consider a request from Todd B. Stone to rezone a portion of 2600 and 2580 South Main Street

This rezoning request was approved on second reading

- 5.b.** Proposed Amendments to Ordinance Section 15-2-24- Fowl, Chickens and Other Domestic Birds

These ordinance amendments were approved on second reading

- 5.c.** Minutes from the February 24, 2026 City Council meeting

These minutes were approved on the consent agenda

6. Public Hearings

- 6.a.** Consider the Disposal of Public Property Located at 301 S. Main Street

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented a request to approve the sale of city owned real estate located at 301 S. Main Street (Quilt Museum). He presented the sales contract for review and noted some of the historical preservation required by the purchaser (preservation to the footprint of the property, the front porch, exterior wood detailing, interior fire places, original radiators etc.)

At 7:07 pm Mayor Reed closed the regular session and called the first public hearing to order. A notice appeared in the Daily News-Record on Monday, March 2, 2026.

Annie McDonald and John Buller, 360 Ott Street, purchasers, reviewed their purpose of purchasing the house and hopes to be a part of the artistic hub in the downtown area.

Rita Peters, 7586 Stoney Lick Road, Mt. Crawford, spoke on the cash offer made to purchase this property that was not accepted.

Panayotis "Poti" Giannakouros, spoke against the approval of this item.

At 7:16 p.m., Mayor Reed closed the public hearing and the regular session reconvened.

Discussion took place regarding the acceptance of this contract, how it supports residents and small businesses of the city, and how the proposed purpose of the property fits with the vision of downtown.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Dent, that this item be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

7. Regular Items

- 7.a.** Consider a request from The Edge Realty Partners LLC for variances from the Subdivision Ordinance related to street design standards for an undeveloped portion of Franklin Street located between parcels addressed as 625 and 630 Franklin Street

Adam Fletcher, director of Community Development, presented a request for a subdivision variance at property located at 625 and 630 Franklin Street and 765 E Market Street. He reviewed the property, the history of the rezoning of this property, and the requested variance to the vertical curvature of the street.

He stated staff and Planning Commission (5-0) recommended approval with the condition as presented.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Dent, the variance request be approved with conditions as presented. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

- 7.b.** Presentation on the State of the Schools

Tim Howley, chair of HCPS School Board, shared information on the school system in the city.

Dr. Michael Richards, superintendent, presented the state of the schools in the city. He reviewed the following:

- Vital relationships
- Potential student population increase
- SOL Scores
- Stats 101
- Context of SOL's and HCPS
- Funding disadvantages
- HCEP - Growth and opportunity
- HCPS Focus: Authentic Student Success
- Rich Learning Opportunities
- Focus on literacy
- Meeting basic needs
- Developing community partnerships
- Recruiting and retaining talent

Discussion took place on numerous topics, including the potential of needing additional schools in the future and the associated impact on resources, disparity in outcomes for different groups of students and how those students are served, how to best assess academic progress, staffing levels, and parent engagement strategies.

This Presentation was received and filed.

- 7.c.** Consider adopting a Resolution ratifying a Real Estate Contract between the City and 7-11, Inc.

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented a resolution ratifying a real estate contract to purchase real estate located on N. Mason Street that connects to the current Fire Station 4. He stated this parcel would allow for the extension and flexibility of the construction/renovation of Fire Station 4.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

- 7.d.** Consider adopting a resolution terminating the Declaration of Local Emergency dated January 24, 2026.

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented an ordinance to terminate the Declaration of Local Emergency made on January 27, 2026.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Robinson, the ordinance be approved as presented. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun, Council Member Robinson and Mayor Reed

No: 0

8. Other Matters

8.a. Comments from the public, limited to five minutes, on matters not on the regular agenda. (Name and address are required)

The following spoke against the use of the Automated License Plate Recognition system contracted through Flock Safety in Harrisonburg:

Noah Etko, 85 Campbell St.
Leah Heller, 85 Campbell St.
Rachel Bernstein,
Ethan Morris, 210 Ohio Ave
Isaac Andreas, 1140 Parkway Drive

Linda Plitt-Donaldson, 1135 Sumter Court
Holly Stravers, 1522 Hillside Ave.
Molly Skidmore, 967 Central Ave.
David Shenk, 1531 College Ave.
Greta Kreider, 1018 College Ave.
Jacob Hess, 215 Monte Vista Drive
Alexandria Loginov, 525 N. Willow St.
Jason Hostetter 700 Ott St.
Heidi Jablonski, 60 Broad St.
Nathan Coffman, 852 Hillside Ave.
Chloe Williamson, 742 Madison St.
Giles Eanes, 451 E Gay St.
Jacob Sider Jost - 971 Summit Ave.
Allie Haverty, 631 E. Rock St.
Sara Kurtz, 606 E. Rock St.
Ben Bailey 508 E. Wolfe St
Austin Showalter, 601 Franklin St
Lori Lichti 1220 Old Windmill Cir.
Glenda Leonard,
Theresa Hinkley,
Kate Nelson,
Cameron Biller,
Luke Anderson, 1300 Greystone St

Recess

Mayor Reed had to leave unexpectedly and called a recess at 9:40 pm

Meeting reconvened at 9:45pm with Vice Mayor Fleming in control.

8.a. Comments from the public, limited to five minutes, on matters not on the regular agenda. (Name and address are required)

The following spoke against the use of the Automated License Plate Recognition system contracted through Flock Safety in Harrisonburg: (continued)

Erin Kiser,
Hanna Whitmer,
Stan Bottcher, 295 Hill St.
Ben Wise, 209 5th St.
Jenna,
resident of Old town,
Sam, student

Tom Domonoske, 461 Lee Avenue, thanked the city for the solar panels installed at the Turner Pavilion; spoke on civic engagement;

Panayotis "Poti" Giannakouros, spoke on a recent presentation at VMRC on Urban

Renewal; FOIA requests;

8.b. City Council and Staff

Council Member Dent spoke on the recent VA250 dinner, International Women's Day; and the upcoming NLC Congressional City Conference

Council Member Robinson spoke on the recent VMRC presentation and International Women's Day.

Vice Mayor Fleming spoke on the recent VA250 dinner, a recent Student Government Forum; a meeting he had with Chief Tucker and residents of the city on Flock Cameras; a recent General Assembly bill that did not get approved; and the upcoming NLC Congressional City Conference;

9. Adjournment

At 10:16 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR