



# City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

---

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

---

### 1. Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Deanna R. Reed, Vice-Mayor Laura Dent, Council Member Christopher B. Jones, Council Member Dany Fleming and Council Member Monica Robinson

**Also Present:** 5 - City Manager Ande Banks, City Attorney Chris Brown, City Clerk Pam Ulmer, Chief Matthew Tobia and Deputy Police Chief Todd Miller

### 2. Invocation

Mayor Reed led the invocation

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Special Recognition

### 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 Council Member Fleming, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

**No:** 0

#### 5.a. Minutes from the September 10, 2024 City Council Meeting

**These minutes were approved**

#### 5.b. Consider Zoning Ordinance amendments to allow and regulate urban honeybees

**This ordinance amendment was approved on second reading.**

#### 5.c. Consider Zoning Ordinance amendment to modify regulations associated with the validity period of special use permits

**This ordinance amendment was approved on second reading.**

- 5.d. Consider the carryover and reappropriation of unexpended prior year grants and outstanding prior year encumbrances, requested by department heads and by the School Board, in the amount of \$31.2 million.

This supplemental appropriation was approved on second reading.

## 6. Public Hearings

## 7. Regular Items

### 7.a. Presentation on Build Our Park project

Erin Bishop, Vice President, Board of Directors, Build Our Park, shared the history of the organization, recognized the Board of Directors and the design team. She noted the City ExOfficios, other organizations and businesses that are stakeholders in this project.

She shared the most recent conceptual design of the park, highlighted some of the features, noted some changes that will be made to the conceptual design, and reviewed a draft proposed Downtown Harrisonburg Park Construction and Consulting Agreement. She reviewed the mission statement for the organization and requested approval to move forward with the agreement.

Discussion took place on the work that has gone into this project, the Parks and Recreation Department being the caretaker/overseer of the park, the removal of parking spaces, the equity and demographics of those that would use the park, the ARPA funding that was spent on the Parks and Recreation Department for other projects throughout the city, the maintenance of the park, and how to create the opportunity to make a park for all.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Dent, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to approve the conceptual design as presented and direct staff to finalize the Downtown Harrisonburg Park Construction and Consulting Agreement. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:**

**Yes:** 4 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Dent, Council Member Jones and Council Member Fleming

**No:** 1 - Council Member Robinson

### 7.b. Consider adopting a resolution approving the Harrisonburg Department of Transportation Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Assessment

Gerald Gatobu, director of Department of Transportation, presented a resolution approving the updated Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) assessment. He stated the city receives federal funds for its Transportation Department for operating funds and capital improvements and therefore must have a Title VI Program and LEP.

Discussion took place on the translation services available.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Dent, seconded by Council Member 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 Dent, Council Member Jones, Council Member Fleming and Council Member Robinson

**No:** 0

- 7.c.** Consider approving the naming of a new street in Parkview Section of Harrisonburg, as part of the Fire Station #5 Project.

Matt Tobia, chief of Harrisonburg Fire Department, presented a request to approve the naming of a new street off of Mt. Clinton Pike, where the new Fire Station #5 will be built. He reviewed the site plan and requested the street be named Integrity Drive.

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Fleming to approve the request as presented. The motion carried with a recorded vote as follows:**

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

**No:** 0

- 7.d.** Consider a VML Conference Voting Delegate and an Alternate Voting Delegate for both the Urban Section and the Annual Business Meeting at the upcoming VML Conference October 2024

vote

Mayor Reed , Vice mayor alternate

**A motion was made by Council Member Fleming, seconded by Council Member, to appoint Mayor Reed as primary voter, and Vice Mayor Dent, as alternate for the Virginia Municipal Leagues Annual Business Meeting and Urban Section. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

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

**No:** 0

## **8. Supplementals**

- 8.a.** Consider a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$600,000 for the School Transportation Fund

Larry Propst, director of Finance, presented a supplemental \$600,000 for the school transportation fund for three electric school busses in which a grant was obtained for a portion of the cost.

Mr. Gatobu gave an update for the delivery of transit busses with the new wraps, shared information on the costs of each electric bus and the process on the transition to electric bus usage.

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Dent to approve the supplemental appropriation as presented. The motion carried with a recorded vote as follows:**

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

**No:** 0

## 9. Reallocations

### 9.a. Consider a reallocation of funds in the General Capital Projects Fund

Larry Propst, director of Finance, presented a request for a reallocation of \$350,000 to the Navigation Center from the supplemental funds set aside for this specific project.

**A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Dent to approve the reallocation as presented. The motion carried with a recorded vote as follows:**

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

**No:** 0

## 10. Other Matters

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

Panayotis "Poti" Giannakouros, played audio excerpts from tall grass and weeds complaints obtained via a FOIA request. He stated these complaints are made by people who are not neighbors.

Earnie Diddo, spoke on the request for lights at the city's Pickleball Courts and an offer that the Rotary made to offer a matching grant for this request. He spoke about a rezoning sign at the end of his street near the quarry and he recommended placing the sign at the entrance of College Avenue so others in the area will see it.

Randy Kline, 480 Hartman Drive, spoke on the need for an invitation for the

community to get a tour of the new high school and the SOL scores for history and social science tests for 12th grade students. He stated this is unacceptable.

#### **10.b. City Council and Staff**

Vice Mayor Dent spoke on the Community Development Financial Institute Program (CDFI) meeting; the HRMPO meeting; upcoming Elevating Housing Solutions Across Virginia at Hotel Madison; and the October 2, 2024, Valley Tech Con;

Council Member Jones stated he appreciates all the knowledge that Mike Collins, director of Public Utilities, has provided to him over the past several years. He stated if anyone has questions on what the school board is doing then they should bring them to the school board directly. He offered his services to help anyone understand how the local government works and how to use it.

Council Member Robinson echoed what Council Member Jones regarding Mr. Collins. She spoke on her participation in reading for the Wish Tree; the African American Festival; the Young Life Gala; the upcoming International Festival on September 28, 2024; upcoming Valley for Independent Living (VAIL) on September 27, 2024; the upcoming open house for Quarry Heights at VMRC September 26, 2024; and she urges the public to come out to the Harrisonburg City and School Board Liaison Committee on September 30, 2024 at 2:30 pm in Council Chambers.

Council Member Fleming spoke on the National League of Cities (NLC) Healthy Housing Cohort grant possibilities; the JMU/County/City Liaison Committee meeting; NLC's University Communities Council planning meeting; NLC's Child Savings Account Program; the CDFI meeting; the Harrisonburg Fire Department's promotion ceremony;

Mayor Reed spoke on the re-opening of the art gallery at 150 Franklin Street; the Furious Flowers conference; the Rotary Peace Pole installations; the Pride Festival; the upcoming Royals Go Downtown on September 26, 2024; and stated the Green Book house made it on the National Registry of Historic Places;

Ande Banks, city manager, thanked City Council, for their support on professional development. He stated Michael Parks, director of Communications just completed and is now a certified Master Public Information Officer through the National Disaster and Emergency Management University through the US Department of Homeland Security. He stated Ms. Snyder and Mr. Vandenberg are currently attending the International City County Management Associations conference.

## **11. Closed Session**

- 11.a.** Closed Session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A), under: Subsection 8 for consultation with legal counsel

regarding two specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel and related to contractual negotiations.

At 8:59 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Fleming, seconded by Council Member Jones, to enter into closed session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A), under: subsection 3 for a discussion of the acquisition of real estate for a public purpose. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote as follows:

**12. Adjournment**

At 9:47 p.m. the closed session ended and the regular session reconvened. City Attorney Brown read the following statement, which was agreed to with a unanimous recorded vote of Council: I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code, of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting by the City Council.

At 9:47 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR