



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**PUBLIC  
WORKS**

320 EAST MOSBY ROAD, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

OFFICE (540) 434-5928 • FAX (540) 434-2695

To: Ande Banks, City Manager  
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, PMP, LEED AP, Director of Public Works  
Date: August 27, 2024  
Re: Harrison House Project and Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant

**Summary:**

The Public Works Department will present an update on the Harrison House Project and the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant.

**Background:**

In 2014, the City of Harrisonburg acquired the historic Harrison House from Asbury United Methodist Church with a vision to restore this key landmark. The restoration project was supported by a pledge from the Margaret Grattan Weaver Foundation, promising \$500,000, which the City would match with an equal amount. However, in 2023, due to the closure of the Foundation, the funds were transferred to the Community Foundation with a condition that they be utilized within three years.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has established the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund (VA 250) that will award \$20 million through grants to support improvements at significant historic sites and history museums in Virginia in anticipation of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution and the 1776 United States Declaration of Independence. The City plans to submit a grant request for the Harrison House in order to construct a Terrace Area and perform restorations to the Harrison House.

The City collaborated with Frazier and Associates, and developed the proposed plan that involves demolishing the Hall House Addition to create a Terrace Area. This new space will open up a clear view of the Harrison House and provide connections to Denton Park, Bruce Street, and the Ruby's Parking Lot. The extent of restoration to the Harrison House has not yet been determined, however if the grant is awarded the City will work with historic restoration professionals to plan for these restorations.

The VA 250 grant requires a funding match equal to 1/3 of the grant request. For our project the City would request \$3 million in VA 250 funds, which will be matched with the \$1 million of existing project funds.

Preapplications for the VA 250 grant are due on August 30, 2024, with full applications due on October 14, 2024. If successful with the grant request, the work will be completed by June 2026.

**Key Issues:**

N/A

**Environmental Impact:**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact:**

A Capital project already exists for this project.

**Prior Actions:**

N/A

**Alternatives:**

- (a) Approve the project and funding.
- (b) Deny the project.

**Community Engagement:**

N/A

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve this project.

**Attachments:**

- 1. Presentation

**Review:**