



City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Mayor Deanna R. Reed, Vice Mayor Sal Romero, Council Member Christopher B. Jones, Council Member Laura Dent and Council Member Richard Baugh

Also Present: 5 - Deputy City Manager Ande Banks, City Attorney Chris Brown, Deputy City Clerk Ande Banks., Police Chief Kelley Warner and Assistant to the City Manager Amy Snider

2. Invocation

Council Member Dent offered 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 Baugh, seconded by Council Member Dent, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried with a recorded vote as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice Mayor Romero, Council Member Jones, Council Member Dent and Council Member Baugh

No: 0

5.a. Minutes from the August 9, 2022 City Council meeting

These minutes were approved on the consent agenda.

5.b. Consider a request from McDorman Properties LLC to rezone 209 and 211 Broad Street

This rezoning was approved on second reading.

6. Public Hearings

7. Regular Items

- 7.a.** Consider adopting a resolution for the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Enhanced Hazardous Duty Benefits (Election of Emergency Medical Technicians)

Angela Clem, director of Human Resources, stated this request is required by the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and in support of the community's Paramedicine Program Medicine and will allow for our two future full time community paramedics to receive the hazardous duty supplement and the hazardous duty multiplier upon retirement. She stated there is no significant budget impact.

A motion was made by Council Member Baugh, seconded by Council Member Jones, to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice Mayor Romero, Council Member Jones, Council Member Dent and Council Member Baugh

No: 0

- 7.b.** Consider adopting a Resolution to extend Shenandoah Valley Airport Commission's interim financing on their hangar development

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented a resolution approving a borrowing by the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SVA). He stated Ms. Lisa Botkin, executive director for SVA, is present. Ms. Botkin stated she has worked for SVA for quite some time and is excited to be in the director position now. Mr. Brown stated Council approved a borrowing by SVA in 2019, for a \$3,086,500 Department of Agriculture Bond and an interim financing with Blue Ridge Bank for \$2,986,500. He stated due to COVID-19, there have been delays in getting the construction completed, and this resolution approves the extension of the Blue Ridge Bank financing until October 29, 2023. He stated each of the five jurisdictions must approve the resolution and there is no financial liability or obligation to the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Baugh, seconded by Council Member Dent, to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice Mayor Romero, Council Member Jones, Council Member Dent and Council Member Baugh

No: 0

8. Special Event Application Requests

- 8.a.** Consider the special event application request for Eastern Mennonite University's Royals Go Downtown on Thursday, September 22, 2022, from 5-8pm.

Matt Little, recreation and special events manager, Parks and Recreation, presented a special event application request for the Eastern Mennonite University's Royals Go Downtown event on Thursday, September 22, 2022, from 5 - 8 p.m. He stated the assistance of Public Works and Harrisonburg Police Department are requested, the estimated cost will be approximately less than \$1,000, and the event organizer is responsible for payment of applicable charges.

Mayor Reed stated she is excited about this event, as it will be EMU's "block party" like JMU does. She stated this has never been done before.

A motion was made by Council Member Baugh, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve the request as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote:

- 8.b.** Consider the special event application request for the Harrisonburg International Festival on Saturday, September 24, 2022.

Matt Little, recreation and special events manager, Parks and Recreation, presented a special event application request for the Annual Harrisonburg International Festival on Saturday, September 24, 2022, that will be held downtown. He stated road closures requested include the north, south and west side of Court Square and Liberty Street between Gay Street and Rock Street from 10 am - 8 pm. He stated the assistance of Public Works, Harrisonburg Police Department and Harrisonburg Fire Department are requested, the estimated cost will be approximately \$6,000, and the event organizer is responsible for payment of applicable charges.

A motion was made by Council Member Baugh, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve the request as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote:

- 8.c.** Consider the special event application request for the Shenandoah Valley Pride Celebration on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

Matt Little, recreation and special events manager, Parks and Recreation, presented a special event application request for the Annual Shenandoah Valley Pride Celebration on Saturday, October 8, 2022. He stated road closures requested include the north, south and west side of Court Square. He stated the assistance of Public Works, Harrisonburg Police Department and Harrisonburg Fire Department are requested, the estimated cost will be approximately \$3,000, and the event organizer is responsible for payment of applicable charges.

A motion was made by Council Member Baugh, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve the request as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote:

- 8.d.** Consider the special event application request for Eastern Mennonite University's Homecoming & Family Weekend celebration on Saturday, October 8, 2022.

Matt Little, recreation and special events manager, Parks and Recreation, presented a special event application request for the Eastern Mennonite University's Home Coming and Family Weekend Celebration on Saturday, October 8, 2022. He stated road closures requested include Park Road from Mt. Clinton Pike to Park Wood Drive from 1-8 pm. He stated the assistance of Public Works, Harrisonburg Police Department and Community Development are requested, the estimated cost will be approximately \$1,000, and the event organizer is responsible for payment of applicable charges.

A motion was made by Council Member Baugh, seconded by Council Member Jones, to approve the request as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote:

9. Other Matters

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

Panayotis "Poti" Giannakouros, stated due to technical difficulties he was unable to get through at the last Council meeting, which would have been the closest meeting to the 9th Anniversary of it's Martin Luther King, Jr. Way Street renaming. He invited everyone to the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr holiday on January 16, 2023, at noon. He spoke on the ARPA funding recommendations, and commended city staff for the competence in the details of the American Rescue Plan Act regulations, and Ms. Britt from ICAD, however, the team did not have social scientists, economists, or statisticians and shows up in the design and analysis of the study.

9.b. City Council and Staff

Council Member Jones stated he, Council Member Dent and Economic Development department attended the JMU's Regional Economic Recovery Series, and a lot of good things will come out of that. He stated it's been a very trying time for him and his family, and thanked staff and colleagues for their words of uplift.

Council Member Dent stated it was a very beneficial session at JMU and she was especially struck how the priorities they identified mirror with what we are working with ARPA funding and many other ideas were discussed through brainstorming. She stated this coming Saturday, August 27, 2023, is the Block Party in the 'Burg.

Vice Mayor Romero encourages everyone in the city to remember that there are a lot of new drivers on the road, it was a great first day of school and he thanked all the teachers, staff and community partners for making that happen. He stated as he was driving around the city to visit as many schools as he could he noticed a few different properties in town that had a lot of trash outside. He asked what sort of responsibility we have as a community, as a city, as a government, to institute an expectation to our residents. He stated he was disappointed to see how bad some of the properties looked and he will send staff the photographs he took.

Council Member Baugh stated he hopes everyone has a great school year and shared his condolences to Council Member Jones.

Mayor Reed stated students are back and the annual Block Party of the 'Burg will take place on Saturday. She stated she held a homelessness forum on August 22, 2022, it was a good turnout, conversations that needed to be had, Open Doors announced they will reopen their Thermal Shelter on November 5, 2022, and she hopes connections were made during the forum to help Open Doors open earlier and the city is willing to support in any way possible. She stated August 24, 2022, she will be hosting a round table discussion along with Senator Kaine at 11:30 am at the Lucy F. Simms Center and the topics will be on drug addiction and substance abuse focusing on our youth.

Ande Banks, interim city manager, stated today was the first day of classes and hats off to Gerald Gatobu, director of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation, for moving thousands of children effectively and safely to and from school.

10. Boards and Commissions

10.a. Social Services Advisory Board

A motion was made by Council Member Jones, seconded by Council Member Baugh, to appoint Jenny Fox to the Social Services Advisory Board for a first term to expire on August 23, 2026. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

10.b. Rockingham - Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program Commission

A motion was made by Council Member Jones, seconded by Council Member Baugh, to reappoint Kristen Loflin to the Rockingham - Harrisonburg Alcohol Safety Action Program Commission for a second term to expire on September 12, 2027. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

10.c. Shenandoah Valley Partnership

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Council Member Baugh, to reappoint Peirce Macgill to the Shenandoah Valley Partnership for a third term to expire on June 30, 2023. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

11. Closed Session

Meeting went into Recess

Meeting reconvened

11.a. 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 disposition of publicly held real estate;

At 7:27 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Baugh, 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 disposition of publicly held real estate. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice Mayor Romero, Council Member Jones, Council Member Dent and Council Member Baugh

No: 0

12. Adjournment

At 7:57 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 7:57 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR