



CITY OF HARRISONBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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March 31, 2026

**TO THE MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

SUBJECT: Consider a request from Katherine S Moran and Marcie E Harris to rezone (proffer amendment) 361 Franklin Street

**EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT MINUTES OF HARRISONBURG PLANNING
COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON: March 11, 2026**

Chair Baugh read the request and asked staff to review.

Ms. Soffel said the applicant is requesting to amend proffers for a +/- 10,269-square-foot parcel, zoned R-8C, Small Lot Residential District Conditional. The vacant parcel is addressed as 361 Franklin Street and is identified as tax map parcel 27-Q-1. If the request is approved, the applicant continues to propose to construct a single-family dwelling.

On August 22, 2023, City Council approved the applicant's request to rezone the property from R-1, Single-family Residential District to R-8C, Small Lot Residential District Conditional to construct a single-family dwelling that would have exceeded the R-1 district setback requirements. The rezoning included a proffer to establish a 20-foot minimum setback along Franklin Street. The applicant's architectural site plan (Architectural Site Plan Sheet A-003, dated 06 Feb 2026) shows their desire to construct a porch roof near the southwest corner of the building that projects five (5) feet into the 20-foot setback.

Zoning Ordinance (ZO) Sec. 10-3-110(a) allows architectural treatments and functional elements such as chimneys, moldings, rain gutters, downspouts, roof eaves, buttresses and bay windows to project up to two (2) feet, eight (8) inches into the required yard setback, provided they do not include additional floor space. Without the proffer amendment, the proposed porch roof could project up to two (2) feet, eight (8) inches into the 20-foot setback. The requested proffer amendment would allow the porch roof to encroach into the proffered setback as indicated on the referenced architectural site plan.

Additionally, ZO Sec. 10-3-110(d) allows for an open, unenclosed and uncovered porch to project up to one-third of the front yard setback. For a 20-foot setback, the allowed projection would be about six (6) feet, seven (7) inches. The applicant's architectural site plan illustrates an

open, unenclosed and uncovered deck (“cantilever deck above”) that projects six (6) feet, four (4) inches into the 20-foot setback along Franklin Street. In contrast, the proposed porch roof would project up to five (5) feet into the 20-foot setback along Franklin Street.

Proffers

The applicant has offered the following proffers (written verbatim):

1. More than one dwelling is prohibited.
2. The minimum setback along Franklin Street shall be 20 feet, except for the porch roof, which shall extend no further than 5 feet into the setback and shall be in the general location indicated on the Architectural Site Plan A-003 dated 06 Feb 2026.

Proffer #1 remains unchanged from the 2023 rezoning.

Proffer #2 would amend the previously approved 20-foot setback along Franklin Street by allowing the porch roof to encroach as indicated on the architectural site plan. Without the proffered 20-foot setback along Franklin Street, the R-8 district would have permitted a minimum front yard setback of 10 feet. Existing setbacks along this portion of Franklin Street generally range from 20 to 25 feet or more from the public right of way and are generally nonconforming. At the time of the original rezoning, the applicant proffered a minimum setback of 20 feet along Franklin Street to ensure compatibility with other dwellings on Franklin Street.

Land Use

The Comprehensive Plan designates this site as Low Density Residential and states:

These areas consist of single-family detached dwellings in and around well-established neighborhoods with a target density of around 4 dwelling units per acre. The low density residential areas are designed to maintain the character of existing neighborhoods. It should be understood that established neighborhoods in this designation could already be above 4 dwelling units per acre.

The proffered number of dwellings and the density conform with the Low Density Residential designation, and the occupancy regulations of the R-8 district are the same as the occupancy regulations for the R-1 district.

Transportation and Traffic

A traffic impact analysis (TIA) was not required for the rezoning request.

Public Water and Sanitary Sewer

Staff has no concerns with the requested rezoning regarding water and sanitary sewer matters.

Housing Study

The proffer amendment will not impact housing because current zoning allows one single-family detached dwelling, and the new proffers continue to restrict the property to having only one dwelling unit.

Public Schools

The proposed proffer amendment does not change the existing number of buildable units allowed on property and does not impact the calculated student generation.

Conclusion

The proposed proffer amendment is narrowly tailored to allow the porch roof shown on the architectural plans to project no more than 5 feet into the 20-foot setback along Franklin Street. Staff does not believe that the request would have an adverse impact on the surrounding properties; therefore, staff recommends approval of the proffer amendment request.

Chair Baugh asked if there any questions for staff. Hearing none, he invited the applicant or applicant's representative to speak to their request.

Matthew Roberston, the applicant's representative from The Stratford Companies, came forward to speak to the request. He said we are the design and building company for this residence representing the Morans. Nyrma did a great job presenting the information. I am here to answer any questions you might have about the proffer amendments or the architecture that supports it.

Chair Baugh asked if there were any questions for the applicant's representative.

Vice Chair Porter said just a brief question about the decision to have the porch extend so far just what the design purpose was or what your rationale was.

Mr. Roberston said the Zoning Ordinance allows the uncovered balcony to project into this setback further than what this porch roof can project. We initially had this porch roof as a balcony and those two planes align in their projection towards Franklin Street. The decision to not make this a balcony and only have it a porched roof as nonaccessible was a part of the design process but at the end result having those alignments of those two planes along Franklin Street, the balcony and the porch roof was what we are looking for.

Vice Chair Porter said have you already built the porch overhang?

Mr. Robertson said no, we have not broken ground on the house yet.

Chair Baugh asked if there were any questions for the applicant's representative. Hearing none, he opened the public hearing and invited anyone in the room or on the phone wishing to speak to the request. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing and opened the matter for discussion.

Councilmember Dent said I would like to just recall when we approved this back in August 2023 part of the rationale of this place as I recall is to have one floor living for aging in place and that is part of why it needed the rezoning for smaller setbacks to have enough space on that one floor.

Vice Chair Porter said I will go ahead and call the question please.

Chair Baugh said that is a motion to approve as presented, is that correct?

Vice Chair Porter said that is correct, so moved.

Commissioner Kettler seconded the motion.

Chair Baugh called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Seitz	Aye
Commissioner Jezior	Aye
Councilmember Dent	Aye
Commissioner Kettler	Aye
Vice Chair Porter	Aye
Chair Baugh	Aye

The motion to recommend approval of the rezoning request passed (6-0). The recommendation will move forward to City Council on April 14, 2026.