



City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Roll Call

Present: 4 - Mayor Deanna R. Reed, Vice-Mayor Dany Fleming, Council Member Laura Dent and Council Member Monica Robinson

Absent: 1 - Council Member Nasser Alsaadun

Also Present: 4 - City Manager Ande Banks, City Attorney Chris Brown, City Clerk Pam Ulmer and Chief Matthew Tobia

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

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, that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

5.a. Minutes from the July 14, 2026 City Council Meeting

These minutes were approved on the consent agenda

6. Public Hearings

7. Regular Items

7.a. Consider approval of the proposed archway design by Maxwell Emcays for the entry

to the Spraygrounds at Ralph Sampson Park

Amy Snider, deputy city manager, provided a history of the Spraygrounds Public Art Project.

Mr. Steve Carpenter, donor, spoke about the project, locations where art is proposed, the art at the round-about that was chosen and approved previously, and the archway design from artist Maxwell Emcays, which is now needing to be approved by Council. He also reviewed the specifications of the anticipated mosaic art to be approved at a later date. He also requested approval of the Harris Pool sign and reviewed the specifics of the signage.

Mayor Reed asked about the mosaic and anticipated idea of the mosaic. She stated the diver on the original photo is her uncle. Mr. Carpenter shared the vision of what the mosaic and wall would do to capture the spirit of the photo.

Further discussion took place about how beautiful the archway is, the idea of the mosaic, and Council thanked the Carpenters for their generosity.

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

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

7.b. Consider advertising Real Estate delinquent taxes for years 2023 & 2024

Jeff Shafer, Treasurer, presented a request to approve the advertising of delinquent taxes as part of their collection process.

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, that this request be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

7.c. Consider removing delinquent Real Estate taxes for 2005 and delinquent Personal Property taxes for 2020

Jeff Shafer, Treasurer, presented a request to write off delinquent taxes as uncollectible for 2005 of Real Estate taxes and 2020 Personal Property taxes. He

stated the collection rates for those years is 99.9% for real estate and 99.6% for personal property. He noted that writing these taxes off does not stop any collection activities.

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

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

- 7.d.** Consider adopting a Resolution of Support for eight (8) VDOT Smart Scale Grant program applications.

Tom Hartman, director of Public Works, presented a request to adopt a Resolution related to eight (8) VDOT Smart Scale grant applications. He provided an overview of the Smart Scale grant program, reviewed the timeline, and the anticipated projects to be done with the grants if awarded.

Council stated Mr. Hartman and his staff have done a great job at preparing for these projects and getting the funding for other Smart Scale projects in the past. Council further discussed transportation improvements, bus stops, walkability and safety, community engagement on projects needed in the city, and how the projects are located over all of the city.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Dent, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

- 7.e.** Consider a request from Marilyn S. Pendlebury to rezone 1340 South Main Street

Adam Fletcher, director of Community Development, presented a rezoning request and two special use permits for property located at 1340 S. Main Street. He reviewed the history of these requests, the proffers offered, and reminded that Council tabled this item at the June 9, 2026, Council meeting, to allow the developer/owner to hear the concerns from the surrounding residents.

Council Member Robinson stated she is struggling with this development as to how it will affect the neighborhood and the traffic that may come from this development.

Further discussion took place regarding how the neighborhood will be impacted, this is the type of housing needed in the city, and if the retail space is necessary on the

ground floor.

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

Yes: 3 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming and Council Member Dent

No: 1 - Council Member Robinson

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

- 7.f.** Consider a request from Marilyn S. Pendlebury for a special use permit at 1340 South Main Street (to allow multifamily buildings with more than 12 units)

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, that this Special Use Permit be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 3 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming and Council Member Dent

No: 1 - Council Member Robinson

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

- 7.g.** Consider a request from Marilyn S. Pendlebury for a special use permit at 1340 South Main Street (to allow retail, offices, restaurants, etc.)

MR deny retail / failed for lack of second

ld / df to approve - MR No

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson to deny the special use permit request as presented. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, that this Special Use Permit be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 3 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming and Council Member Dent

No: 1 - Council Member Robinson

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

- 7.h.** Presentation of the proposed Legislative Strategy

Brian Vandenberg, assistant to the city manager, presented an overview of the city's proposed Legislative Strategy. He reviewed the following:

- * Core functions of the strategy;
- * Time line of strategy roll out;
- * Legislative Agenda Outline;

Council Member Dent stated she would like to be a part of the staff involved in this since she is involved with the Virginia Municipal League (VML).

Council spoke on how this is a great project, how this will help during events with VML and NLC, how it will help align the city collectively and be proactive on stopping the state from preempting local power and control.

This Presentation was received and filed.

7.i. Consider adopting a Resolution and Policy regarding the use of Automatic License Plate Recognition Systems in the City of Harrisonburg

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented a resolution and a policy related to the use of Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR's) and the non-renewal of the Flock contract. He reviewed the language in the policy and resolution.

He noted that this policy and resolution will not apply to the Emergency Communications System (ECC) and will not mandate any other Council to continue with this policy if they chose to review it.

Ande Banks, city manager, stated the contract with Flock will end on July 31, 2026 and at which point the system will go dark and a work order has already been placed to remove the cameras as soon as possible.

Council Member Dent spoke on how the policy/resolution states that the city values the privacy of its community and visitors, the protection of their civil rights and liberties, and the trust between members of the community and the Police Department, and noted that is a great purpose.

Further discussion took place regarding some recommended edits that were taken into consideration.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

7.j. Consider adopting an amendment to Section 7-2-19(b)(7) of the City Code, Conservation of water during emergencies or drought of the Harrisonburg City Code

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented an ordinance amendment related to drought emergencies. He stated according to the current Water Withdrawal Permit with DEQ and the current ordinance, if Rockingham County declares a drought emergency, the

city must also. He stated staff has worked with DEQ and had the requirement removed from the Water Withdrawal Permit, and the city ordinance now needs to be amended to show the same. The city will no longer be required to declare an emergency if the county does.

Council spoke about how this is an important amendment, as our water sources are not the same as the county.

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Council Member Robinson, to approve the ordinance amendment as presented. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

8. Supplementals

8.a. Consider a supplemental appropriation for the Harrisonburg City School Board

Ande Banks, City Manager, presented a supplemental appropriation for the Harrisonburg City Public Schools. He stated with the General Assembly finally passing their budget we now know the amount of funding going to the city schools, resulting in additional funding to the school fund and the school nutritional fund that will increase by \$1,724, 238.00 and \$3,252 respectively.

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

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

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

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, spoke on the upcoming primary election, and he hopes the candidates are against the tall grass and weed enforcement, and no B1-C.

Isaac Felix, 1030 W Market St, Pastor of Light of the World Church, stated they had their ribbon cutting in early March, and just wanted to introduce himself to Council and let them know some of the things the church will be doing.

Tom Domonoski, 461 Lee Avenue, thanked Council for the work they do for the city and the time they spend listening. He spoke on a small half street located between Court Square Theater and Circuit Court, how it was closed and proved that it did not affect traffic and could be closed permanently.

9.b. City Council and Staff

Council Member Dent spoke on an upcoming EPSAC meeting presentation on passenger rail; her recent appointment as Chair to the Infrastructure, Transportation, and Environmental Quality Committee with VML; and an upcoming meeting with Josephus Allmond, the Chief Energy Officer of the Commonwealth of Virginia;

Council Member Robinson spoke on the recent HRHA and Senator Warner event; a recent energy event at Emmanuel Mennonite Church; upcoming Black Community Walks to the Polls event; upcoming EMU Tools for School event; and an upcoming event called Building a Stronger Future Back to School supply donate / distribution from a local business.

Vice Mayor Fleming spoke on Senator Warner's visit to the city; a recent VML Board meeting; a recent NLC Board meeting in Louisville, KY; upcoming legislation; a recent Latino Business Council round table session; and work he is doing with local universities on a Shenandoah Valley AI Workforce Initiative;

Mayor Reed spoke on a recent Parks and Recreation Commission meeting; an upcoming Valley Business Keynote; a recent meeting with the Rabbi and members of Beth El; an upcoming dedication of the Lucy F. Simms Exhibit at Rocktown High School; her representation for Virginia on the 2026 cohort for the Hunt Institute Early Learning Nation Policy Fellowship;

10. Boards and Commissions

10.a. Harrisonburg Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, to reappoint Michael Collins, Ande Banks and Amy Snider as alternative to the Harrisonburg Rockingham REgional Sewer Authority. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

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

No: 0

11. Adjournment

At 9:28 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR