HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2026

1. Call to Order

Mayor LeBlanc called the September 8, 2026, Town Council work session to order at 7:00 PM in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Mayor Keven LeBlanc; and Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila, Kelvin Garcia, Michael T. Lloyd (participating remotely), and Alex Reyes.

Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick and Councilmember Naila Alam were absent.

Staff present during the meeting: Dan Hoffman, Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Deputy Town Manager; Chief Steven Pihonak, Herndon Police Department; Brent Heavner, Chief Communications Officer; Mike Shindledecker, Transportation Engineer; and Amanda Kertz, Town Clerk.

Mayor LeBlanc stated, for the record, under Section 2.2-3708.3, Subsection D, of the Code of Virginia, and in accordance with Section 2-4 of the Town Code, the Chair received a request from Councilmember Lloyd to participate through electronic communication means in tonight's work session from Nags Head, North Carolina, due to scheduled personal travel.

Determination of a Quorum

Mayor LeBlanc stated that there was a quorum of the public body physically assembled at the meeting location, with four Councilmembers present in the Herndon Council Chambers Building. Vice Mayor Hedrick and Councilmember Alam were absent.

Councilmember Lloyd confirmed that the room he was in was not open to the public, and that his participation in any closed meeting would remain confidential and not be disclosed to any unauthorized persons or entities.

With the concurrence of the Council, Councilmember Lloyd joined to participate in the meeting electronically that evening.

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Amend the Agenda

Mayor LeBlanc stated that the Council had a need to amend the agenda to go into closed meeting that evening.

Councilmember del Aguila moved to add a closed meeting, pursuant to the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, and that the agenda be so amended. Motion seconded by Councilmember Reyes.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd (remotely), Reyes, and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye." Vice Mayor Hedrick and Councilmember Alam were absent.

2. <u>Closed Meeting (agenda amended to include)</u>

a. A Closed Meeting pursuant to the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body
[agenda amended during the meeting to add the closed meeting.]

The closed meeting was held in the Hoover Conference Room in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia.

Councilmember del Aguila moved that the Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss the following as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion, which carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd (remotely), Reyes, and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye". Vice Mayor Hedrick and Councilmember Alam were absent.

The Council went into closed meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Councilmember Garcia moved to come out of the closed meeting. Councilmember Reyes seconded the motion, which carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd (remotely), Reyes, and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam and Vice Mayor Hedrick were absent.

The Council came out of the closed meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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Councilmember Cesar del Aguila moved to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, in the closed meeting just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed meeting and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed in a closed meeting under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as cited in that motion. Motion seconded by Councilmember Alex Reyes. The question was called on the motion, which carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd (remotely), Reyes, and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye." Vice Mayor Hedrick and Councilmember Alam were absent.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Absent: 2

Recess

At 7:27 p.m. Mayor LeBlanc called a brief recess, and at 7:33 p.m., the September 8, 2026, Town Council meeting reconvened in the Herndon Council Chambers, with five Councilmembers present, and Mayor LeBlanc presiding.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor LeBlanc stated that Council had previously met in a closed meeting with five members present. Four members were physically present at the meeting, with one member participating remotely. Two members were absent.

Mayor LeBlanc stated that, on behalf of the Town, he extended his deepest condolences to the people of Nepal following the catastrophic disaster that brought unimaginable loss and devastation. He mourns those who lost their lives, holds the missing and their families in his thoughts, and stands with all whose homes and communities have been forever changed. He expressed standing in solidarity with the Nepalese community here in Herndon and around the world. He offered heartfelt compassion and enduring hope to the people of Nepal and to those awaiting news of loved ones.

Mayor LeBlanc provided comments on the upcoming 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. He stated that he chooses to remember this tragic event in light of how the Town of Herndon and the nation came together after the attacks.

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Mayor LeBlanc provided information on upcoming events, including:

1. E-Bike Information Session on Wednesday, September 9, 6:00 p.m., at the Herndon Community Center hosted by the Herndon Police Department. The event is designed to help riders, parents, and community members better understand e-bike safety, classifications, and regulations.
2. Cornerstones and Fairfax County are hosting a free Community Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, September 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. Information about community health services and programs will be available. Details are posted on Fairfax County's website.
3. Puzzle-Palooza on Sunday September 20, 2026 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center. Participants are encourages to gather a team of up to four people and work on a 500-piece puzzle.

Mayor LeBlanc indicated that registration and information on Town events are available on the Town's website.

Comments and Disclosures for the Record

Mayor LeBlanc asked Amanda Kertz, Town Clerk, if she received comments for the record or signed disclosure declarations from Council. Ms. Kertz stated that comments were entered into the record on Discussion Item 3(a), Herndon Centennial Golf Course Hole #9 Protective Netting Request: Data Review and Mitigation Options. The Town Clerk did not receive additional public comments or disclosures on any other items listed on that meeting's agenda.

3. Discussion

a. Herndon Centennial Golf Course Hole #9 Protective Netting Request: Data Review and Mitigation Options

Mayor LeBlanc recognized Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Deputy Town Manager, to begin discussion on the request for protective netting at hole nine of the Herndon Centennial Golf Course from residents of the Eagle Lie neighborhood. Ms. Jovanovich outlined the impacts of the golf course reported by residents and discussed staff's efforts to address their concerns. Staff held a community meeting with residents and reviewed the issue with a cross-departmental team. She stated that some of the proposed mitigation strategies may require capital investment as directed by the Council.

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Ms. Jovanovich presented a data analysis of the various factors contributing to the golf course impacts on the neighborhood, including:

1. One claim has been submitted by the neighborhood since 2019.
2. The impact of Dominion Energy's removal of vegetation from the buffer between the golf course and the W&OD Trail.
3. A gap in the vegetation buffer near the 150-yard marker on hole nine.
4. Shot geometry analysis indicating that active play may not be the primary source of the golf balls entering the neighborhood.
5. Other contributing factors, including wildlife and mowing activities, that may move golf balls off the course.
6. No recorded personal injury incidents in the area and a low probability of injury to W&OD Trail users from active play.

Ms. Jovanovich reviewed potential mitigation strategies considered by staff, including:

1. Dominion Energy's plans to replant vegetation along the W&OD Trail to replace portions of the natural buffer removed in April 2026.
2. Enhancing Town vegetation along the W&OD Trail slope and closing the vegetation gap near hole nine.
3. Planting 10–20 trees in gaps and thinning areas along the golf course buffer adjacent to hole nine.
4. Addressing additional vegetation gaps on Town property.
5. Updating signage regarding golfers' responsibility for damage caused on the course.
6. Installing protective netting at heights of 60 or 80 feet, with 80 feet identified as the current standard. The estimated cost of 60-foot netting along the full buffer was approximately $244,500, compared with approximately $1.25 million for 80-foot netting. Ms. Jovanovich indicated that staff would need to consult with Dominion Energy regarding the feasibility of netting due to its proximity to power lines.

Staff presented two primary mitigation options for Council consideration:

1. Vegetation enhancements, additional signage, review of the Golf Course Master Plan, and follow-up with residents.
2. Installation of a netting system in combination with vegetation enhancements and signage.

There was discussion among the Council and staff regarding the proposed mitigation strategies, including:

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1. Funding options, including bonding, which was not considered a feasible option.
2. The effectiveness of 60-foot versus 80-foot netting and the cost-benefit analysis of netting compared with other mitigation strategies.
3. Reviewing the Golf Course Master Plan, including reconsideration of the tee box locations on hole nine.
4. Golf ball damage occurring throughout the golf course.
5. Planting additional trees to increase the buffer between the W&OD Trail and the golf course.
6. The need to consult with Dominion Energy regarding the feasibility of proposed netting heights.
7. Costs associated with the proposed solutions and potential consideration during the next fiscal year's budget discussions.

Following discussion and with the concurrence of the Council, staff was directed to plant trees this fall on Town property between the W&OD Trail and the golf course and to further evaluate netting options after consulting with Dominion Energy regarding feasible heights. Staff would return to the Town Council with an update on the request and associated budget considerations.

b. Traffic Calming, Crosswalks, and E-Bike Safety Discussion

Mayor LeBlanc recognized Dan Hoffman, Town Manager, who introduced Mike Shindledecker, Transportation Engineer, to provide an update on the roadway safety action plan and an overview of upcoming transportation projects.

Mr. Shindledecker reviewed recent transportation improvements, including the Council's adoption of standards for traffic calming and sidewalk installation. He discussed the process by which residents can request improvements to the Town's transportation network. He explained that residents can submit concerns or requests for consideration by the staff-based Traffic Engineering Improvement Committee (TEIC), which reviews issues and considers potential solutions. Requests can also be submitted through the Herndon on the Go app, linked on the Town's website.

Mr. Shindledecker reviewed the recent adoption of the RSAP and stated that projects identified in the plan would be prioritized to reduce injuries associated with roadway and transportation facilities. Staff would monitor implementation and provide periodic updates to the Council on the plan's progress.

There was discussion among the Council and staff regarding transportation improvements, including:

1. Recent improvements to Bennett Street near Herndon High School, for which staff received positive feedback.

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2. Transportation safety concerns related to the beginning of the school year.
3. Request for staff to continue providing updates on transportation projects and programs.

Chief Steven Pihonak, Herndon Police Department (HPD), provided an update on e-bike safety, noting that e-bike use had increased throughout the Town since the spring. He stated that e-bikes were frequently observed on the W&OD Trail and explained that vehicles exceeding the Class 3 e-bike standard, which allows pedal assistance up to 28 miles per hour, do not qualify as electric bicycles under Virginia law. He further explained that certain electric-powered vehicles may be classified as motorcycles rather than e-bikes.

Chief Pihonak emphasized the department's focus on educating children and parents about e-bike safety and the distinctions between e-bikes, electric dirt bikes, and motorcycles. He highlighted an upcoming e-bike informational session at the Herndon Community Center scheduled for the following day. He explained that electric dirt bikes may be classified as motorcycles under state law and are subject to different legal requirements, which purchasers may not fully understand. He also reviewed applicable laws governing e-bikes, mopeds, and motorcycles, along with HPD's enforcement efforts.

There was discussion among the Council and staff regarding e-bike safety, including:

1. Safety concerns related to e-scooters and e-bikes.
2. Education and enforcement tools available to HPD.
3. Classification of e-bikes relative to motorcycles, electric dirt bikes, and mopeds.
4. The potential request for additional police e-bikes in the next fiscal year.
5. The Two Towns Bike Rodeo with the Vienna Police Department on September 26, and the possibility of holding a bike rodeo in Herndon.

4. Roundtable

Councilmember Lloyd (remotely): no comments.

Councilmember Garcia: provided comments on a successful backpack drive he recently held with Councilmember del Aguila.

Councilmember del Aguila: Stated that the Green Lizard Foundation was targeting either April 17 or April 24, 2027, to hold a criterium bicycle race in Town. He indicated that the organization was interviewing race directors and that he looked forward to the event. He noted that the Town had awarded a grant to the Green Lizard Foundation through the Community Donations Program to assist with planning the event.

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Councilmember del Aguila distributed a PowerPoint presentation to the Town Council, which was collected by the Town Attorney following the discussion due to legal requirements associated with the topic. He requested that Council discuss refuse collection practices at an upcoming work session and consider potential solutions.

There was discussion among the Council and staff regarding current refuse collection practices on pipestem driveways, and Council requested additional information from staff.

Councilmember Reyes: no comments.

Mayor LeBlanc: shared that he had received concerns from residents regarding tall grass in several areas of Town and a damaged gateway sign.

Mr. Hoffman stated that staff would investigate the damaged sign and review the identified locations for mowing.

Responding to Mayor LeBlanc, Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney, provided an update on the status of Parcel H, also known as the Comstock property. She stated that the Town had filed litigation against Comstock the previous year in the Fairfax County Circuit Court seeking the return of the downtown property known as Parcel H. The Town was awaiting a decision on its motion for summary judgment. She indicated that late the previous week, the judge had advised that she would enter an order removing the September 14 trial date and would issue a ruling on the Town's motion for summary judgment, potentially eliminating the need for a trial. Ms. Yeatts noted that any decision would be subject to appeal and that staff would keep the Council and public updated.

Dan Hoffman, Town Manager: thanked staff from the Herndon Police Department, Department of Public Works, and Information Technology Department for their efforts during the recent storm.

5. Closed Meeting

a. A Closed Meeting pursuant to the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for discussion of prospective candidates relative to appointments to boards and commissions

Mayor LeBlanc stated that the Council needed to go into a closed meeting and that the appropriate meeting notices were provided in accordance with state law. The closed meeting was held in the Hoover Conference Room in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia.

Mayor LeBlanc stated that Councilmember Lloyd is participating remotely this

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evening, and he was previously admitted to the meeting in accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.3, Herndon Town Code Section 2-4, and the Rules of Procedures of the Herndon Town Council. He asked Councilmember Lloyd to confirm that the room he was in was not open to the public, and that his participation in the closed meeting would remain confidential and not be disclosed to any unauthorized persons or entities. Councilmember Lloyd replied in the affirmative.

Mayor LeBlanc noted a quorum for the record of five members, with four members physically present, and one participating remotely.

Councilmember Garcia moved that the Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss the following as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for discussion of prospective candidates relative to appointments to boards and commissions. Councilmember del Aguila seconded the motion, which carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, and Mayor LeBlanc voting “Aye.” Vice Mayor Hedrick and Councilmember Alam were absent.

At 9:11 p.m., Mayor LeBlanc called a brief recess. At 9:15 p.m., the Council convened in closed meeting in the Hoover Conference Room, with five members present and Mayor LeBlanc presiding.

Councilmember Reyes moved to come out of the closed meeting. Motion seconded by Councilmember del Aguila and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, and Mayor LeBlanc voting “Aye.” Vice Mayor Hedrick and Councilmember Alam were absent.

The Council came out of the closed meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Councilmember Reyes moved to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, in the closed meeting just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed meeting and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed in a closed meeting under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as cited in that motion. Motion seconded by Councilmember Garcia and carried by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, and Mayor LeBlanc voting “Aye.” Vice Mayor Hedrick and Councilmember Alam were absent.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Absent: 2

6. Adjournment

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There being no further business, Mayor LeBlanc adjourned the September 8, 2026 Town Council Work Session at 9:21 p.m.

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Town Clerk

Minutes approved by Town Council: _____

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