TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

1. Call to Order

Mayor LeBlanc called the March 25, 2025, Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Mayor Keven LeBlanc; Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick; and Councilmembers Naila Alam, Cesar del Aguila, Kelvin Garcia (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Michael T. Lloyd, and Alex Reyes.

Staff present during the meeting: Christopher Martino, Interim Town Manager; Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich and Scott Robinson, Acting Deputy Town Managers; Chief Steven Pihonak, Herndon Police Department; Officer Kelyn Diaz, Herndon Police Department; Mike Mueller, Golf Course General Manager; Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development; Collin Okoniewski, Planning and Operations Manager; Marjorie Sloan, Director of Finance; and Amanda Kertz, Acting Town Clerk.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Mayor LeBlanc led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Determination of a Quorum

Mayor LeBlanc determined there was a quorum of all Councilmembers present.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor LeBlanc stated that on Wednesday, April 2, Dranesville District Supervisor Jimmy Bierman is hosting a Town Hall at Herndon High School, in the cafeteria at 7:00 p.m. The event will be hosted together with Robyn Lady, Dranesville District Representative to the Fairfax County School Board. Topics will focus on Fairfax County's proposed budget, and he stated that more information is available on Fairfax County's website. He encouraged all present to participate in the planning for the Fairfax County budget.

3. Presentations/Reports/Comments

a. Proclamation to recognize National Vietnam War Veterans Day

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Mayor LeBlanc recognized Councilmember Reyes to read the Proclamation to Recognize National Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, 2025, into the record.

[Note: Councilmember Garcia arrived at 7:02 p.m.]

Mayor LeBlanc stated that members of the audience are invited to comment on the proclamation during the “Comments from the Audience” portion of the agenda.

b. Town Manager Report

Christopher Martino, Interim Town Manager, stated that the staff has presented the proposed FY 2026 budget at the past three Town Council meetings. He stated that at the Council’s next work session, staff will follow up on the questions that were asked at the March 18 work session. He encouraged the Town Council to send any additional questions to him so that they can be answered at next week's work session. Mr. Martino reviewed the anticipated proposed budget adoption schedule.

c. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember Alam: stated that she attended an event for the Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties, where they discussed how to stop cyberbullying at schools.

Councilmember Lloyd: no comments.

Councilmember Reyes: thanked veterans for their service, and thanked those in attendance for tonight’s meeting.

Councilmember del Aguila: echoed Councilmember Reyes' comments in thanking veterans for their service and all those who are attending this evening.

Councilmember del Aguila asked the Town Clerk to look into how Councilmembers' email addresses are listed on the Town's website.

Councilmember del Aguila thanked those who have submitted comments on the budget. He reflected on the proposed FY 2026 budget, emphasizing the importance of aligning priorities with the Strategic Plan. He encouraged everyone to review the plan and asked staff to explore new sources of revenue to help offset rising costs. He expressed support for sustaining community festivals that reflect Herndon's diversity, and providing opportunities that welcome and engage new community groups.

Councilmember Garcia: echoed his colleagues' comments in thanking veterans for their service and all those who are attending this evening.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: echoed his colleagues' comments in thanking veterans for their service and all those who are attending this evening.

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Mayor LeBlanc thanked Councilmember Reyes for reading the proclamation and expressed appreciation to American Legion Post 184 for requesting its presentation. He encouraged all to remember veterans and their families, and to continue to provide support.

Mayor LeBlanc announced several upcoming community events: (1) the Kids Fishing Derby, scheduled for the morning of Saturday, March 29, behind the Herndon Police Station; and (2) Puzzle-Palooza, taking place at the Herndon Community Center on Sunday afternoon, March 30. He encouraged residents to visit the Town's website for additional details and registration.

Mayor LeBlanc also addressed recent community concerns regarding tree and brush trimming by Dominion Energy along the W&OD Trail. He noted that Dominion had issued statements regarding clear cutting and requested the Interim Town Manager to add this topic to the next work session agenda, with the intent of issuing a formal statement similar to the one provided by Fairfax County.

Mayor LeBlanc welcomed Chief of Police Steven Pihonak and acknowledged his leadership and commitment to community policing. He thanked Chief Pihonak and the entire Herndon Police Department for their continued dedication and service.

4. Comments from the Audience

Mayor LeBlanc reviewed the process and asked those who wanted to provide Comments from the Audience to come forward.

Recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Day – Proclamation (Item 3(a)):

- Jasbinder Singh, 804 3rd Street, Herndon: also submitted written comments outlining the history of the Comstock development.
- Andrew Yarbrough; Post Commander for American Legion Post 184, 4512 University Drive, Fairfax.
- Jay Hadlock, 505 Alabama Drive, Herndon: also requested that the FY 2026 budget include funding for two bulk waste pickups.
- Barry Clendenin, 520 Fillmore Street, Herndon: also discussed the FY 2026 budget.

Comments on the FY 2026 Proposed Budget:

- Arnoldo (last name inaudible) 930 Branch Drive, Herndon: also discussed the downtown redevelopment project and Arts Herndon.
- Susan Powell, 419 Madison Forest Drive, Herndon: also discussed the unity score she is developing for Town-sponsored events.

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Comments on Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street:

- Demeter Capsalis, 1483 Powells Tavern Place, Herndon: also discussed immigration enforcement in Herndon.

- Rusty Budd, 330 Reneau Way, Herndon; echoed Demeter Capsalis' comments.

General Comments:

- Andrew Scherzinger, 2272 Astoria Circle, Herndon: provided comments and expressed concern about immigration enforcement in Herndon and throughout the country.

- Steve Mitchell, 1291 Monroe Street, Herndon: discussed the following: (1) a recently filed appeal, (2) public communications with the Town Clerk's office, (3) contact information for Councilmembers on Town website, (4) and overall Town transparency.

- Alexander Burke, 910 Jorss Place, Herndon: discussed the downtown redevelopment project, and expressed interest in bringing back the Herndon Festival.

- Newt Salamander, 2272 Astoria Circle, Herndon: provided comments about the community.

5. Public Hearings

a. Ordinance 25-O-03 to approve Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment ZOTA #25-02, to amend Chapter 78 (ZONING), Article XV (Decision-Making Authorities, Application Review, and Permitting), Table 78-152.2(b)(3) (Fees for Development Applications) to adjust development fees in accordance with a comprehensive fee evaluation

Certificates of Publication were filed from the Editor of the Fairfax County Times Newspapers, showing that notice of said public hearing items had been duly advertised in the March 7 and March 14, 2025 issues.

Mayor LeBlanc opened the public hearing and recognized Collin Okoniewski, Planning Operations Manager, who outlined the proposed changes to the Town's application fees, explaining that a comprehensive evaluation had been conducted to assess the estimated staff time and resources required to process various types of development applications. As part of the analysis, the Town's existing fees were benchmarked against those of similar sized jurisdictions, with fees mandated by the Code of Virginia or those recently adopted were excluded from the review.

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Mr. Okoniewski noted that certain fees currently administered by the Community Development Department may be transferred to the Department of Public Works in the near future. He highlighted projected revenue impacts and explained that the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment (ZOTA) is intended to take effect July 1, 2025, aligning with the FY 2026 budget process.

The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed ordinance at its February 24, 2025 meeting and recommended approval. Town staff also recommended approval as presented.

There was discussion among the Council and staff on this item, including: (1) Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) connection fees; (2) current rate structures; (3) fee structures and benchmarking comparisons to nearby jurisdictions, as well as the timing of similar adjustments in these localities; (4) fee impact on large-scale developers versus everyday residents, and (5) the historical context for the adjustments.

Mayor LeBlanc requested staff consider process improvements to reduce back-and-forth communication with applicants and streamline application intake.

Mayor LeBlanc called for comments from the audience.

Seeing no comments from the audience, Mayor LeBlanc closed the public hearing and moved to Council level for discussion and action.

Councilmember del Aguila moved to approve Ordinance 25-O-03 to approve Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment ZOTA #25-02, to amend Chapter 78 (ZONING), Article XV (Decision-Making Authorities, Application Review, and Permitting), Table 78-152.2(b)(3) (Fees for Development Applications) to adjust development fees in accordance with a comprehensive fee evaluation, as presented.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Lloyd.

There were brief comments from Council.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye."

6. <u>Consent</u>

a. Resolution 25-G-22 to Award Contract, IFB 25-04, Plain Concrete & Storm Drainage Construction

b. November 12, 2024, Town Council Meeting Minutes

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c. November 20, 2024, Town Council Special Meeting - Closed Meeting Minutes

d. December 3, 2024, Town Council Work Session Minutes

e. December 10, 2024, Town Council Special Meeting - Closed Meeting Minutes

f. December 10, 2024, Town Council Meeting Minutes

On motion of Vice Mayor Hedrick, seconded by Councilmember Reyes, the Consent Agenda items were approved and carried by a unanimous roll call vote, as presented, without comment. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor LeBlanc voting " Aye."

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor LeBlanc adjourned the March 25, 2025 Town Council regular meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Town Clerk

Minutes approved by Town Council : _____

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