TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 28, 2025

1. Call to Order

Mayor LeBlanc called the October 28, 2025, Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Mayor Keven LeBlanc; Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick; and Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila, Kelvin Garcia (arrived at 7:01 p.m.), Michael T. Lloyd, and Alex Reyes.

Councilmember Naila Alam was absent.

Staff present during the meeting: Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Scott Robinson, Acting Deputy Town Manager; Chief Steven Pihonak, Herndon Police Department; Brent Heavner, Chief Communications Officer; Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development; Tammy Chastain, Acting Director of Public Works; David Stromberg, Zoning Administrator; Becky Skillin, Deputy Town Clerk; and Amanda Kertz, 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 six Councilmembers present. Councilmember Alam was absent.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor LeBlanc provided updates on the following:

1. The State of the Town address is tomorrow, Wednesday, October 29, 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

2. The next Town Council work session is on Wednesday, November 5, which was moved due to Election Day on Tuesday, November 4. Mayor LeBlanc encouraged residents to vote on Election Day, or to vote early at the Herndon Fortnightly Library.

DRAFT

Mayor LeBlanc encouraged those interested to visit the Fairfax County Office of Elections website to find more information for voters.

3. Mayor LeBlanc wished those present a happy and safe Halloween on Friday, October 31. He indicated that safety information for Halloween is posted on Fairfax County's website.

4. Town offices will be closed for Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11. Mayor LeBlanc stated that he will present a proclamation to the American Legion at a commemoration ceremony on that date. He stated that the Town Council Regular Meeting is moved to Wednesday, November 12, due to the observation of Veterans Day.

5. Mayor LeBlanc provided an update about a robust database of resources he helped compile for youth in Herndon, through his work with Dr. Noto, Principal at Herndon High School, and the Youth Safety Intervention Team.

3. Presentations/Reports/Comments

a. Town Manager Report

Scott Robinson, Acting Deputy Town Manager, did not have any comments.

b. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember del Aguila: expressed his excitement over the new Town Manager, Dan Hoffman, joining the Town on November 10.

Councilmember Reyes: provided comments about a recent incident during which a Herndon High School student was shot in nearby Fairfax County. He referenced a news report and expressed frustration with how it appears this situation was handled, a sentiment that he stated is shared by the members of the Hispanic community that he has spoken with. He encouraged collaboration to improve safety at schools and in the Town.

Councilmember Garcia: echoed Councilmember Reyes' statement about the tragic incident involving the Herndon High School student. He also noted that a violent incident occurred in Herndon last Friday, and expressed his concern over these incidents. He asked those present to keep the victim's families in their prayers. Councilmember Garcia shared that he started a group called "Councilmember Kelvin Garcia's Youth Advisory Committee," and provided comments about the group.

Councilmember Lloyd: provided comments on the following:

DRAFT

1. The State of the Town community meeting on October 29 and encouraged all to attend.

2. The Annual Report brochure, recently distributed to residents.

3. The U.S. Government shutdown, which is in its fifth week. He stated that while he and his colleagues do not always agree, they get the job done in the Town of Herndon.

4. The grand opening of the Lidl grocery store on the morning of October 28.

5. Reminded those present that Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: discussed the ongoing U.S. Government shutdown and acknowledged that many in this area have been furloughed or have to work without pay. He shared some resources available in Herndon and Fairfax County to assist those impacted by the shutdown. Vice Mayor Hedrick also provided comments on the following:

1. The Herndon Homecoming Parade, Saturday, October 11. Vice Mayor Hedrick congratulated the winners of the parade float competition and stated that he enjoyed participating in it.

2. The State of the Town meeting, which he would miss, as he would be representing the Town at a Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) subcommittee meeting on transportation matters.

3. The annual Virginia Municipal League (VML) Conference that he, Mayor LeBlanc, and several Town staff attended in Roanoke. He enjoyed the event and liked speaking to those attending from other jurisdictions, including the incoming Town Manager.

Mayor LeBlanc: provided comments on the following:

1. The impact of the U.S. Government shutdown, stating that it is acutely felt in Northern Virginia.

2. The potential loss of WIC and SNAP benefits, which were discussed during a recent Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) Mayors and Chairs meeting that he attended. He shared information about resources available through nonprofits, faith-based, and community organizations like Cornerstones, and he encouraged the community to help those in need.

DRAFT

3. The Opportunity Neighborhood Community Ambassadors graduation, which he recently attended. He congratulated the graduates, who serve as leaders in their community.

4. The positive impact of arts in the community, which he observed at the Arts Fairfax Awards on Friday, October 24.

5. "National Massage Therapy Week," during which he presented a mayoral proclamation to a group of licensed massage therapists in Herndon.

4. Comments from the Audience

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

The following individuals provided comments:

- Ryan Jones, 12913 Center Park Circle, Herndon: submitted written comments for the record and provided comments on behalf of NOVA-TRAC, where he serves as a founder. He asked the Town Council to consider a resolution to request a state-led feasibility study to complete rail services along the W&OD Trail and indicated that the Town of Hamilton, Virginia, had approved such a resolution of support.

- Steve Montgemory, 815 Branch Drive, Herndon: provided photos for the record of the appearance of trees across from the Fortnightly Library. He asked that the dead trees be removed, and appropriate new vegetation be added.

- Jessica Schelling, 501 Woodshire Lane, Herndon: provided comments on behalf of the Friends of Runnymede Park, an organization of which she serves as President. She thanked the Town for supporting NatureFest, which was held on Sunday, September 28, at Runnymede Park. She provided information about the positive impact of the event. She stated that a seed exchange and bird watching event would take place on Saturday, November 8, at Runnymede Park.

- Alexandar Burke, 910 Jorss Place, Herndon: provided comments about the W&OD Trail, requesting that the Town ask Dominion Energy not to trim the trees too far back, which is what happened that past summer in the Town of Vienna on the Trail.

- Walter Shorter, 559 Early Fall Court, Herndon: stated that he represents the Four Seasons Homeowners Association, where he serves as Vice President. He provided comments on the following: (1) asked the town to work with Dominion Energy to help expedite some safety issues in his neighborhood;

DRAFT

(2) expressed excitement about the upcoming State of the Town Address; (3) thanked the Department of Public Works staff, who recently worked with his neighborhood on sewer and water system issues; and (4) encouraged residents who need assistance to contact the organization "She Believes In Me" about upcoming food and clothing donation opportunities.

5. Public Hearings

a. Ordinance 25-O-19 to approve and authorize the mayor to sign a Third Amendment to Franchise Agreement between the Town of Herndon and Cavalier Telephone, LLC, to extend the term for an additional ten (10) years, update notice information, and add a 30-day notice requirement for any assignment of the franchise

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 Friday, October 10 and October 17, 2025 issues.

Mayor LeBlanc opened the public hearing and recognized Tammy Chastain, Acting Director of Public Works, who stated that the proposed Ordinance is an extension of the current agreement. She stated that there are no proposed changes to the current agreement or routes. It is a 10-year extension that will be retroactively effective to February 2025.

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

Vice Mayor Hedrick moved to approve Ordinance 25-O-19 to approve and authorize the mayor to sign a Third Amendment to Franchise Agreement between the Town of Herndon and Cavalier Telephone, LLC, to extend the term for an additional ten (10) years, update notice information, and add a 30-day notice requirement for any assignment of the franchise, as presented.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

There were brief comments from Council.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor LeBlanc voting “Aye.” Councilmember Alam was absent.

b. Ordinance 25-O-20 to adopt Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment ZOTA #25-04, to amend Chapter 78 (ZONING), to update sections for conformance with the Code of Virginia, to clarify certain processes, notice requirements, and make other housekeeping amendments as deemed necessary and appropriate

DRAFT

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 Friday, October 10 and October 17, 2025, issues.

Mayor LeBlanc opened the public hearing and recognized David Stromberg, Zoning Administrator, who stated that the proposed ordinance is a housekeeping text amendment. The General Assembly passed legislation that superseded the Town's local ordinance, and therefore, the Town's ordinances have to be updated. He reviewed the proposed changes, which includes: (1) reducing the locality's site plan review period, from 65 to 45 days; and (2) no longer requiring a pre-application meeting with staff, which is still strongly encouraged.

There was brief discussion among Council and staff about the shortened timeframe for site plan review. Responding to Councilmember Lloyd, Mr. Stromberg discussed how staff is working through the altered deadlines.

Mayor LeBlanc called for comments from the audience.

The public hearing was held, and the following individual provided testimony:

- Alexander Burke, 910 Jorss Place, Herndon: expressed concern about the shortened staff review time period.

Mayor LeBlanc stated that because the change resulted from an update to State law, state representatives would be the appropriate officials to contact for concerns regarding the change in the review period.

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

Councilmember Reyes moved to approve Ordinance 25-O-20 to adopt Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment ZOTA #25-04, to amend Chapter 78 (ZONING), to update sections for conformance with the Code of Virginia, to clarify certain processes, notice requirements, and make other housekeeping amendments as deemed necessary and appropriate, as presented.

Motion seconded by Councilmember Lloyd.

There were brief comments from Council.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmember del Aguila, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Lloyd, Councilmember Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick, Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

6. Consent

DRAFT

a. Resolution 25-G-59 to establish a Town of Herndon Youth Engagement Policy

b. Resolution 25-G-60 to award a donation to Arts Herndon in support of a Juneteenth event held June 21, 2025

c. Approval of Minutes

i. September 9, 2025, Town Council Work Session Minutes

ii. September 13, 2025, Town Council Special Meeting - Closed Meeting Minutes

iii. September 23, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes

iv. October 7, 2025, Town Council Work Session

On motion of Councilmember del Aguila, seconded by Councilmember Reyes, the Consent Agenda items were approved and carried by a 6-0 roll call vote, as presented, without comment. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

7. <u>Adjournment</u>

There being no further business, Mayor LeBlanc adjourned the October 28, 2025, Town Council Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Town Clerk

Minutes approved by Town Council : _____

[Note: Approved resolutions and ordinances are on file in the Town Clerk's office.]

DRAFT