HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 2025

1. Call to Order

Mayor LeBlanc called the February 4, 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, Michael T. Lloyd, and Alex Reyes.

Staff present during the meeting: Christopher Martino, Interim Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich and Scott Robinson, Acting Deputy Town Managers; Chief Maggie DeBoard, Herndon Police Department; Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development; Tammy Chastain and John Irish, Acting Directors of Public Works; Anne Papa, Chief Communications Officer; Mike Farr, Utility Manager; and Amanda Kertz, Acting Town Clerk.

Determination of a Quorum

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

Moment of Silence

Mayor LeBlanc asked for a Moment of Silence to remember those that were killed or affected by the tragic plane and helicopter accident near Reagan National Airport, as well as in the plane accident in Philadelphia. He thanked the first responders for their efforts in assisting the victims of both events.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor LeBlanc provided comments on movement in the Town's legislative program before the General Assembly. He stated that one of the items was a bill requiring the labeling of pork in products, sponsored by Councilmember Alam, which had passed the Virginia House of Delegates earlier that day. He stated that regarding another item on the legislative agenda, support for a land value tax study, was likely not moving forward. Delegate Shin encouraged the Town to submit the legislation in lieu of requesting a study.

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Comments and Disclosures for the Record

Mayor LeBlanc asked Amanda Kertz, Acting 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 2(b), Town Calendar Process Briefing. She stated that the Town Clerk did not receive additional public comments or disclosures on any other items listed on that meeting's agenda.

Comments from Staff

Mayor LeBlanc called on Chief Maggie DeBoard, Herndon Police, to provide updates on recent police matters in the Town.

Chief DeBoard advised that a statement was issued to the community earlier that day to assure residents that the Herndon Police Department (HPD) does not participate in deportation raids or enforce federal civil detainers, and that HPD is committed to serving and protecting all members of the community with professionalism, fairness, and integrity. Chief DeBoard reaffirmed that the HPD works with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) strictly on matters pertaining to violent crime.

Chief DeBoard discussed a shooting incident that had occurred the prior week near Worldgate, and provided details, including: (1) status of the investigation; (2) use of a safety resource officer (SRO) while responding to the incident; and (3) additional support received from Fairfax County police. Chief DeBoard further discussed the following matters related to Worldgate, including: (1) number of police patrols; (2) number of recent service calls; (3) number of recent arrests; (4) use of license plate reader (LPR) cameras in the area; and (5) collaboration between police and homeowners associations in the area.

There was discussion among the Council and staff about public safety, including: (1) safety around the Metro area; (2) mental health and substance abuse issues; (3) emergency response time to incidents; and (4) actions homeowners and homeowners associations can take to address and report safety issues.

2. Discussion

a. Stormwater Management Program Briefing

Mayor LeBlanc recognized Tammy Chastain and John Irish, Acting Directors of Public Works, who provided a briefing on the stormwater management program. Ms. Chastain reviewed the infrastructure components and staff organization that are funded through the Stormwater Fund. She then reported on the completion of two restoration projects at Dominion Ridge Area Pond and Sugarland South. She

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noted that 25 percent of the system had been inspected in FY 25, which was ahead of schedule due to the hiring of two experienced staff members.

Mr. Irish discussed MS4 permits, which help regulate pollutants entering stormwater systems. These permits, issued since 2003 and renewed every five years, require annual reporting to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Mr. Irish provided an overview of the updated MS4 permits requirements and discussed several completed, ongoing, and future stormwater projects.

Mr. Irish discussed Stormwater Fund revenue, stating that the Town receives approximately $440,000 annually from Fairfax County via a tri-party agreement that includes the Town of Vienna. Additional funding from the General Fund addresses shortfalls. Expenditures include routine maintenance, MS4 compliance activities, and capital projects.

There was discussion among Council and staff on the stormwater update, including: (1) FY 26 budget considerations; (2) recent inspection results; (3) public and private stormwater facilities; (3) flood zones and flood alleviation considerations; (4) water quality; (5) information available in the database created; (6) requirements for future projects; (7) tri-area agreement; and (8) request to take a proactive approach by monitoring and addressing potential issues early.

b. Town Calendar Process Briefing

Mayor LeBlanc recognized Anne Papa, Chief Communications Officer, who stated that the Town calendar is produced by the communications department, and has remained immensely popular among Town residents. She stated that until 2010, the Town employed a photographer to produce the calendar photos, but in 2011, the Town started holding an annual photo competition through Arts Herndon. She outlined the annual photo competition and selection process, stating that while many photos were submitted last year, there was limited diversity among them. Ms. Papa noted that outreach is conducted in both English and Spanish to encourage broader participation.

There was discussion among the Council and staff about the Town calendar and photography competition, including aligning the process with the Strategic Plan and encouraging diversity in photo submissions. Suggestions to improve the process included engaging the Community Inclusion and Engagement Committee (CIEC) and Herndon Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC); utilizing Town-supported events to encourage more photo submissions, encouraging participation from seasonal sporting events, and increasing promotional efforts among diverse communities.

Councilmember Alam requested that staff provide advance notice to non-profits hosting Community Cultural Festivals and to encourage taking photos at these events.

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Vice Mayor Hedrick asked staff to create a process for debriefing with non-profits after Community Cultural Festivals, to look at lessons learned from the event, and to gather photos from event.

Mayor LeBlanc suggested improved pre-event communication to photo contributors; looking into creating a digital version of the calendar; translating the Mayor's message into Spanish; and adding a QR code linking to the Town's website.

Councilmember Reyes recommended verbal promotion of the photo contest to better reach residents.

3. Roundtable

Councilmember Reyes: stated that he and Mayor LeBlanc attended NextStop Theatre's production, Native Gardens, and he encouraged everyone to attend the play. Information is available on the NextStop Theatre website.

Councilmember Lloyd: thanked the staff for the work done on items during the last Town Council meeting, including Town branding and questions around Zoning.

Councilmember del Aguila: thanked Mayor LeBlanc and Chief DeBoard for addressing the fear that is out there in a large part of the community, and also thanked his fellow Councilmembers for allowing him to bring forward several initiatives.

Councilmember Alam: thanked Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney, and Senator Jennifer Boysko for their work on the Pork Bill that was before the General Assembly.

Councilmember Garcia: thanked the staff for their presentations. He stated that he and Councilmember del Aguila recently attended a roundtable talk focused on addressing fears in the Latino community and is thankful for the strong stance Herndon has to ensure the safety of the community.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: no comments.

Mayor LeBlanc: echoed Councilmember Reyes' comments about the NextStop Theatre's production of Native Gardens.

Mayor LeBlanc stated that the is working with principals from schools that represent Town children, to address ongoing concerns over child safety.

Christopher Martino, Interim Town Manager: reiterated his comments about the inclement weather expected on Wednesday into Thursday. He stated that he is continuing to monitor directives coming out of the federal administration for any policies that directly impact the Town.

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4. 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.

Councilmember Reyes moved that the Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss the following as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for discussion of prospective candidates relative to appointments to boards and commissions. Councilmember Garcia seconded 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.”

At 8:31 p.m., Mayor LeBlanc called a brief recess, and at 8:38 p.m., the closed meeting reconvened in the Hoover Conference Room, all members present, with Mayor LeBlanc presiding.

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

The Council came out of the closed meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Councilmember Garcia 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 Alam and carried by unanimous roll call vote. The vote was: Councilmembers Alam, del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor LeBlanc voting “Aye.”

Aye: 7
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor LeBlanc adjourned the February 4, 2025, Town Council work session at 8:58 p.m.

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Amanda E.M. Kertz
Acting Town Clerk

Minutes approved by Town Council : _____

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