TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
Tuesday, October 7, 2025

1. Call to Order

Mayor LeBlanc called the October 7, 2025, Town Council work session 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 Cesar del Aguila, Kelvin Garcia (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Michael T. Lloyd, and Alex Reyes (arrived at 7:39 p.m.).

Councilmember Alam was absent.

Staff present during the meeting were: Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Interim Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Scott Robinson, Acting Deputy Town Manager; Brent Heavner, Chief Communications Officer; Margie Tacci, Deputy Town Clerk; and Becky Skillin, Deputy Town Clerk.

Determination of a Quorum

Mayor LeBlanc determined there was a quorum of four Councilmembers present. Councilmembers Reyes and Garcia had not yet arrived. Councilmember Alam was absent.

Mayor Announcements

Amend the Agenda

Mayor LeBlanc stated that there was a need to amend the agenda to include two additional closed meeting topics. He asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add two closed meeting topics, pursuant to the Code of Virginia Sections:

- Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the downtown where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; and

- Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice, relative to a criminal prosecution.

Councilmember del Aguila moved to amend the agenda to include the two additional closed meeting items, and Councilmember Lloyd seconded the motion.

The question was called on the motion, which carried by 4-0 roll call vote. Councilmembers del Aguila, Lloyd, Vice Mayor Hedrick, and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye." Councilmembers Reyes and Garcia had not yet arrived. Councilmember Alam was absent.

Mayor Announcements

Mayor LeBlanc provided updates on the following:

1. The next Town Council Regular Meeting is on Tuesday, October 28. The schedule listed in the printed Town calendar and on the website for November and December remains as printed.
2. Herndon's first Community Picnic is on Thursday, October 9, at Bready Park. Those interested should follow the Town's social media channels for more information.
3. Several Councilmembers, staff, and Mayor LeBlanc plan to attend the Virginia Municipal League Conference (VML), October 11-14, 2025.
4. The Town Council will participate in the Herndon High School Homecoming Parade on Saturday morning, October 11.
5. Mayor LeBlanc will be presenting the State of the Town on Wednesday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers. Spanish language interpretation will be provided.

2. Discussion

a. Legislative Agenda Discussion

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

Mayor LeBlanc provided background on the legislative agenda, noting the need for position statements for legislators so that all types of localities are included in discussions when there are revenue and land use considerations. He also noted that amendments to the Town Charter may be considered to incorporate minor but important revisions. He recognized Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney, for comments.

Ms. Yeatts stated that the Town Charter has not changed in many years, and though the legislature had not been entertaining charter amendments for some time, the legislature may be receptive to a few housekeeping revisions. She outlined the following proposed amendments:

1. Section 4.1: Expand the Town Manager's required domicile radius beyond the Town limits, while remaining in proximity.

2. Section 5: Update the appointments section, to update the language to be concurrent with State and Federal employment law.
3. Section 7.5: Remove outdated language relating to a disbanded school board, and to accurately reflect Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) as the school authority.

Ms. Yeatts stated that, consistent with current practice, staff will recommend that the Council consider adopting the Virginia Municipal League (VML) polices resulting from the 2025 Annual Conference. Position statements are expected in November.

There was discussion among Council and staff on the legislative agenda items under consideration. Staff will proceed with preparation of the legislative agenda as discussed, including the proposed charter amendments for Council consideration.

b. Request to consider a donation to Arts Herndon in support of the Juneteenth event held June 21, 2025 (continued from the July 15 and August 6, 2025 meetings)

The request item was rescheduled from the July 15 regular meeting and the August 6 work session to allow for full discussion of the questions.

Mayor LeBlanc provided an update on this item, stating that Arts Herndon had answered the questions the Council asked the organization. He requested staff to draft a resolution for the next regular meeting's Consent Agenda to award the donation in the amount requested.

There was discussion among Council and staff regarding the donation and the proposal to proceed with awarding the donation.

Vice Mayor Hedrick asked if the request is part of our current festivals and donation policy. Mayor LeBlanc answered that the request is not from the donation and events budget because it was a separate line item that year.

Following discussion and with the consensus of Council, staff was asked to add a resolution awarding the donation to Arts Herndon to the Consent Agenda of the next regular meeting's agenda.

c. Town of Herndon Youth Engagement Policy

Mayor LeBlanc recognized Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Interim Town Manager, for comments. Ms. Jovanovich explained that the purpose of the proposed policy is to engage with, and to obtain feedback from, the youth on Town initiatives and activities.

The proposed policy establishes a structured, school-based framework gathering and incorporating youth perspectives by reaching a broader group of students. She

emphasized increasing membership, expanding community representation, and holding meetings at schools to align with Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) policies.

Mayor LeBlanc recognized Herndon High School (HHS) Principal Dr. Elizabeth Noto to provide information on student feedback and available resources for students and their families. Dr. Noto stated that holding meetings during the school day would encourage a more diverse group of students, providing a wide range of feedback to the Town.

Dr. Noto described her recent work with community members, faith-based organizations, and other schools to compile resources available to Herndon students. Mayor LeBlanc advised that he has been part of this group and said that the Town Council would be the face of the Town's engagement with the schools.

There was discussion among Council and staff on the proposed Youth Engagement Policy. The following items were considered during discussion:

1. Coordination among Mayor LeBlanc, staff, and Dr. Noto to ensure that students who are homeschooled, or attending private and alternative schools, are included.
2. FCPS policies, including the visitor management system at HHS.
3. Ways to support the relationships between the Town, schools, and community members, including how the Youth Engagement Policy goals overlap with the Community Inclusion and Engagement Committee (CIEC).
4. Roles of staff and the Town Council liaison in managing the logistics and outcomes of the Youth Engagement Policy.

Following discussion and with the consensus of Council, staff was directed to draft a resolution implementing the Youth Engagement Policy for the next regular meeting agenda.

3. <u>Roundtable</u>

[Note: Councilmember Reyes arrived at 7:39 p.m.]

<u>Councilmember del Aguila</u>: thanked staff for their work in planning last Friday's Town Council retreat, noting it was impressive, supportive, and productive. He is looking forward to the outcomes and to the second session of the retreat.

<u>Councilmember Lloyd</u>: provided personal comments about the efforts to drive employment and develop the budget amid uncertainty from the federal shutdown, healthcare, and canceled events. He wanted to note that he reviews his emails and responds accordingly.

Councilmember Garcia: thanked the staff for all of their great work and invited everyone to cheer on the Herndon Hornets at that weekend's homecoming events.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: echoed Councilmember del Aguila's comments on the retreat and stated that he is focused on the Town's financial outlook. Responding to Councilmember Lloyd's comments on current events, Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor LeBlanc discussed institutions that are supporting those in need.

Councilmember Reyes: provided comments on the Hispanic Business Reception and about business development in Herndon. He also provided comments on federal employment challenges.

Mayor LeBlanc: commented on federal employment changes and on last weekend's financial retreat. He announced the Town of Herndon has a new micro coffee business, and staff is working to connect with them.

Mayor LeBlanc stated that he joined Councilmember Reyes on Saturday, September 27, for the Virginia Showcase of Bands' awards ceremony. Mayor LeBlanc presented an award and commended the Herndon High School band's performance.

Mayor LeBlanc stated that Herndon High School invited him to view a new Hispanic celebration display and he affirmed the importance of representation for youth safety and intervention. He thanked the high school for its great work.

4. Closed Meeting

a. A Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(8), consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel related to franchise agreements

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 Garcia moved that the Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss the following as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A).

a. Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the downtown where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body;

b. Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia for consultation with legal counsel regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice, relative to a criminal prosecution; and

c. Section 2.2-3711(A)(8), consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel related to franchise agreements.

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

At 7:46 p.m., Mayor LeBlanc called a brief recess, and at 7:55 p.m., the closed meeting reconvened in the Hoover Conference Room, six members present, with Mayor LeBlanc presiding. Councilmember Alam was absent.

Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick moved to come out of the closed meeting. Motion seconded by Councilmember Reyes and carried by a 6-0 roll call vote. Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor LeBlanc voted "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

The Council came out of the closed meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Councilmember 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 Reyes. The vote was: Councilmembers del Aguila, Garcia, Lloyd, Reyes, Vice Mayor Hedrick and Mayor LeBlanc voting "Aye." Councilmember Alam was absent.

Aye: 6
Nay: 0
Absent: 1

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor LeBlanc adjourned the October 7, 2025 Town Council Work Session at 8:57 p.m.

Amanda E.M. Kertz
Town Clerk

Minutes approved by Town Council : _____