TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

**HERNDON TOWN COUNCIL**
**Regular Meeting Minutes**
**Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

## 1. Call to Order

Mayor Olem called the December 10, 2024, Town Council regular meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Mayor Sheila Olem; Vice Mayor Clark Hedrick; and Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila, Pradip Dhakal, Keven LeBlanc, and Donielle M. Scherff.

Councilmember Naila Alam was absent.

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; Marjorie Sloan, Director of Finance; Scott Robinson, Director of Public Works; Jaleh Moslehi, Capital Projects Planner; Lieutenant, Justin Dyer, Herndon Police Department; Margie Tacci, Acting Chief Deputy Town Clerk; and Amanda Kertz, Acting Town Clerk.

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

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

### Determination of a Quorum

Mayor Olem determined there was a quorum of six Councilmembers present, with Councilmember Alam absent. Mayor Olem reminded the Council of the meeting decorum.

### Mayor Announcements

Mayor Olem stated that this was the last meeting before the Holidays, the last regular meeting of the year, and her last meeting serving as Herndon's Mayor. She extended personal thanks to the community, and expressed her wishes for a safe and Happy Holiday Season. Mayor Olem stated that the Town would close at Noon on Tuesday, December 24; be closed on Wednesday, December 25; and be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Mayor Olem provided information about two events taking place on Saturday, December 14: Holiday WinterMarkt from Noon to 7:00 p.m. in downtown Herndon and Wreaths Across America at Noon at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Mayor Olem stated that the next Town Council work session will be on January 7, 2025, with the regular meeting on January 14, 2025. She encouraged those interested to check the Town's website for additional details and information.

**3. Presentations/Reports/Comments**

**a. Recognition of Mayor Sheila A. Olem, Councilmember Pradip Dhakal, and Councilmember Donielle M. Scherff**

Mayor Olem stated that it was her privilege to recognize two Councilmembers for their service to our community on the Town Council: Councilmember Dhakal for his six years of service, and Councilmember Scherff for her two years of service. She asked her colleagues to join her in thanking them and wishing them well in their future endeavors.

Vice Mayor Hedrick expressed his congratulations and thanks to Mayor Olem, for her many years of dedicated service to the Town of Herndon and its surrounding communities, as well as personally for her mentorship.

Mayor Olem recognized representatives from the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce. Sheila Dixon, President & CEO; David Hirsch, General Counsel; Joe Malazo, Chairman of the Board; and Laura Poindexter, VP of Friday Night Live!, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, presented a proclamation to Mayor Olem, in recognition of her service to the Town.

**b. Town Manager Report**

Christopher Martino, Interim Town Manager, stated he appreciated the Council's effort to advance public safety included in Consent Agenda Item 6(b).

**c. Councilmember Comments**

Councilmember Dhakal: provided comments on his six years on the Town Council, discussing how proud he is of the work that has been done for the Town. He thanked the citizens of the Town of Herndon for the trust they bestowed on him and his colleagues. He also thanked the staff, and other Councilmembers, for their accomplishments. Councilmember Dhakal thanked Councilmember Scherff for what they had worked on together and thanked Mayor Olem for her service.

Councilmember Dhakal stated that he would like to see more work in the future on the following issues: (1) housing; (2) community safety; and (3) overall traffic and walk-ability within the Town.

Councilmember del Aguila: thanked Mayor Olem for her service, and stated he is

looking forward to continued collaboration with the new Town Council.

Councilmember del Aguila stated that he is working to position Herndon as a successful next-generation small town. He stated that he is looking forward to the Town's new branding as a destination to visit, with events he hopes will bring in new energy, new spectators, and new potential sources of revenue. He mentioned pickleball, a Herndon bike race, and a holiday tour of lights at the golf course as new event ideas the Town should prioritize.

Councilmember del Aguila echoed Councilmember Dhakal's comments about addressing safety and affordable housing in the Town.

Councilmember Scherff: thanked those in the audience for attending that evening, especially those that attended with their children. She thanked Mayor Olem for her years of service, and her fellow Councilmembers for all of their hard work.

Councilmember Scherff stated she was proud of the accomplishments over the last two years, especially the introduction of more in-depth, inclusive communication. She also emphasized the work done to build the backbone of the Strategic Plan, so that it could serve as a guide for future decisions and how the Town spends its time and resources. She stated that the accomplishment she is most proud of is the translation services happening now at all public meetings, which she hopes will continue to expand.

Councilmember Scherff requested that her fellow Councilmembers and colleagues continue to let the air and light in, and welcome new partners and participants in all instances. She stated that access and inclusion is essential, and hoped that everyone will continue to be welcomed with open arms. She is looking forward to Mayor-Elect LeBlanc's ideas in the future. She thanked the Town staff, especially the Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney, for always taking the time to speak with her and share advice.

Councilmember LeBlanc: expressed his gratitude to the departing Councilmembers, thanking them for their service.

Councilmember LeBlanc encouraged everyone to come together and support those in need in the community during the holiday season. He thanked the civic organizations that have provided support to those in need, and highlighted upcoming Parks and Recreation holiday events. He indicated that those attending Wreaths Across America, who also wanted to attend WinterMarkt, could use the shuttle at Herndon High School as transportation between events.

Vice Mayor Hedrick: thanked each of his colleagues for the hard work that has been accomplished this term. He thanked departing Councilmembers Scherff and Dhakal for their service to the Town, as well as Mayor Olem for her many years of service. He acknowledged that public service is a sacrifice, but encouraged

Councilmembers to remain focused on the impact and long-term positive effect their work will have on the Town.

Vice Mayor Hedrick thanked those in the audience for attending, and stated he cannot wait to hear and listen to everything brought forward over the next two years.

Mayor Olem: stated that this will be her last meeting as Mayor, and that she will miss everyone, but looks forward to spending more time with her family. She mentioned events from the prior weekend she hoped people would be able to attend, including the Model Train Show and Holiday Tree Lighting. She thanked Town of Herndon staff for the holiday decorations put up around Town and for their efforts over the years, especially during the pandemic.

Mayor Olem recognized Nancy Rose, who has volunteered countless hours with her husband for Herndon Community Television (HCTV), and who has been its Executive Director for the last 11 years. She thanked Nancy for always keeping the community connected.

**Comments and Disclosures for the Record**

Mayor Olem asked Margie Tacci, Acting Chief Deputy Town Clerk, if she had received comments for the record or signed disclosure declarations from the Council. Ms. Tacci stated that comments were entered into the record on General item #5(b), Resolution 24-G-72 to affirm the Town of Herndon's commitment to creating a safe and welcoming community for all; and Consent item #6(b), Ordinance 24-O-30 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Adopted Budget for the General Fund.

The Town Clerk did not receive additional public comments or disclosures on any other items listed on that meeting's agenda.

## 4. Comments from the Audience

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

The following individuals provided comments on General Item 5(b) Resolution 24-G-72 to affirm the Town of Herndon's commitment to creating a safe and welcoming community for all:

- Martha Stapleton, 761 Grace Street, Herndon.
- Lorena Brady, 508 Aspen Drive, Herndon, also thanked Mayor Olem and departing Councilmembers for their service to the Town.

- Alberto, Herndon: also stated the New Virginia Minority is looking forward to working with the new Town Council.

- Jovanna Garcia, Herndon.

- William Campenni, 1104 Iron Ridge Court, Herndon: also thanked Mayor Olem for her service to the Town.

- Brandon Anderson, 626 Worchester Street, Herndon.

The following individuals provided comments on General item 5(a) Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project: Comprehensive Agreement:

- Michelle Boon, 111 Monroe Hill Court, Herndon.

- Alexander Burke, 910 Jorss Place, Herndon: also discussed the Christmas decorations in the Town.

The following individuals provided comments on the proposed Green Lizard Cycling Criterium Bike Race:

- Rick Racine, 12965 Center Park Circle, Herndon: also thanked Mayor Olem and Town Councilmembers for their service to the Town.

- Ian McDonald, 312 Old Dominion Avenue, Herndon.

- Jeff Mann, 1221 Summerfield Drive, Herndon: also thanked Mayor Olem and Town Councilmembers for their service to the Town.

- Steve Kaplan, 113 Dyer Court, Herndon.

The following individuals provided comments on various topics:

- Mike Sellers, 710 Hemlock Court, Herndon: thanked Mayor Olem and the Councilmembers for their service, and expressed his excitement for Mayor-Elect LeBlanc to start his term.

- Alison Moon, 111 Monroe Hill Court, Herndon; inquired about information and statistics on the per-capita vape shops and storefronts in the Town of Herndon.

- Stevan Porter, 905 Vine Street, Herndon: provided comments on the following: (1) thanked Mayer Olem and departing Councilmembers Dhakal and Scherff for their service to the Town; (2) praised Fairfax County Office of Elections staff on the amazing work done to recount ballots; and (3) encouraged the Town Council

to continue focusing on multiple and diverse ways to communicate with residents.

- Barbara Glakas, 935 Barton Oaks Place, Herndon: thanked Mayor Olem, and departing Councilmembers Dhakal and Scherff for their service to the Town.

- Joanna Ormesher, representing Arts Herndon: provided comments on the following: (1) thanked Mayor Olem, and departing Councilmembers Dhakal and Scherff for their service to the Town; (2) asked the incoming Councilmembers not to forget about Arts Herndon; and (3) expressed support for a cycling race in Herndon.

## 5. General

### a. Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project: Comprehensive Agreement

Mayor Olem recognized Christopher Martino, Interim Town Manager, for the staff report, who stated that on Friday, December 6, Comstock sent a letter to the Mayor, Council and staff stating that they would no longer proceed with the downtown redevelopment project. He stated that he still believes there will be some form of redevelopment in the future.

There was no discussion on this item.

### b. Resolution 24-G-72 to affirm the Town of Herndon's commitment to creating a safe and welcoming community for all

Mayor Olem recognized Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney, to introduce the item, who stated that Councilmembers del Aguila and LeBlanc requested to add this item to the agenda following discussion at the December 3, 2024, Town Council Work Session.

Councilmember del Aguila moved to approve Resolution 24-G-72 to affirm the Town of Herndon's commitment to creating a safe and welcoming community for all, as presented.

Motion seconded by Councilmember LeBlanc.

There were comments from Council.

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

## 6. Consent

**a. Resolution 24-G-73 to approve and authorize the submission of two funding applications to the Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC) of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for Fiscal Year 2031 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation - Air Quality (CMAQ) funding**

**b. Ordinance 24-O-30 to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Adopted Budget for the General Fund**

**c. September 10, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes**

**d. September 17, 2024 Town Council Work Session Minutes**

**e. September 19, 2024, Town Council Special Meeting - Affordable Housing Minutes**

**f. September 24, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes**

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

## 7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Olem adjourned the December 10, 2024, Town Council regular meeting at 9:00 p.m.

**Amanda E.M. Kertz**
**Acting Town Clerk**

**Minutes approved by Town Council: _____**

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