



City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Mayor Deanna R. Reed, Vice-Mayor Dany Fleming, Council Member Laura Dent, Council Member Nasser Alsaadun and Council Member Monica Robinson

Also Present: 5 - City Manager Ande Banks, City Attorney Chris Brown, City Clerk Pam Ulmer, Chief Matthew Tobia and Police Chief Joseph Tucker

2. Moment of Silence

Mayor Reed offered a moment of silence

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Special Recognition

4.a. Proclamation recognizing Arbor Day

Council Member Dent presented the proclamation recognizing Arbor Day to Jeremy Harold, Public Works Greenspace Manager, and Mike Hott, Landscape Coordinator.

Mr. Harold thanked Council for their continued support and noted that staff will be out at Stone Spring Elementary School planting 12 trees to enhance their outdoor learning space on April 11, 2026

5. Consent Agenda (any item placed on the consent agenda shall be removed and taken up as a separate matter, if so requested by any member of Council, otherwise all items will be voted on with one (1) motion)

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

5.a. Minutes from the March 10, 2026 City Council meeting

These minutes were approved on the consent agenda

- 5.b.** Consider enacting an Ordinance Temporarily Changing Certain Voting Precincts

This ordinance was approved on second reading

- 5.c.** Consider the Disposal of Public Property Located at 301 S. Main Street

This ordinance was approved on second reading

6. Public Hearings

- 6.a.** Public Hearing to Consider 2026 CDBG Action Plan

Kristin McCombe, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Manager, presented the 2026 Annual Action Plan. She described what CDBG is and how it is to be used. She reviewed the following categories and presented funding recommendations:

- 2026 Estimated CDBG Allocation from HUD;
- Housing & Property Improvements;
- Community and Public Facilities;
- Planning and Administration;
- Public Services;
- Schedule for the 2026 Action Plan.

Ms. McCombe stated this presentation opens the 30-day public comment and provided contact information for any public comments.

At 7:09 p.m., Mayor Reed closed the regular session and called the first public hearing to order. A notice appeared in the Daily News-Record on Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Joyce Nussbaum, Associate Director for VPAS, stated she appreciates all of the support from City Council and guidance from Ms. McCombe. She noted the Meals on Wheels and it's nearly 200 volunteers served over 45,000 meals this past fiscal year.

At 7:11 p.m., Mayor Reed closed the public hearing and the regular session reconvened.

This Public Hearing - No Action was no action taken.

7. Regular Items

- 7.a.** Consider revisions to the City's Financial Management Policies

Larry Propst, director of Finance, presented an update to the Harrisonburg Financial Management Policies. He provided information on the policies and the updates recommended as follows:

- Overview of the Policies;
- The importance of Financial Management Policies;
- Organization of the Policy (eight sections);
- Asset Maintenance and Replacement Policies;
- Debt Policies;

Vice Mayor Fleming thanked Mr. Propst and stated these policies are incredibly important to the city, he requested our financial information should be posted on our website for full transparency.

Further discussion took place in regard to the amendments made, strength of the city to get projects done when needed, and the city's credit rating.

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, that the revisions be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 4 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Council Member Alsaadun

7.b. Consider Addendum to Downtown Harrisonburg Park Donation Agreement between the City of Harrisonburg and Build Our Park

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented an addendum to the Downtown Harrisonburg Park Donation Agreement between the Build Our Park organization and the city. He stated based on discussions with contractors and suppliers, Build Our Park indicated the project may be delivered more efficiently and at lower cost through the Virginia Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA), which allows a public-private partnership approach as a limited exception to standard procurement rules. Mr. Brown emphasized that discussion of PPEA does not obligate the group to submit a PPEA proposal; if submitted, it would follow City PPEA guidelines and applicable state law, be initially reviewed by staff for consistency with previously approved plans, and return to Council at least twice for approval. He further noted that under a PPEA agreement the City would require bonding (including performance bonds) to protect the City if a contractor or partner fails to complete the work. Any final plans and the PPEA agreement would remain subject to Council approval. Staff explained that under the PPEA approach, the group may bring proposed contractors and material donations, but the City would ultimately contract with the group under the Act.

Discussion took place regarding additional options for the organization without

obligating the city.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Alsaadun, that this addendum be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

8. Supplementals

8.a. Consider a supplemental appropriation for the General Fund and the Water Capital Projects Fund

Larry Propst, director of Finance, presented a supplemental appropriation request for the General Fund and the Water Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$255,000 for the purchase of the land next to HFD Station Four and all remaining interest earnings from the 2021 bond issue in the amount of \$174,403 into the Eastern Source project for Public Utilities.

A motion was made by Council Member Alsaadun, seconded by Council Member Robinson, that this Supplemental Appropriation be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

8.b. Consider a supplemental appropriation for the General Fund, Water Fund and the Stormwater Fund

Larry Propst, director of Finance, presented a supplemental appropriation for the General Fund, Water Fund, and Stormwater Fund related to the Saufley Farm.

Discussion on the investment in the property to help with required nutrient credits and the planting of many trees as well as the savings for the laying of raw water line;

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Dent, that this Supplemental Appropriation be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

8.c. Consider a supplemental appropriation for the Harrisonburg City School Board (HCPS)

Larry Propst, director of Finance, presented a supplemental appropriation will increase the School Fund and School Capital Projects budgets by \$1,398,507.29

and \$56,369.17, respectively, from additional funding from state and federal sources.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Alsaadun, that this Supplemental Appropriation be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

9. Reallocations

9.a. Consider a reallocation of funds for the Harrisonburg City School Board (HCPS)

Larry Propst, director of Finance, presented a reallocation request from Harrisonburg City Public Schools, in the amount of \$1,481,630.83 from the completed Rocktown High School (RHS) capital project to the Facilities project to fund various projects from the HCPS approved CIP.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, that this Reallocation be approved. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

10. Other Matters

10.a. Comments from the public, limited to five minutes, on matters not on the regular agenda. (Name and address are required)

Wayne Wenger, 641 Broadview Drive, spoke against the Link development;

Dibora Mekonnen, senior at EMU, spoke on the collaboration of students from JMU and EMU who marched earlier in the day for Justice, Dignity and Fairness;

Panayotis "Poti" Giannakouros, spoke on the recent Pollinator in Your Yard city event in which the Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition participated; tall grass and weed enforcement; and No Mow May;

10.b. City Council and Staff

Vice Mayor Fleming spoke on the recent National League of Cities (NLC) conference and recent legislation activity;

Council Member Robinson spoke on the recent National League of Cities (NLC) conference and the collaboration that occurred during the conference, and she thanked the collaborators of the march for Justice, Dignity and Fairness earlier in the day;

Council Member Dent spoke on the recent National League of Cities (NLC) conference and her involvement with the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee at the conference; and she spoke on her trip to Brazil last year for COP30.

Council Member Alsaadun, spoke on work that he and Church World services have done related to SNAP benefits for newcomers, and an article will be published in the Virginia Pilot and Daily Press.

Mayor Reed spoke on the recent National League of Cities (NLC) conference and her presence with a small group of Mayors for a discussion on immigration and ICE challenges; she also participated in the opening session; her attendance to a press conference about new child care center in the city; and she thanked the collaborators for the march for Justice, Dignity and Fairness earlier in the day.

11. Boards and Commissions

11.a. Economic Development Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Alsaadun, to appoint Ryan Silver to the Economic Development Advisory Committee to a first term to expire on March 24, 2030. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming, Council Member Dent, Council Member Alsaadun and Council Member Robinson

No: 0

12. Adjournment

At 8:23 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR