



City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, July 14, 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

1.a. Authorize electronic participation

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Robinson, to approve the virtual attendance of Council Member Alsaadun. 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

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. Presentation of the World Refugee Day proclamation to Church World Services

Mayor Reed read the proclamation of World Refugee Day to Susannah Lepley, director and Onyx Myanda, Church Word Services. Ms. Lepley thanked Council for their support. Ms. Myanda shares reasons why refugees come to the US and the things they go through to get here.

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 Council Member Dent, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed with a roll call vote 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 June 23, 2026 City Council Meeting

These minutes were approved on the consent agenda

5.b. Consider the special event application request for the annual Race to Beat Breast Cancer 5k Run/Walk on Saturday, October 24, 2026.

This special event application was approved on the Consent agenda.

5.c. Consider the special event application request for HDR's Skeleton Festival on October 24, 2026 from 1-5pm.

This special event application was approved on the Consent agenda.

6. Public Hearings

6.a. Consider a request from Sean Ryan and Lisa Lopez-Ryan for a special use permit to allow short-term rental at 453 West Water Street

Thanh Dang, deputy director, Community Development, presented a request for a special use permit for property located at 453 W. Water Street, for a short term rental. She reviewed by-right homestays versus short-term rentals by SUP; the property, and the staff recommended conditions.

She stated staff and Planning Commission (5-0) recommended approval

At 7:14 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 Wednesday, July 1, 2026 and Wednesday, July 8, 2026

There being no one desiring to be heard, Mayor Reed closed the public hearing at 7:15 p.m., and the regular session reconvened.

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Council Member Robinson, to approve the Special Use Permit with staff recommended conditions as presented. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

No: 0

6.b. Consider a request from Honest Meats LLC for a special use permit to allow a meat processing and storage facility at 256 Charles Street

Thanh Dang, deputy director, Community Development, presented a special use permit request for property located at 256 Charles Street, for a meat processing facility and storage plant in conformance. She reviewed the property, the history of the use of the property, and ordinances related to meat processing. She

reviewed the staff recommended conditions.

She stated staff and Planning Commission (5-0) recommended approval of the request.

At 7:20 p.m., Mayor Reed closed the regular session and called the second public hearing to order. A notice appeared in the Daily News-Record on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 and Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Todd Rhea, representative of the applicant, spoke on the property and the business;

At 7:22p.m., Mayor Reed closed the public hearing and the regular session reconvened.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Robinson, to approve the Special Use Permit with staff recommended conditions as presented. The motion carried with a roll call vote as follows:

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

No: 0

7. Regular Items

7.a. Presentation of the Board of Zoning Appeals' 2024 and 2025 Annual Reports

Thanh Dang, deputy director, Community Development, presented the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Annual Reports for 2024 and 2025.

Vice Mayor Fleming stated these reports reflect how well staff explains zoning processes and that the need for appeals is very minimal.

This Report was received and filed.

8. Other Matters

8.b. City Council and Staff

Mayor Reed stated she is happy to see a diverse group in Council Chambers and that it tells her that it is not just one set of people who are interested in this topic. She stated he had the opportunity to speak with the de-Flock group last week as well as another small group, and she appreciated the time she spent learning more about the concerns of the Flock cameras. She spoke on her outreach to other localities that have removed the Flock cameras, and stated the community has been heard.

Council Member Robinson spoke on how thankful she is for those who have

reached out, sent emails, phone calls, etc. She stated she is thankful that there is interest in the protection of constitutional rights and that local government is being held accountable. She spoke further on her support to remove the Flock cameras from the city, the concerns of the residents, and her recommendations to staff regarding Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs). She also spoke on the passing of a resident.

Chris Brown, city attorney, spoke on the process of creating a policy regarding the prohibition of ALPRs in the city.

Vice Mayor Fleming spoke on his support against ALPRs and is asking to direct staff to work on the policy for the next City Council meeting.

Council Member Dent stated she appreciates the expression of constitutional rights and the activity of the residents to express their grievances. She thanked Chief Tucker, Chief, Harrisonburg Police Department, for his desire to build trust in the community.

Council Member Alsaadun stated he appreciated the community discussions regarding the Flock cameras, and he remains committed to working with everyone to find the best for the city and that Council reflects that as well.

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

The following spoke against Flock camera's and ALPR's:

Notka,
Marlin Copeland, 1130 Decca Drive
Luna, 422 Harriston Rd.
Karen Thomas,
Michael Hollaman,
Kris Hoover, executive director, New Bridge Immigrant Resource Center
Casper O'Bere
Eva Peirce, 1114 Rockingham Dr.
Harold Martin, College Ave.
Theresa, 91 1/2 Franklin St.
Rev. Laura Minnick-Lockey
Nathan Coffman, Hillside Ave.
Mitchell Palmer,
Evan Bates,
Matthew Boucher,
Chase Dunn, Beacon Hill,
Steele
Charlie
Emily Rourke,
Ashley Fore
Esmerelda Mendoza,
Sam,

Tim Cummings, Sunset Heights
Teresa Hinckley,
Adam Dorawind,
Thomas Davidson,
Olivia,
Hannah Whitmer,
Bryce,
David Polgar,
Allie Haverty,
Otter Redman,
Stan Hockstettler,
"B"
Charles,
Isaac,
Eric Olsengetty,

Pamela Cook spoke in favor of the Police Department:

10.b. City Council and Staff (Continued)

Discussion took place regarding the trust and support of Council to the Police Department and HPD's community engagement to continue building that trust.

Council Member Dent spoke on the recent NLC Summer Board Leadership meeting.

9. Boards and Commissions

9.a. Harrisonburg Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Vice Mayor Fleming, to reappoint Matthew Light and Brad Chewning to terms to expire July 15, 2030. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

10. Closed Session

11. Adjournment

At 9:38 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR