City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Draft
City Council

Tuesday, October 27, 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: 3 - City Manager Ande Banks, City Attorney Chris Brown and City Clerk Pam Ulmer

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

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, to approve the consent agenda. 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 October 13, 2026 City Council meeting

These minutes were approved

5.b. Consider the special event application request for the Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 8, 2026.

This special event application was approved on the consent agenda

5.c. Consider the special event application request for HDR's Winter Wonderfest & Harrisonburg's Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 5, 2026.

This special event application was approved on the consent agenda

5.d. Consider the special event application request for the Rocktown Turkey Trot on Thursday, November 26, 2026.

This special event application was approved on the consent agenda

5.e. Consider a request to amend the definition of “Dwelling, single-family” within the Zoning Ordinance to include qualifying manufactured homes

This ordinance amendment was approved on second reading

5.f. Consider a request from Eastern Mennonite School to amend the master plan at 701 and 801 Parkwood Drive and 1251 Virginia Avenue

This item was approved on second reading

5.g. Consider a request to amend the Zoning Ordinance to reduce the minimum lot width for single-family detached dwellings in the R-8 district

This ordinance amendment was approved on second reading

6. Public Hearings

7. Regular Items

7.a. Letter opposing the U.S. Department of Commerce’s proposal to alter the demographic questions and residence criteria for the Decennial Census

Ande Banks, City Manager, presented a letter drafted per Council direction at the October 13, 2026 meeting for approval.

Discussion took place regarding the importance of the city's opposition to the proposal and noted that no changes were needed to the letter.

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Alsaadun, that this letter be approved. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote

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

No: 0

7.b. Consider adopting the 2027 Legislative Agenda

Brian Vandenberg, assistant to the city manager, presented the amended Legislative Agenda based on City Councils recommendations. He reviewed the revisions made.

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Council Member Robinson, that this Action Item be approved. The motion failed 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. Other Matters

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

Panayotis “Poti” Giannakouros, spoke on the upcoming election; nationwide and local cancer rates due to agricultural growth; data centers; and upcoming candidate forum. He urged everyone to vote.

Isaac Felix, 1115 Commercial Court, spoke on the school bus drivers pay, the demand their jobs have above and beyond just driving school buses, and the importance to invest in our school bus drivers.

8.b. City Council and Staff

Council Member Dent spoke on the recent Parks and Recreation public engagement event and the Zoning Ordinance update event; and her upcoming trip to Turkey for COP30 in November sponsored by Ukraine.

Vice Mayor Fleming spoke on the recent Healthy Community Collaborative meeting; Deputy Chief Quesenberry's retirement party; a JMU/EMU/Bridgwater/BlueRidge Community presidents and workforce partners for AI Workforce initiative and emerging technologies meeting;

Mayor Reed spoke on recent Lights on After School event; Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time (VPOST)regarding the Meta settlement and would like the city to try to be involved for funding from that settlement for organizations in the city.

9. Boards and Commissions

9.a. Harrisonburg Electric Commission (HEC)

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Vice-Mayor Fleming, to appoint Edward Yoder the Harrisonburg Electric Commission to a first term beginning January 1, 2027 and to expire on December 31, 2030. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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

No: 0

11. Adjournment

At 7:30 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK MAYOR