City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Draft
City Council

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 | **7:00 PM** | **Council Chambers**

1. Roll Call

Present: 3 - Mayor Deanna R. Reed, Vice-Mayor Dany Fleming and Council Member Nasser Alsaadun

Absent: 2 - Council Member Laura Dent 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

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 Vice-Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Alsaadun, that the c onsent agenda be approved. The motion failed with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 3 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming and Council Member Alsaadun

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member Dent and Council Member Robinson

5.a. Minutes from the October 27, 2026 City Council meeting

These minutes were approved on the Consent agenda

5.b. Minutes from the October 29, 2026 Special Meeting of City Council

These minutes were approved on the Consent agenda

6. Public Hearings

6.a. Consider a request to amend the Zoning Ordinance to amend the definition of "shopping center" and to provide a parking calculation for shopping centers

Adam Fletcher, director of Community Development, presented a zoning ordinance amendment to Section 10-2-24, 10-3-25 and 10-3-27 related to shopping center parking. He reviewed the requested amendments.

He stated staff and Planning Commission (7-0) recommend approval.

Discussion took place regarding the definition of shopping center and requirements for common parking.

At 7:07 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, October 28, 2026 and Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Panayotis "Poti" Giannakouros spoke on the discussions at the zoning ordinance rewrite meetings related to parking and parking minimums.

At 7:12 p.m., Mayor Reed closed the public hearing and the regular session reconvened.

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

Yes: 3 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming and Council Member Alsaadun

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member Dent and Council Member Robinson

7. Regular Items

7.a. Child Care Needs Assessment Findings

Kelly Schaffer, Nicole Lessard, Patti Greenstein and My Linh Nguyen, Foundations for Families, were present.

Ms. Schaffer provided information on Foundations for Families and the four reasons for the Child Care Needs Assessment. She reviewed the following:

- Methodology for the assessment;
- City profile;
- Early Childhood Landscape;
- Stakeholder Insights on:
    - Access
    - Affordability

  - Expansion
  - Workforce Development
- Facilities;
- Policy and Practice Strategies;
- Looking ahead;

Mayor Reed stated this was a very detailed report.

Discussion took place regarding how the data related to workforce needs was obtained; the possible need for an advisory committee for childcare; childcare provider licensing, expansions, and capacity; stakeholder commitment;

This Report was received and filed.

8. Reallocations

8.a. Consider a reallocation of ARPA funds

City Manager, presented a reallocation of ARPA funding from the Child Care fund to ongoing paving project in the Northeast Neighborhood.

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

Yes: 3 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming and Council Member Alsaadun

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member Dent and Council Member Robinson

9. Other Matters

9.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 as the Secretary of the Martin Luther Kinkg, Jr. Way Coalition, about the election, the National Right to Work committee, and collective bargaining.

Steve Brydge, spoke on his need to be connected to public water and sewer at 1200 Sharon Lane, Rockingham County. He was told prior to purchasing the property that public water and sewer connections would be possible, but now he is being denied.

The following spoke in favor of collective bargaining for the employees of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation:

Austin Moody, East Gay Street,
Levi Rupkey, Devon Lane
Andy Thompson,
Jade Oh, Blue Ridge Drive,
Jessica, small business owner in city,
Rachel Sullivan, Liberty Point

Bucky Berry, spoke on the homeless, a need for additional shelter, and upcoming blanket drive.

9.b. City Council and Staff

Vice Mayor Fleming spoke on a recent event for the Latino Business Council, the HEDI program, Virginia First Cities meeting and the Virginia Brown Field fund;

Council Member Alsaadun spoke on the recent Veterans Parade, an upcoming Hunt Institute K-12 Education meeting, and the upcoming National League of Cities (NLC) conference

Mayor Reed stated NENA will be celebrating 25 year anniversary, and her attendance to several other meetings.

Consider cancelling the December 22, 2026 City Council meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Alsaadun, seconded by Vice Mayor Fleming, to cancel the December 22, 2026. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

10. Closed Session

10.a. Closed Session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A), under:

Subsection 3 for a discussion of the acquisition of real estate for a public purpose where the discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating position of the public body.

8:25 pm

At 8:25 p.m., a motion was made by Vice-Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Alsaadun, to enter into closed session as Authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A), Subsection 3 for a discussion of the acquisition of real estate for a public purpose where the discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating position of the public body. .The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Yes: 3 - Mayor Reed, Vice-Mayor Fleming and Council Member Alsaadun

No: 0

Absent: 2 - Council Member Dent and Council Member Robinson

11. Adjournment

At 8:32 p.m., the closed session ended and the regular session reconvened. City Attorney Brown read the following statement, which was agreed to with a unanimous recorded vote of Council: I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code, of Virginia, 1950, as amended, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting by the City Council.

At 8:32 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR