



# City of Harrisonburg

409 S. Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

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Tuesday, February 10, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### 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

The Mayor offered a moment of silence

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Special Recognition

#### 4.a. Presentation by the Rocktown and Harrisonburg High Schools (Rock City Musical) of the musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying".

J.R. Snow, K-12 Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts, Harrisonburg City Public Schools, provided information on the new Rock City musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". Three students from the musical, Abby Gibson, Billy Perritt and Annie Snow, performed.

### 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 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

#### 5.a. Consider a request from Turkey Properties LLC to rezone 797 Chicago Avenue

This rezoning request was approved on second reading.

- 5.b.** Consider a request from Valley Corner LLC to rezone 1110 N Liberty Street

**This rezoning request was approved on second reading.**

- 5.c.** Consider a request from AM Yoder & Co to amend the Zoning Ordinance to modify special use permit requirements to reduce required side yard setbacks in the R-8 district

**This rezoning request was approved on second reading.**

- 5.d.** Consider a request from Honest Meats LLC to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow meat processing and storage by special use permit in M-1

**This rezoning request was approved on second reading.**

- 5.e.** Minutes from the January 11, 2026 City Council Retreat

**These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda**

- 5.f.** Minutes from the January 3, 2026 City Council meeting

**These minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda**

## **6. Public Hearings**

## **7. Regular Items**

- 7.a.** Update from Open Doors

Nate Riddle, executive director, Open Doors, presented an update on the past year of the Navigation Center. He reviewed the following:

- On-site Services
- The Onsite Partners
- Shelter statistics from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025
- Drop-in Statistics from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025
- Community Resources
- Challenges

Discussions took place regarding challenges and funding needs to provide full meal service at the center; Also, discussions on how the community uses the facility, the collaborations with other service organizations and if any support was provided by the County.

**This Presentation was received and filed.**

- 7.b.** Update from the Massanutten Regional Library

Zach Elder, executive director of Massanutten Regional Library (MRL), provided an

annual update on the MRL and reviewed the following:

- Fy 2025 Statistics
- Strategic Plan Activities
- Awards received in 2025
- Programs related to "Bringing People Together"
- Programing and Outreach
- Library Collection
- Challenges

Discussion took place on the growth and outreach of the library.

**This Presentation was received and filed.**

**7.c.** Consideration approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between National League of Cities and Harrisonburg

Brian Shull, director of Economic Development, presented a request related to the National League of Cities (NLC) Southern Cities Economic Initiative (SCEI). He thanked Council for their continued support for small businesses in the City and reviewed some of the programs already in place. He stated this Memorandum of Understanding will help to further the Harrisonburg Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (HEDI) program with a \$52,500 grant.

Vice Mayor Fleming stated throughout the grant process Harrisonburg continued to be one of the top contenders because of the great work our Economic Development staff has done for entrepreneurs in the city.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Dent, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding 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.d.** Consider amending and re-enacting Section 2-3-23 - General Order of Business, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented an ordinance amendment to set out the general order of business due to changes made by Council, specifically removing Invocation and replacing it with Moment of Silence

**A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Council Member Robinson, that the ordinance amendment be approved as presented. 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.e.** Consider amending and re-enacting Section 2-2-6 - Special Meetings, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Chris Brown, City Attorney, presented an ordinance amendment regarding special meeting time, from 7:30 pm to a time and place that Council finds convenient.

**A motion was made by Council Member Alsaadun, seconded by Council Member Robinson, that the ordinance amendment be approved as presented. 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.f.** Consider adopting a resolution ratifying and terminating the City Manager's Declaration of Local Emergency

Chris Brown, city attorney, presented an ordinance amendment to ratify a Declaration of a Local Emergency. He noted the original agenda item also mentioned terminating the City Manager's Declaration of Local Emergency, however due to continued efforts to clear the snow and ice, the termination language was stricken from the Resolution. A revised resolution was presented to Council.

**A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Council Member Robinson, that the amended resolution be adopted. 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

**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 recent People's Day event; civic conversations; and city fees for violations of city ordinances;

**8.b. City Council and Staff**

Council Member Alsaadun spoke on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr 25th Annual Leadership Award he received from the Fellowship Church of the Brethren; and his attendance in Richmond with leaders from Church World Services advocating for refugees and immigrants and the delegates were very welcoming.

Council Member Dent spoke on her attendance at a vigil on Court Square and recent conference attendance. She spoke on bills related to data centers and campaign reform;

Council Member Robinson spoke on her recent participation in the Chesapeake Watershed Forum and stated there are many activities throughout the city this month celebrating Black History Month.

Vice Mayor Fleming recognized the JMU students in attendance; he spoke on his attendance to the Virginia Municipal Leagues Legislative Day conference and some of the bills that may undermine local authority if passed; the additional flights from Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport; recent meeting with area builders and Community Development on ways to streamline building processes; upcoming trip to Birmingham, Alabama for the SCEI through NLC with staff from the Economic Development department;

Mayor Reed spoke on her attendance to some of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events at JMU; thanked the JMU students for their attendance; spoke on fear and racism in the community and the country;

Council Member Robinson spoke on the fear and hate that exists in this world and asked that everyone grants grace to those that are living in fear.

Further conversation took place regarding the racism, hate and fear in this country.

Chris Brown, city attorney, stated on April 21, 2026, there will be a special election related to an amendment to the Virginia Constitution on Congressional redistricting. He stated this is causing some challenges for three of our polling locations due to school operations, however, alternate spaces have been found. He stated an amendment to the City Code will need to be approved by Council at the next City Council meeting.

## **HRHA Reconfirmation**

Chris Brown, city attorney, asked council to confirm and ratify the appointment previously made to the HRHA of Anthony Hayes, who at the time of appointment did not live in the city, which disqualified him to serve on board; however, he has since moved into the city and is now eligible.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Fleming, seconded by Council Member Robinson to confirm and ratify the appointment. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

**9. Boards and Commissions****9.a. Community Services Board**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Dent, to reappoint William Holland to the Community Services Board, to a first full term to expire on June 30, 2028. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

**9.b. Environmental Performance Standards Advisory Committee (EPSAC)**

A motion was made by Council Member Dent, seconded by Council Member Robinson to appoint Admassu Yonathan, Kathleen Holm and Rebecca Schrupp, to the Environmental Performance Standards Advisory Committee (EPSAC) to full terms to expire on 02/10/2029. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

**9.c. Harrisonburg Transportation Safety and Advisory Commission (TSAC)**

A motion was made by Council Member Robinson, seconded by Council Member Dent to reappoint Kyle Lawrence to a third term to expire on December 31, 2028, and appoint Michael Van Poots to a full term to expire on February 10, 2029, to the Transportation and Safety Committee (TSAC). The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

**10. Closed Session****11. Adjournment**

9:05 pm