



TOWN OF HAYMARKET TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Kimberly Henry, Clerk of the Council
<http://www.townofhaymarket.org/>

15000 Washington St
Haymarket, VA 20169

Monday, July 10, 2023

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Haymarket, VA, was held this evening in the Council Chambers, commencing at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Kenneth Luersen called the meeting to order.

I. Call To Order

Council Member Marchant Schneider: Absent, Council Member Joe Pasanello: Present, Vice Mayor TracyLynn Pater: Present, Council Member Alexander Beyene: Present, Council Member Mary Ramirez: Present, Council Member David M Leake: Absent, Mayor Kenneth Luersen: Present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Luersen invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Invocation - Rev. Sean Rousseau, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Mayor Luersen invited Reverend Sean Rousseau from St. Paul's Episcopal Church to the podium to give the evening's invocation.

After the invocation, Reverend Rousseau shared a fun cultural event that the church recently had. He shared that St. Michaels Academy is doing really well. He also shared that the Carried to Full Term is in their 7th year and also doing very well supporting and assisting single moms that may have been in a at risk situation. Lastly, he mentioned the Haymarket Food Pantry whose is serving twice as many people this year than last. He continued to share the fun cultural event within the church. He stated that the church's cemetery has 475 people in it. He shared that one is a famous international person, the niece of Jane Austin a famous author. He shared that recently a group of people from the Jane Austin Society of America came to the church. He stated that he shared with the group some of the church's history and that they shared the whole story of the niece and how she came to be buried in the St. Paul cemetery.

IV. Community Spotlight: Siya Sampath - Local Spelling Bee Champion

Mayor Luersen introduced Siya Sampath to the audience and the Town Council. He shared that Siya was Haymarket's pride and joy and Prince William County's regional spelling bee champion. He shared that Siya continued onto the National spelling bee level and made it to the quarter-finals coming up just short for qualifying for the semi-finals. Siya is nine years old and a 4th grader at Alvey Elementary School. He stated that Siya studied hard on thousands of words from various different resources with her Mother working with her daily prepping her for the competitions with her Dad and her sister in the supporting role. At this time, the Town Council had their own spelling bee with Siya. Lastly, Mayor Luersen presented Siya with a certificate and a small gift.

V. Award Presentation: Council Member Ramirez

Councilmember Ramirez recognized Town Planner Thomas Britt as the staff MVP for his participation in the Longstreet Commons end of school year water balloon fight. She also recognized the Haymarket Police Department for their participation as well. She stated that the department is the most memorable portion of the event for the children at Longstreet Commons.

VI. Consent Agenda

Mayor Luersen asked if Council would like to have any items pulled from the Consent Agenda. The Town Administration Report, the Town Treasurer Report, and the Chief of Police Report were pulled for discussion.

Councilmember Pasanello moved to adopt Consent Agenda items A:1-3, B:4-5 and C:1-5. Vice Mayor Pater seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After the pulled items were discussed, Councilmember Pasanello moved to adopt Consent Agenda items B:1-3. Vice Mayor Pater seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A. Minute Approval

1. Mayor and Council - Public Hearing/Work Session - May 30, 2023 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER:	TracyLynn Pater, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, TracyLynn Pater, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	Marchant Schneider, David M Leake

2. Mayor and Council - Regular Meeting - Jun 5, 2023 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER:	TracyLynn Pater, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, TracyLynn Pater, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	Marchant Schneider, David M Leake

3. Mayor and Council - Special Meeting - Jun 22, 2023 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER:	TracyLynn Pater, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, TracyLynn Pater, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	Marchant Schneider, David M Leake

B. Department Reports

1. Town Administration Report

The Council asked for an update on the RFP and a timeline for the town park sidewalk. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi shared that she recently met with The Engineering Group. She stated that there is a conflict with one of the utility easements with the Dominion Energy poles being on the property. She stated that the meeting was to confirm that construction would not impact the integrity of the poles. She continued to state that The Engineering Group would be submitting the final site plan documents by the middle of the month. She stated that staff is proceeding to work with the Town's engineer to get an RFP put together in order to post within a month and would remain active for a better part of a month and that it would be in conjunction with the final site plan so that construction could start at the beginning of 2024.

Councilmember Ramirez asked for an update and timeline on the storm water assessment program. Town Manager Kyriazi stated that she did not have any updates at this time. Mrs. Kyriazi stated that the Town sent the name changed document to the County and that the County submitted it to a specific review board. Once the name has been changed, a meeting will be held with the County for further discussion.

Lastly, Councilmember Ramirez acknowledged the new businesses that are starting to open in Crossroads Village Center and stated that as people become acclimated with the new traffic pattern, traffic issues and concerns are only going to increase as more shops open. She asked that the staff contact VDOT to assess the situation for a possible resolution to the a potential problem. Councilmember Pasanello agreed not only from a pedestrian perspective but a traffic flow perspective. He shared that there needs to be more extensive studies done on the traffic, educational opportunities and monitoring the conditions as they arise. A discussion followed on the traffic impact and pedestrian safety.

Mayor Luersen asked for a follow up on the DEQ requirements on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Town Planner Thomas Britt shared that he is in communication with his contact from DEQ and has begun working on the requirements.

Mayor Luersen inquired about the Town Park Survey. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi shared that so far the results are about 50/50. She shared that the survey is available for Council to pick up and distribute throughout their neighborhoods.

Mayor Luersen also inquired about the Town Center site plan. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi shared that she will be bringing that information to the Town Council at the July Work Session. Mayor Luersen asked for a follow up on the Bleight Drive town home site plans. Mrs. Kyriazi stated that the plans did not show a sidewalk that would connect to the existing sidewalk. She shared that the staff is requesting that one item from the developer. Town Planner Thomas Britt added that the site plan is currently under fire marshall review and it should go before the Planning Commission at their August or September meeting.

2. Town Treasurer Report

Councilmember Pasanello asked for Town Treasurer Roberto Gonzalez to expand on his new reporting and changes that he has brought forth. Mr. Gonzalez provided a new report that compares where the Town was last year to date and where we stand today. He shared with the Council that this will help during budget prep time. He also shared that he would like to start working on FY25 budget starting in November so that it can be approved in May rather than in June.

3. Chief of Police Report

Councilmember Ramirez inquired about the ARPA fund training that is coming up for the department. Chief Sibert shared that the police department received an ARPA grant from DCJS. He shared that he will be attending a required training on how to use and track the grant money. Councilmember Ramirez also asked about the caring seniors program that the Chief is involved in. Chief Sibert shared that the department is partnering with Caring Seniors for an event to educate seniors on scams, providing them with good options for services and to get all the medical resources that they can get. A short discussion followed.

Chief Sibert shared information on the neighborhood comfort station that the department is working with Prince William County on. He shared that he and Town Manager Emily Kyriazi have been working on this program to provide a comfort station in Town Hall. He stated that they will be getting quotes on a generator that will be able to run the building using proffer funds. A short discussion followed.

Lastly, Councilmember Ramirez highlighted the upcoming police sponsored events such as the Blood drive on July 19th and National Night Out at the Town Park on August 1st. Chief Sibert shared his excitement of the planning of National Night Out.

4. Town Engineer Report

5. Town Attorney Report

C. Liaison Reports

1. Finance Liaison Report

2. Business Liaison Report

3. Community Relations Liaison Report

4. Planning Commission Liaison Report

5. Architectural Review Board Liaison Report

VII. Agenda Items

1. Resolution #2023-012: FY23 Third Quarter Budget Amendment

Councilmember Pasanello moved that the Haymarket Town Council move an appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget as designated by Resolution #2023-012. Councilmember Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mary Ramirez, Council Member
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, TracyLynn Pater, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	Marchant Schneider, David M Leake

2. Architectural Review Board Vacancy Appointments

Councilmember Pasanello moved that the Haymarket Town Council appoint Joanna V. Mason to the Haymarket Architectural Review Board with a term beginning July 10, 2023 and ending June 30, 2027. Councilmember Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

Councilmember Pasanello moved that the Haymarket Town Council appoint Melvin C. Mason to the Haymarket Architectural Review Board with a term beginning July 10, 2023 and ending June 30, 2027. Councilmember Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mary Ramirez, Council Member
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, TracyLynn Pater, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	Marchant Schneider, David M Leake

3. Planning Commission Vacancy Appointment

Councilmember Pasanello moved that the Haymarket Town Council appoint Pankaj Singla to the Haymarket Planning Commission with a term beginning July 10, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Vice Mayor Pater seconded the motion. Prior to the vote, there was a discussion on expanding the Planning Commission. The Town Council asked the staff to bring back the financial implications for expanding the Planning Commission for further discussion at the July Work Session. **With no further discussion, the motion carried by a roll call vote.**

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER:	TracyLynn Pater, Vice Mayor
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, TracyLynn Pater, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	Marchant Schneider, David M Leake

VIII. Council Member Time

1. Council Member Leake

Councilmember Leake was not present at this meeting and did not submit any reports.

2. Council Member Ramirez

Councilmember Ramirez read a statement into the record. The statement was read as follows: I apologize if this sounds scripted. I wanted to be clear and direct in my comments tonight. I am choosing to use my council member time to stand for something I feel strongly about. It has been the greatest honor and privilege to be elected as a representative for our Town. I feel deeply that serving with integrity, an open mind and compassion that real change can be made. Part of what makes integrity my first priority in this position is that the meaning of integrity to me includes transparency. It should be clear that all Council Members actions are aligning with their stated intentions. For what it is worth, transparency is something I felt lacked before some of my colleagues here took their positions in 2020. Having started this new term, I was hopeful new efforts would be made by a council member to ensure transparency in his service. Unfortunately, two meetings ago when we voted on the budget, it was made clear that this is not the case. I found a quote that I felt accurately depicted this situation..."words not matching action is manipulation." I detest political games and refuse to participate in any manipulations of this position. Councilman Leake, you were absent three meetings in a row and sat quietly during discussions about the budget. You even voted in favor for the tax rate that was presented to our public. Not once did you advocate to actually make the change you preached about. All I could think about is what an opportunity you missed out on, if it was truly your intention to lower our tax rate or eliminate it. It is cowardly to wait until the very last vote that would not alter the outcome and preach ideals. Especially since waiting to advocate until the end of June which we could run the risk of not having an approved budget for the next fiscal year. Our Town, our constituents, we deserve better. They deserve to have you sit here and participate with full transparency for them. Make actual change by participating in conversations on the dais before voting day! I am so deeply disheartened by your actions that I can't help but wonder how you sleep at night knowing full well that you are not being transparent to our public and you are willing to put our town at risk. I know I would be unable to sleep if I made the choice not to advocate for what I believe in, like I am doing now. Our position warrants your commitment to do better. Our Town deserves better. Our constituents deserve to feel they can trust us. I will not sit by and allow any further manipulation to continue. I hope Councilman

Leake uses this as an opportunity for growth, to participate fully in the democratic process and stop the political grandstanding. We have things to do for our Town. Thank you.

3. Council Member Schneider

Councilmember Schneider was not present and did not submit any reports.

4. Council Member Beyene

Councilmember Beyene stated that all he had to say was "Hear, hear to Councilmember Ramirez's comments. I am in full agreement."

5. Council Member Pasanello

Councilmember Pasanello stated that he would like to change it up a little bit but thanked Councilmember Ramirez for her words and that he couldn't agree more. He continued on with his Councilmember time by thanking Siya and her parents for participating in the evening's meeting. He continued to state that he is looking forward to the next year for her and told her to keep up the good work. He complimented and congratulated all who were involved with the Fox5 Zip trip in June. He shared of a vote coming at the next PWC Board of Supervisors meeting on a moratorium on development during the lame duck term between November election and the beginning of the new term in January 2024. He encouraged those interested to attend this meeting to voice their opinion. He continued to state that the Council needs to take a hard look at the need for a transportation plan.

6. Vice Mayor Pater

Vice Mayor Pater started her Councilmember time by stating "Bravo." She continued with her Councilmember Time by wishing that everyone had a good July 4th weekend. She continued to thank the businesses that participated in the most recent Business Roundtable meeting. She stated that she was very excited with the number of businesses that participated. She also asked everyone to take the time and take the Town Park building survey. Lastly, she announced the date for Restaurant Week, which is July 21st through July 28th.

7. Mayor Luersen

Mayor Luersen stated that he would like to make note of Councilmember Ramirez's comments. The Mayor stated that he does try to welcome free discussion on the dais without a threat. He continued to state he hopes to keep a non-threatening environment on the dais so that discussions can be open and transparent. He said hopefully no one feels that he creates an environment that's a distraction to them and prevents them from wanting to speak because he encourages people to speak. He continued to state that we cannot get a compromise or a better well vetted decision without conflicting discussions.

IX. Adjournment

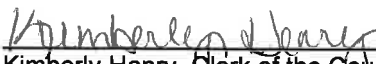
With no further business before the Town Council, Vice Mayor Pater moved to adjourn with a second by Councilmember Ramirez. The motion carried.

1. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	TracyLynn Pater, Vice Mayor
SECONDER:	Mary Ramirez, Council Member
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, TracyLynn Pater, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	Marchant Schneider, David M Leake

Submitted:

Approved:


Kimberly Henry, Clerk of the Council


Kenneth Luersen, Mayor

