

# 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, April 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: Present, Council Member Joe Pasanello: Present, Vice Mayor TracyLynn Pater: Absent, 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 Ken Luersen introduced the ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) Scout Troop #1148 to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the troop thanked the Town Council for inviting them to attend and the opportunity for leading in the Pledge.

# III. Invocation - Rizwan Jaka, All Dulles Area Muslim Society(ADAMS)

Mayor Luersen invited Rizwan Jaka for the All Dulles Area Muslim Society to the podium to give the evening's invocation. Mr. Jaka shared that only 3 times in a century that different faiths are celebrating this time together with the Christians celebrating lent and Easter, the Jewish faith celebrating the Passover, the Muslim faith celebrating Ramadan, the Hindu faith celebrating the festival of Vaisakhi, the Afghan and Persian communities celebrating Nowruz- the Persian New Year. Mr. Jaka then gave the evening's invocation.

## **IV. Citizens Time**

Mr. Bob Weir, Gainesville District Board of Supervisor, attended the evening's meeting to give County updates. He shared that the solid waste fee will be going up because of a short fall in landfill expansion funding. He stated that it will significantly raise the contract cost that the Town has with Republic Services. He also shared that the original assessments from the County were not complete when the County budget was delivered. He stated that the County executive has proposed a second tax rate with this in mind and should lower the real estate tax bill from the County, if adopted. Lastly, he encouraged the citizens and Town Councl to visit him in his office if anyone had any questions. Robert Ruffalow, commander for the new Haymarket VFW Post 12218, which was recently chartered on March 11, 2023 attended the evenings meeting to introduce the public to the new VFW in Haymarket. He introduced Skip Powers, Senior Vice Commander to the Town Council who was also in attendance. He shared that Great Mane Brewery in Haymarket is the sponsor for their events. He gave a brief description what the VFW supports, such as the Youth Education Patriots Pen program and the Teacher of the Year Award that advances the principles of patriotism. He also shared that the VFW supports local Boy Scout programs and thanked the Boy Scouts for starting the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He shared that the charter started with 70 members and will become active stewards in Haymarket. He invited anyone in the audience and Town Council who served in a foreign war to join the Post. He stated that the general membership meetings are the second Saturday of the month at 10 am located at Great Mane Brewery until they establish a permanent location. Mr. Ruffalow concluded by thanking the Town Council for the opportunity in speaking and sharing about the new Post in Haymarket.

# V. Town Council Vacancy Appointment

#### 1. Motion to Appointment Town Council Vacancy

Mayor Ken Luersen stated that the Council received an application for the Town Council seat vacated by Bob Weir. He invited the applicant to the podium so that he could introduce himself. Alexander Beyene, the applicant residing at 6817 Walnut Park introduced himself to the Council. He stated that he has resided in Haymarket for approximately 15 years and is

currently serving as the chairperson of the Planning Commission. Mayor Luersen asked the Town Council if they were ready to take action on the vacancy.

Council Member Pasanello moved to appoint Alexander Beyene as the Haymarket Town Council Member filling the vacancy seat of Bob Weir with a term expiring November 7, 2023 for which there will be a Special Election for the seat. Council Member Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call votes.

**RESULT:** 

ADOPTED [3 TO 0]

MOVER:

Joe Pasanello, Council Member Mary Ramirez, Council Member

**SECONDER: AYES:** 

Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT:

TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

AWAY:

Alexander Bevene

# VI. Swearing In of New Town Council Member

At this time, Prince William County Clerk Jacqueline Smith gave the oath of office to Mr. Beyene. After the oath, Council Member Beyene joined the rest of the Town Council on the dais.

# VII. Proclamation - Child Abuse Awareness Month

Council Member Marchant Schneider read into the record the Proclamation presented to the Dominion Women's Club recognizing April as Child Abuse Awareness Month.

1. Motion to adopt Proclamation

Council Member Schneider moved to adopt the Proclamation as stated. Council Member Pasanello seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At this time, Mayor Luersen presented the proclamation to the Dominion Women's Club who puts pinwheels at the Town Museum lot in recognition of the Child Abuses Awareness.

**RESULT:** 

ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Marchant Schneider, Council Member

SECONDER:

Joe Pasanello, Council Member

AYES:

Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT:

TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

# VIII. 2023 Community Garden Season - Nadia Stewart

Nadia Steward from the Community Garden was unable to attend and asked to be at next month's meeting.

# IX. Community Spotlight- Casa BruMar

Evelyn BruMar, Founder and Executive Director for Casa BruMar Foundation, introduced herself and shared that her organization is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. She shared she is the Human Rights Commissioner for Prince William County and also sits on the LGBTQ advisory board to the Governor. She shared that when she moved to the area, she found out there was no community center anywhere in Northern Virginia. She also stated that she became aware that there was a lot of laws that didn't allow LGBTQ people to live safely within the communities. She went further to say that in 2020 the laws changed but people didn't understand the laws. She continued to state that the youth are the most vulnerable, being targeted against and are becoming victims of sex trafficking. She stated that she created this foundation, especially for the youth, so that they can be protected. She introduced her wife, Heidi BruMar secretary of the foundation, to give the slide presentation. Heidi BruMar gave a brief bio and then shared how the foundation started, who they help, the Foundation's short and long term goals, and educational programs within the Commonwealth. She introduced Angie Trerotola, who shared information on the Rise Up Scholarship for college students. She gave information on how to apply for the scholarship. After Ms. Trerotola's scholarship presentation, Mrs. Heidi BruMar finished her presentation on Community Engagement and how to donate to the organization. Mrs. Evelyn BruMar finished the

presentation by providing additional information on how to contact them for any situation that they advocate for. She ended her presentation time with a quick question and answer time.

# X. Consent Agenda

Mayor Luersen asked to pull the Town Administration Report and the Chief of Police Report from the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Pasanello moved to adopt the Consent Agenda items A:1-3, B:2,4,5 and C:1-5. Council Member Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After the discussion on the Town Administration Report and the Chief of Police Report, Council Member Pasanello moved to adopt Consent Agenda items B:1 and 3. Council Member Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### A. Minute Approval

1. Mayor and Council - Work Session - Feb 27, 2023 7:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER: Mary Ramirez, Council Member

AYES: Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT: TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

2. Mayor and Council - Closed Session Meeting - Mar 6, 2023 6:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Joe Pasanello, Council Member

SECONDER: Mary Ramirez, Council Member

AYES: Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT: TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

3. Mayor and Council - Regular Meeting - Mar 6, 2023 7:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Joe Pasanello, Council Member

SECONDER: Mary Ramirez, Council Member

AYES: Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT: TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

### **B. Department Reports**

#### 1. Town Administration Report

Mayor Luersen stated that he would like to highlight some of the items on the Town Administration report. He first made note that the playground shade structure would be installed on April 14th. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi confirmed that the shade installation was still on schedule. Mayor Luersen asked for a road construction update at the Crossroads Village Center area. Mrs. Kyriazi shared that the construction will take place over the next couple of weeks and that there should be some significant improvements by the end of April. There was a brief discussion on the traffic light at the intersection at the entrance to Crossroads Village Center Parkway and Washington Street, the timing period and activation date. Mrs. Kyriazi shared that she will involve the Police Department at the time of activation of the light for a smooth transition. Mayor Luersen also brought attention to the site plan of townhomes at the end of Blight Drive next to Alexander's Keep. Mrs. Kyriazi shared that there is a proposal of 11 town homes to be constructed. She shared that these townhomes will be in place of the 3 older homes that will be torn down. A short discussion followed. Lastly, the Mayor addressed the demolition of the house on Jefferson and Fayette. Mrs. Kyriazi stated that the demolition permit was granted late 2018 but the Covid pandemic delayed that project. She stated that the project is now up and running with the demolition of the one house. An update on the RFP for the sidewalk was given by Mrs. Kyriazi. Council Member Pasanello asked Mrs. Kyriazi to give an update on the Quiet Zone. Mrs. Kyriazi shared that she and Mr. Pasanello met with the

representatives from Prince William County. She stated that the major discussion was the two accidents that occurred at the railroad tracks. She stated that they discussed different options for the private crossing where the accidents occurred and how it would play into the quiet zone request. She stated that they will continue working with the County on getting the quiet zone passed. Lastly, Town Manager Emily Kyriazi shared that Prince William County received the safe streets for all grant and has given some of the suggestions to the representative for the County to consider.

At the end of her report, Mrs. Kyriazi introduced Alexandra Elswick to the Council. Alexandra was hired as the Administrative Assistant/Deputy Town Clerk position and will start to take over the Architectural Review Board meetings.

### 2. Town Treasurer Report

### 3. Chief of Police Report

Mayor Luersen asked about the increase of dispatched calls and asked if this increase is setting a new trend. Lieutenant Davis shared that he thought it will be the trend moving forward into the summer. Council Member Ramirez brought attention to the fact that even though there's been an up tick of calls for service, she recognized and thanked the department for taking the time to stop and speak with the children in the community.

Council Member Pasanello congratulated Officer Burgoon for receiving the Valor Award. Mr. Pasanello also recognized Lieutenant Davis for attending the firearms instructor recertification class. He additionally recognized Officer Chan for attending an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang training seminar. Council Member Beyene also questioned the increase in service calls, especially out of town calls. Lieutenant Davis explained the increase. There was a suggestion that at the next meeting, Chief Sibert address the Mutual Aid Agreement.

- 4. Town Engineer Report
- 5. Town Attorney Report
- C. Liaison Reports
- 1. Finance Liaison Report
- 2. Business Liaison Report
- 3. Community Outreach Liaison Report
- 4. Architectural Review Board Liaison Report
- 5. Planning Commission Liaison Report

# XI. Agenda Items

1. Town Council Petition for November Special Election

Council Member Schneider moved to that the Town Attorney file the petition for Haymarket to hold a special election in November to fill the Council vacancy seat. Council Member Pasanello seconded the motion. A short discussion followed on the filing deadline date. The deadline date was confirmed as August 18th. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**RESULT:** 

**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]** 

MOVER:

Marchant Schneider, Council Member

SECONDER:

Joe Pasanello, Council Member

AYES:

Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT:

TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

### 2. Resolution #2023-004: Remote Meeting Policy

Council Member Schneider moved that the Haymarket Town Council adopt Resolution #2023-004: Remote Meeting Policy effective immediately. Council Member Ramirez seconded the motion. A question was raised about a quorum being present in the building. A question was raised on the number of meetings allowed to be attended remotely. The Town Attorney stated that State Code 3708.3 does not require a quorum to be physically present. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

At this time, the Mayor released the Town Attorney from the meeting.

RESULT:

ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Marchant Schneider, Council Member

SECONDER:

Mary Ramirez, Council Member

AYES:

Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

**ABSENT:** 

TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

#### 3. Purchase of Police Vehicle

Mayor Luersen stated that this subject was fully discussed at the Work Session and asked for any additional questions or discussion. A discussion followed on the proffers used for the purchase of the vehicle, type of vehicle being purchased and the funding from the Capital Improvement Plan. A discussion continued on the type of vehicle used.

Council Member Ramirez moved that the Haymarket Town Council give Chief Sibert a directive to proceed with the purchase of a police vehicle utilizing \$10,640 of public safety proffer revenue and \$43,000 of CIP funds to procure this vehicle. Council Member Schneider seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**RESULT:** 

ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Mary Ramirez, Council Member

SECONDER:

Marchant Schneider, Council Member

AYES:

Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT:

TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

#### 4. Appointment of Planning Commission Vacancy

Mayor Luersen invited Jerome Gonzalez to the podium so that he could introduce himself and answer any questions from the Town Council. Mr. Gonzalez stated that applied to fill the Planning Commission vacancy. He shared that he has been a resident of Haymarket since 2019. He stated he moved to Haymarket after receiving his masters in city and regional planning. He stated that he is also a certified planner. He gave his employment background as a planner and shared that he would like to use his knowledge in Planning for his community. He invited any questions from the Town Council.

After a short discussion, Council Member Ramirez moved that the Haymarket Town Council appoint Jerome Gonzalez to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy seat of Bob Chrisman effective immediately with his term expiring on June 30, 2025. Council Member Schneider seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

**RESULT:** 

ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER:

Mary Ramirez, Council Member

SECONDER:

Marchant Schneider, Council Member

AYES:

Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

ABSENT:

TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

#### 5. Liaison Appointments: Finance and Planning Commission

Council Member Pasanello moved that the Town Council appoint Vice Mayor Tracylynn Pater as the finance liaison. With no other nominations, Vice Mayor Pater was appointed as the finance liaison.

Council Member Ramirez nominated Council Member Beyene as the Planning Commission liaison. With no other nominations, Council Member Beyene was appointed as the Planning Commission liaison.

#### 6. Town Maintenance Position

Town Manager Emily Kyriazi shared that this subject was briefly discussed at the last Work Session. She stated that she drafted a memo describing the needs for an FTE maintenance position. Mrs. Kyriazi went over some key points in her memo. She encouraged the Town Council to review the memo and ask questions. She stated that there are ongoing maintenance projects that need to be addressed and not enough hours for the part time position to complete. Mrs. Kyriazi stated that if this position was expanded to a full time position, the tasks at hand could be a proactive preventive response instead of a reactive response. She presented a draft

job description to the Town Council for review and welcomed any edits. She shared that this position could be part of the FY24 budget but requested that the Council consider an early start date. A discussion followed on proper training and certification be required for the position. A discussion followed on the necessity of a full time position.

## 7. FY24 Budget Work Session

Town Treasurer Roberto Gonzalez presented a revised draft budget for Town Council review and edits. Mr. Gonzalez provided the edits from the last budget work session. Mr. Gonzalez provided the comparables of the compensation plan from neighboring localities that was requested at the previous meeting. There was also a discussion on the proposed real estate tax rate. Mr. Gonzalez explained how he calculated the proposed rate of 0.111 cents per \$100 and the increase in assessments from Prince William County. He shared with his calculations the taxes would remain about the same for the citizens. There was a discussion on the CIP and implementing the requests from the Planning Commission into the budget. Council Member Schneider stated that he would like to finish the discussion of the Town Park building and how to move forward before adopting the budget. There was also a discussion on projected proffers. Council Member Pasanello asked for a report showing the projected proffers for Robinson Paradise and Crossroads Village. A discussion also followed on the population increase and the potential at reaching the 3500 threshold where the Town would then have to take over the maintenance of the streets and additional responsibilities. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi stated that she would follow up with the Census Bureau to get a more accurate number on the Town's population at this point. Lastly, there was a discussion if there would be a change in the fee schedule. Mrs. Kyriazi stated that there is not any anticipation of a fee schedule increase and that it would be presented with the budget.

# 8. Authorize to Advertise Public Hearing on Real Estate Tax Rate

The Town Council gave the directive to move forward with the advertising of the tax rate public hearing.

### XII. Council Member Time

### 1. Vice Mayor Pater

Vice Mayor Pater was not present and did not have bring forth a report.

#### 2. Council Member Pasanello

Council Member Pasanello congratulated and welcomed Council Member Beyene to the dais. He also welcomed Administrative Assistant Alexandra Elswick to the staff. He also recognized the 90th birthday celebration of Doris from Melanie's Florist. Lastly, he thanked and recognized Officer Burgoon for his service with his achievement of the Valor Award.

#### 3. Council Member Leake

Council Member Leake was not present and did not bring forth a report.

#### 4. Council Member Ramirez

Council Member Ramirez shared that she and Vice Mayor Pater will be attending a luncheon with the Auxiliary Board of the UVA Health Prince William Medical Center in support of their mobile mammography van. She also highlighted the start date for the Haymarket Farmer's Market on April 23rd.

#### 5. Council Member Schneider

Council Member Schneider congratulated the new appointments to the Planning Commission, Town Council and staff. He also thanked the staff for their hard work .

#### 6. Council Member Bevene

Council Member Beyene shared his enthusiasm for being appointed to the Town Council. He stated that he's looking forward to working with the Council and thanked them for welcoming him and excited about getting things done.

#### 7. Mayor Luersen

Mayor Luersen shared that due to the meeting schedule change, the Mayor's walk was the previous Saturday. He stated that he has established a monthly meeting with Gainesville District Supervisor Weir. He shared that one thing Mr. Weir made him aware of was a property south west of the Town that Prince William is part of. He asked staff to bring forth more information on this property at the next Work Session. Town Manager Kyriazi stated that they have submitted a rezoning application to the County but has not submitted anything for the 4 acres inside the Town limits. Mayor Luersen also asked the Police Department to bring forth a report of the added effort for something that won't be accessible through town to navigate to the portion that would be within the Town limits. A discussion followed on the subject.

# XIII. Adjournment

With no further business before the Town Council, Council Member Pasanello moved to adjourn with a second by Council Member Ramirez. The motion carried.

1. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:

**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]** 

MOVER:

Joe Pasanello, Council Member

SECONDER:

Mary Ramirez, Council Member

AYES: ABSENT:

TracyLynn Pater, David M Leake

Submitted:

Approved:

Marchant Schneider, Joe Pasanello, Alexander Beyene, Mary Ramirez

Kimberly Henry, Clerk of the Council

Kenneth Luersen, Mayor