



# **TOWN COUNCIL - REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**Monday, January 05, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers – 15000 Washington St., STE 100 Haymarket, VA 20169**

**<http://www.townofhaymarket.org/>**

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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

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### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Mayor TracyLynn Pater called the meeting to order.

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor TracyLynn Pater  
Vice Mayor Matthew Gallagher  
Councilmember Justin Baker  
Councilmember Alexander Beyene  
Councilmember Ken Luersen  
Councilmember Joe Pasanello  
Councilmember Dave Capossela

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **III. INVOCATION: Reverend Sean Rousseau - St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

Mayor Pater introduced the Reverend Sean Rousseau from St. Paul's Episcopal Church and invited him to the podium to give the evening's invocation. Prior to the giving the invocation, Reverend Rousseau stated that it was an honor to be present at this evening's meeting recognizing the Haymarket Police Department's accreditation. He shared that his family member is an officer for Fairfax County and that this recognition is hard to accomplish and shared that he is proud to be part of this evening's celebration.

### **IV. HAYMARKET POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION AWARD CEREMONY**

Mayor Pater introduced and welcomed Commissioner Chief Scott Todd Clingenpeel, program manager for the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) and Scott Vantrease, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to this evening's meeting recognizing the Haymarket Police Department for obtaining state accreditation. Mayor Pater invited the gentlemen to the podium to present the certificate to Chief of Police Al Sibert.

Mr. Clingenpeel shared that a team came to Haymarket in November 2025 looking at all aspects of the Police Department. He stated that they looked at the administration, the operations, training and personnel. He continued to state that they inspected equipment, the vehicles, they interviewed the officers, civilian personnel as well as citizens throughout the area. He shared that the team said that everyone they encountered in the department was thoughtful, dedicated and their main goal was serving the citizens of the Town and the visitors that come to Haymarket and that they had the highest regard to community policing trying to make the Town a better place.

Mr. Clingenpeel shared that with over 400 agencies within the Commonwealth only 115 have been successful with receiving accreditation.

Commissioner Scott Vantrease shared that his role is to work with over 100 rangers across the Commonwealth protecting the parks and conservation areas. He shared that receiving accreditation is a monumental task. He stated that it shows dedication to the community, to the people of the community and to community policing. Mr. Vantrease stated that accreditation is verification that they provide law enforcement services at a high level, utilize the standards that is consistently measured, evaluated and updated and enhancing the community. It shows professionalism among their peers. At this time, Mr. Vantrease and Mr. Clingenpeel presented the certificate of accreditation to Chief Sibert.

Chief Sibert stated that the certificate is a testament to the department and the community and the Town Council and staff who supports the department.

At this time, Mayor Pater took a brief recess for the audience to congratulate the department on the well deserved achievement.

## **V. PRESENTATION: State Senator Danica Roem and State Delegate Josh Thomas**

After the recess, Mayor Pater invited State Senator Danica Roem and State Delegate Josh Thomas to the podium to share with the public their Legislative report for 2026. Senator Roem spoke first on the bills she will be presenting. She shared that 5-6 bills will be related to data centers or transmission lines. She thanked the Council for being such good advocates and shared that she will need support from them, when the times comes, by endorsing one of her bills. She stated that she will ask for that endorsement in the near future. She shared with the Town Council several other bills that she will be bringing in the Legislative Session to include:

1. A locality must be a public hearing prior to giving up public land for eminent domain that's tied to a transmission line. This gives the locality access to as much information as possible from the applicant before making a decision;
2. Data Centers will have to pay 100% of their contracted electrical demand needs;
3. Universal Free School Breakfast;
4. Donation to Virginia Highway Safety Improvement program when doing DMV transactions;
5. FOIA related charges.

At the end of her presentation, Senator Roem took questions from the Town Council.

Delegate Thomas shared with the Town Council the bills he will be presenting. These bills include:

1. Data Center
  - a. Reform Bill that would provide more information to localities
  - b. Generators - a bill that would require that a declaration is noticed by law if a generator at a data center needs to be started other than scheduled maintenance
  - c. A redo on HB2027 that would grant a certificate program when the SCC would be involved
2. Housing
  - a. BZA- The appeals process will go back to Circuit Court and then to Court of Appeals
  - b. Affordable Housing for localities to be a little more creative for funding
3. Veterans
  - a. A bill codifying VVN, a veterans network app, to keep it going
  4. A Legislative Bill that would help boys and men and the issues they face. Virginia would be the first state to have this bill that would help males with family issues, social media, and work force development.

Delegate Thomas wrapped up his presentation with questions from the Town Council.

## **VI. PRESENTATION: Marie Pinto - White House Farm Foundation**

Mayor Pater introduced Marie Pinto from Leopold's Preserve White House Farm Foundation and invited her to the podium to give this evening's Community Spotlight presentation.

Ms. Pinto shared that Leopold's Preserve is a park that is just outside of the Town of Haymarket off of Thoroughfare Road. She shared that she is the executive director of the White House Farm Foundation. She shared that they are a non profit organization that is an educational foundation with a focus on conservation, local history and wise land use. She provided history on Leopold's Preserve. Ms. Pinto shared that the idea of what Mr. Leopold envisioned with the caring relationship between humans and nature became the focus of the current founder of the foundation. She shared how the founder was able to create the foundation and showed it's boundaries. She shared that there are 7 miles of public trails on the property that is free to access. She also shared that they host educational programs for the public. She also shared a list of ideas and opportunities that the preserve has for the public to use. She shared that the access is by foot only and no bikes are allowed. Ms. Pinto gave recognition to the volunteers and their programs at the preserve. Lastly, she shared the upcoming events at the preserve. After her presentation, the Town Council thanked Ms. Pinto for coming and encouraged the public to check out the property. There were questions on invasive species and plants and how the preserve is mitigating the problem.

## **VII. CITIZENS TIME**

There were no citizens in the audience wishing to address the Council at this evening's meeting for citizens time.

## **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Pater asked if Council would like to pull any reports from the Consent Agenda. There was a request to pull the Town Administration Report and Police Chief Report.

**Councilmember Pasanello moved that the Haymarket Town Council approve Consent Agenda items A:1, B: 2,4,5 and C: 1-5. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion made by Councilmember Pasanello, Seconded by Councilmember Baker.  
Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Gallagher, Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Beyene, Councilmember Luersen, Councilmember Pasanello, Councilmember Capossela**

**After the pulled reports were discussed, Councilmember Pasanello moved that the Haymarket Town Council adopt Consent Agenda Items B:1 and 3. Councilmember Luersen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion made by Councilmember Pasanello, Seconded by Councilmember Luersen.  
Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Gallagher, Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Beyene, Councilmember Luersen, Councilmember Pasanello, Councilmember Capossela**

### **A. Minute Approval**

1. Mayor and Council – Work Session – November 24, 2025
2. Mayor and Council – Closed Session/Regular Meeting – December 1, 2025
3. Mayor and Council - Work Session - December 18, 2025

### **B. Department Reports**

1. Town Administration Report
2. Town Treasurer Report

3. Police Chief Report
4. Town Engineer Report
5. Town Attorney Report

1. Town Administration Report

Town Manager introduced Lydia Schauss, the new Town Planner, to the Council and audience. Mrs. Kyriazi also shared that the RFP for the Town Park engineering phase closed earlier that day and that she received several submissions. She shared that she will be starting to sort through the submissions in the next several days.

2. Police Chief Report

Chief of Police Al Sibert gave his monthly report to the Council. He shared that he was not able to provide the report at the work session in December because the ending period on his data was close to the meeting date. He gave his report for the 2025 reporting period. He stated that calls for service stayed consistent; foot patrol and business checks remained static; response time is staying consistent; traffic stop trend data, traffic violations and traffic violations to date; no changes to the quarterly reporting on DMV grant; other data on calls for service remained consistent for the period; monthly traffic volume was down a little. Chief Sibert shared that Sargent Finley received the MADD award for 2025 and that the department was awarded the grant for a new drone. He also shared that Officer Galbreath was chosen as Officer of the Year within the department. Chief Sibert ended his report with events held in 2025 and opened the floor for questions from Council.

**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

**IX. AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Resolution #2026-001: Budget Amendment**

Town Manager Emily Kyriazi shared that Town Treasurer Roberto Gonzalez proposed a budget amendment for reallocating revenues from the Washington Street Realty rent to go towards the redistribution of the three new tenant leases in the upstairs of the Town Hall building. And the other portion of the budget amendment is for the police department expenditure in uniforms and supplies from a HEAT grant they received after the budget was adopted. She stated the third item on the budget amendment was for the police department to use the funds from the sell of the vehicle fleet for the new in-car and body cam software.

**Councilmember Beyene moved that the Haymarket Town Council approve an amendment to Fiscal Year 2026-2026 Budget as designated by Resolution 2026-001. Councilmember Pasanello seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by a roll call vote.**

**Motion made by Councilmember Beyene, Seconded by Councilmember Pasanello.**

**Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Gallagher, Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Beyene, Councilmember Luerssen, Councilmember Pasanello, Councilmember Capossela**

2. Planning Commission Vacancy Appointment

**Vice Mayor Gallagher moved to appoint Mahmoud Omer to the Haymarket Planning Commission filling the vacancy held by Dave Capossela with a term expiring June 30,2028. Councilmember Beyene seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote.**

**Motion made by Vice Mayor Gallagher, Seconded by Councilmember Beyene.  
Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Gallagher, Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Beyene, Councilmember Luersen, Councilmember Pasanello, Councilmember Capossela**

**X. CLOSED SESSION, IF NEEDED**

**Motion to go into Closed Session**

**Vice Mayor Gallagher moved that the Haymarket Town Council go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(8): Consultation with legal counsel regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, relating to a Town lease agreement and the Compensation Study RFP. Councilmember Pasanello seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Motion made by Vice Mayor Gallagher, Seconded by Councilmember Pasanello.  
Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Gallagher, Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Beyene, Councilmember Luersen, Councilmember Pasanello, Councilmember Capossela**

**Certification**

**Vice Mayor Gallagher moved that the Council certify that, in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed in a closed session under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as cited in that motion. Councilmember Luersen seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote.**

**Motion made by Vice Mayor Gallagher, Seconded by Councilmember Luersen.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Pater, Vice Mayor Gallagher, Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Beyene, Councilmember Luersen, Councilmember Pasanello, Councilmember Capossela**

**Directive from Closed Session**

**Without objection, Vice Mayor Gallagher directed for the Town Manager to move as discussed in the Closed Session.**

**XI. COUNCILMEMBER TIME**

**Councilmember Capossela**

Councilmember Capossela congratulated and thanked Chief Sibert for achieving state accreditation. He also congratulated Event Co-Ordinator Julia Crofford on a successful holiday bizarre. Mr. Capossela stated that with coming into a new year, we need to remember the good and the bad of the previous year; to make sure we continue to do the good things and reflect on the things that were not so good and to make sure we don't go down that path again.

**Councilmember Baker**

Councilmember Baker thanked Senator Roem and Delegate Thomas for the Legislative updates> He also thanked Marie Pinto for attending and sharing on Leopold's Preserve. Councilmember Baker congratulated the Police Department on their state accreditation achievement. Lastly, he shared that he is excited to work with the Council in the upcoming year.

### **Councilmember Beyene**

Councilmember Beyene also congratulated the Police Department on their accreditation.

### **Councilmember Pasanello**

Councilmember Pasanello thanked Senator Roem and Delegate Thomas for attending this evening's meeting and giving their Legislative bills that they will be presenting. He shared that he feels the Town is in great hands with their representation at the state level. He also thanked Marie Pinto from Leopold's Preserve for attending and sharing about the great facility within the Town's back yard. Most importantly, he congratulated Chief Sibert and the department and thanked everyone who supported their effort. Lastly, he shared that USPS is changing how they post mark mail which could impact voting ballots, billing and invoices.

### **Councilmember Luersen**

Councilmember Luersen recognized and thanked Board of Supervisor George Stewart for coming to this evening's meeting to be a part of the Police Department's celebration for achieving accreditation. He also congratulated the Chief for successfully bringing other revenue to the Police Department by obtaining various grants.

### **Vice Mayor Gallagher**

Vice Mayor Gallagher stated that in the interest of time, he said ditto to all the accolades and recognitions brought forth during citizens time. He brought attention to the subject from Delegate Thomas' bills that he will present regarding teens and particularly young men. He shared that this is something he is passionate about and that he will be attending an event on the weekend that focuses on the youth and what they are facing in today's world. He welcomed other Councilmembers to attend with him. Lastly, he wished everyone a Happy New Year.

### **Mayor Pater**

Mayor Pater wished everyone a Happy 2026. She shared that she reflected on the past year and started mapping out the next year in good things to come in Haymarket. She shared that she is proud of the Haymarket Police Department and that they show authenticity along with the rest of staff and the Council. She also shared that she enjoyed Cocoa and movie with an officer event that took place in Town Hall before Christmas. Lastly Mayor Pater stated that she is very honored to serve and be a part of this community.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business before the Town Council, Councilmember Pasanello moved to adjourn seconded by Vice Mayor Gallagher. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion made by Councilmember Pasanello, Seconded by Vice Mayor Gallagher.  
Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Gallagher, Councilmember Baker, Councilmember Beyene, Councilmember Luersen, Councilmember Pasanello, Councilmember Capossela**