



TOWN OF HAYMARKET TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING ~ MINUTES ~

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

15000 Washington St
Haymarket, VA 20169

Monday, June 3, 2024

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

A Public Hearing/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, Councilman Matthew Gallagher: Present, Vice Mayor TracyLynn Pater: Absent, Council Member Alexander Beyene: Present, Council Member Mary Ramirez: Present, Mayor Kenneth Luersen: Present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Invocation: Pastor Mark Brady, Park Valley Church

Mayor Luersen invited Pastor Mark Brady from Park Valley Church to the podium to give the evening's invocation.

IV. Public Hearing

1. Public Notice

Town Clerk Kim Henry read the public notice into the record.

2. Public Comment

Bob Weir, 6853 St. Paul Drive, addressed the Town Council on the FY25 proposed budget. He stated that the ARPA should be reflected differently as a revenue stream. He also addressed the proposed tax rate. He shared that, as a County Board of Supervisor, he worked hard at lowering the tax burden for the residents and is disappointed that the Town would consider the tax burden to the residents at this end.

3. Close Public Hearing

With no other comments, Mayor Luersen closed the public hearing.

V. Citizens Time

There were no other citizens wishing to address the Town Council at this time.

VI. Presentation: Senator Danica Roem - State Legislative Updates

State Senator Danica Roem gave a short presentation on the legislative updates that will be in effect on July 1, 2024. Some of those items were interment rights on private property that has a family cemetery, photo speed enforcement devices at high-risk intersections; She also shared some bills that went before the General Assembly that did not pass but will be bringing back next year.

After her presentation, Senator Roem opened the floor for any questions from the Town Council.

VII. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Pasanello moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items A:1-4, B:2,4&5, and C: 2-5. Councilmember Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After the discussion on the pulled items, Councilmember Pasanello moved to adopt Consent Agenda Items B:1,3 and C:1. Councilmember Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A. Minute Approval

1. Mayor and Council - Closed Session - Apr 29, 2024 6:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER: Matthew Gallagher, Councilman
AYES: Schneider, Pasanello, Gallagher, Beyene, Ramirez
ABSENT: TracyLynn Pater

2. Mayor and Council - Work Session - Apr 29, 2024 7:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER: Matthew Gallagher, Councilman
AYES: Schneider, Pasanello, Gallagher, Beyene, Ramirez
ABSENT: TracyLynn Pater

3. Mayor and Council - Budget Work Session - May 6, 2024 6:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER: Matthew Gallagher, Councilman
AYES: Schneider, Pasanello, Gallagher, Beyene, Ramirez
ABSENT: TracyLynn Pater

4. Mayor and Council - Public Hearing/Regular Meeting - May 6, 2024 7:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER: Matthew Gallagher, Councilman
AYES: Schneider, Pasanello, Gallagher, Beyene, Ramirez
ABSENT: TracyLynn Pater

B. Department Reports

1. Town Administration Report

Councilmember Schneider asked if the Comp Plan Amendments that were recommended by Planning Commission be brought forth to the Architectural Review Board for discussion before coming to the Town Council. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi stated that she would have the Town Planner bring that forth at the next ARB meeting. He also wanted to clarify the three strategic planning priorities being the Town Park, Town Centre and parking lot.

Councilmember Gallagher asked for updates on the Town Park sidewalk construction. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi gave a brief update on the project. Mrs. Kyriazi also gave the update on the street lights on Bleight Drive.

There was a question on the CivicPlus migration status. Town Clerk Kim Henry shared that the agenda and minutes segment is ready to go live. She stated, however, that staff is having difficulty getting the streaming portion moved over. There was a question about the GoGov app. Mrs. Kyriazi gave the updates and stated that she will be providing a demonstration at a future meeting.

2. Town Treasurer Report

3. Chief of Police Report

Councilmember Gallagher shared that he wanted to commend the Police Department and their community policing. He asked about the click it or ticket program. Lieutenant Davis shared that this was a state wide program and grants were provided to run the program. He stated because this was a state program, he would not have any particular statistics. There was a brief update on the upcoming blood drive on June 17.

4. Town Engineer Report

5. Town Attorney Report

C. Liaison Reports

1. Finance Liaison Report

Councilmember Schneider questioned the involvement of Supervisor Weir at a recent liaison meeting. He asked if any of Mr. Weir's comments would change the proposed budget. He suggested that in the future the Council notify the public that these meetings are open to the public.

2. Business Liaison Report
3. Community Relations Liaison Report
4. Planning Commission Liaison Report
5. Architectural Review Board Liaison Report

VIII. Agenda Items

1. FY25 Budget Presentation

At this time, Town Manager Emily Kyriazi and Town Treasurer Roberto Gonzalez gave a presentation on the draft FY25 budget. They gave a snapshot of the current household median compared to Prince William County. They provided considerations for the budget to include: a real estate tax rate of .111/\$100, addressing the substantial increase in the trash and recycling services to the residents of the Town, the funding of 2 additional FTE Police officers, funding for the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan, a 3% COLA and merit salary increase, address the increase in the Town's liability insurance, address the increase in the health insurance premiums and provide professional services to the residents and businesses. They provided the services and programs currently offered by the Town. Mrs. Kyriazi shared that the budget process stated in December 2023 and continued working the Council through Budget Work Sessions. She also shared that goals for the FY25 budget is to fund the updated Capital Improvement Plan to invest in the community through projects such as: 1. Complete the park sidewalk; 2. continue discussion on community park project; 3. Increase the walkability throughout Town; 4. Complete beautification projects and 4. fund the necessary Police Department equipment. Also to continue to fund competitive wages for the Police Department and Town Staff.

Town Treasurer Roberto Gonzalez presented the proposed revenues for FY25. There was a discussion on the reserves and questions on the ARPA funds. Mr. Gonzalez defined what the reserve funds are and what the qualifications are based on Town policy. Councilmember Pasanello clarified how the Council handled the ARPA funds when they came in.

Town Manager Emily Kyriazi continued with the presentation by showing the FY25 expenditures. They also did a comparison of real estate tax rates of surrounding Towns. A discussion continued on the tax rate. Continuing with the presentation, Mrs. Kyriazi shared the assets of Town owned property. They concluded their presentation showing a balanced budget. They opened the floor for further discussion.

Councilmember Pasanello stated that he was prepared to make a motion to reduce the real estate tax rate to equalization of .101. He stated that he felt the Tow has significant revenue sources. Each Councilmember provided their opinion on the tax rate suggested by Councilmember Pasanello. There was also a discussion on the difference in the trash contracts. Mr. Gonzalez provided numbers with the company that was contracted versus if the Town kept with current company.

At this time, Councilmember Pasanello moved to adopt a tax rate of .101 which is the equalized rate which would more than cover by the savings that was discussed. Councilmember Beyene seconded the motion. Councilmember Schneider asked that the motion be withdrawn since the Council had not finished the discussion.

Councilmember Pasanello withdrew his motion.

The discussion continued on the subject. Councilmember Schneider asked questions on the CIP. He clarified that there would be a presentation and discussion of funding at the July meeting to discuss the Town's options. He also asked about the Gateway signs and the funding on that. Discussion followed on the Gateway sign line item of the CIP.

Councilmember Gallagher asked if there were any leads for leasing the upstairs. Town Manager Emily Kyriazi stated that she has been actively trying to get the entire upstairs leased. Mr. Gallagher also addressed the meals tax line item and the new food establishments coming to the Town that have yet opened. Staff clarified that the revenue from those establishments have not been considered in the budget. Town Treasurer Roberto Gonzalez shared that he does not consider the revenue of those establishments based on projections and trends. He stated that

he would prefer to remain conservative until he sees the actual numbers once they open.

Discussion followed on the subject of the meals tax and business license tax.

Councilmember Beyene addressed the real estate tax rate. He addressed the current budget and how the revenues are exceeding the approved budget. Mr. Beyene stated that the proposed budget shows a surplus. A lengthy discussion ensued on the surplus revenue of the proposed budget. Mr. Beyene suggested that the Town Council consider the equalized tax rate motioned by Councilmember Pasanello.

2. Motion to Adopt FY25 Tax Rate

After the lengthy discussion, **Councilmember Pasanello moved that the Haymarket Town Council adopt the equalized tax rate of .101. Councilmember Beyene seconded the motion.** Councilmember Ramirez asked for a friendly amendment to include inflation at 3.7 percent. **Councilmember Pasanello made the amendment to his motion of the equalized tax rate of .104 which would be the equalized tax rate with an inflation at 3.7%. Councilmember Beyene seconded the amendment. The motion carried with a roll call vote.**

RESULT:	ADOPTED [3 TO 2]
MOVER:	Joe Pasanello, Council Member
SECONDER:	Alexander Beyene, Council Member
AYES:	Joe Pasanello, Matthew Gallagher, Alexander Beyene
NAYS:	Marchant Schneider, Mary Ramirez
ABSENT:	TracyLynn Pater

IX. Councilmember Time

1. Councilmember Beyene

Councilmember Beyene did not have anything to add.

2. Councilmember Pasanello

Councilmember Pasanello reminded everyone that June is National Cancer Survivor Month. He also shared that Rail Safety week is coming up in June. Lastly, he shared that June was National Pride Month. He shared an excerpt from the SPLC.

3. Vice Mayor Pater

Vice Mayor Pater did not provide a written report in her absence.

4. Councilmember Gallagher

Councilmember Gallagher shared about his fathers passion for public service. He stated that its poignant that he would speak about him at his 20 year anniversary of his passing. He shared memories of his father coming home from budget meetings and decisions that the his hometown Council would make. He shared that his dad would also preach about public service and hard conversations that needed to be had. He stated that with the hard conversation and decisions made at this evening's meeting, he is honored to be working with his fellow councilmembers and staff. At the end, he urged those listening to involve themselves with some kind of public service.

5. Councilmember Ramirez

Councilmember Ramirez shared that the last day of school was Friday, June 7 and shared information about the Longstreet Commons end of school year water balloon fight. She also shared that she would be attending the Small Towns Conference and hopes to bring back lots of information to share with her colleagues. She continued to share information on the Open House scheduled for June 14th for children K-5th grade. Lastly, she reminded those wishing to run for Town Council the deadline for filing paperwork is June 18th. She also stated that even though the conversations on the dais are difficult at times, she appreciates and respects each one of her colleagues on the dais.

6. Councilmember Schneider

Councilmember Schneider shared that he has worked with the Town Council in some capacity for the past 20 years. He shared that at some point you realize if you know your value and the contribution that you make. He shared that Council worked really hard in the 2015-2018 era to set the Town up for success. He continued to state that when he ran for office in 2020 that this Council was running on changing the culture. He stated that he feels those efforts have been side railed. He shared that he feels that the Council has failed in providing infrastructure needed. He stated he the culture needs to change if the Town is going to remain competitive

and provide a high quality of life for our residents by breaking the financial mindset that this Council continues to have. He stated that his challenges his colleagues to change that culture by the end of the year so that they can leave the next Council a solid foundation to work from.

7. Mayor Luersen

Mayor Luersen shared the date of his next monthly Mayor's walk.

X. Adjournment

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

1. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Alexander Beyene, Council Member
SECONDER:	Mary Ramirez, Council Member
AYES:	Schneider, Pasanello, Gallagher, Beyene, Ramirez
ABSENT:	TracyLynn Pater

Submitted:

Approved:

Kimberly Henry, Clerk of the Council

Kenneth Luersen, Mayor