

City of Hyattsville

*Hyattsville Municipal Building
4310 Gallatin Street, 3rd Floor
Hyattsville, MD 20781
(301) 985-5000
www.hyattsville.org*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 10, 2024

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMk1wyVfTAWItlg9KtbHRg

Virtual

City Council

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor
Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5
Joanne Waszczak, Council Vice President, Ward 1
Sam Denes, Ward 1
Danny Schaible, Ward 2
Emily Strab, Ward 2
Kareem Redmond, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Michelle Lee, Ward 4
Rommel Sandino, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator
Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk, 301-985-5001, cityclerk@hyattsville.org

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING!
Your participation at this public meeting is valued and appreciated.

AGENDA/PACKET: The Agenda/Packet is available for review at the Hyattsville Municipal Building and online at www.hyattsville.org prior to the scheduled meeting (generally available no later than the Friday prior to the scheduled Monday meeting). Please note, times given for agenda items are estimates only. Matters other than those indicated on the agenda may also be considered at Council discretion.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT: In compliance with the ADA, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or other services in conjunction with this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (301) 985-5009. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

AUDIBLE DEVICES: Please ensure all audible devices are turned off or otherwise not audible when the City Council is in session. Thank you.

PUBLIC INPUT: If you wish to address the Council during the Public Comment period, please use the "Raise Hand" feature in the virtual meeting interface. Participants may also submit statements electronically via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. Submitted electronic statements will be sent to Councilmembers prior to the meeting and will not be read aloud. All participants shall remain respectful in their contributions and associated functions of the virtual meeting interface are not intended for public dialogue or discussion.

WAYS TO WATCH THE MEETING LIVE: City Council meetings are broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon). You may also view meetings live online at hyattsville-md.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?camera_id=2

REPLAY SCHEDULE: The meetings will be re-broadcast on cable television, channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon) daily at 7:00 a.m., 1 p.m., and 8 p.m. Meetings are also able for replay online at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

CITY INFORMATION: Sign up to receive text and email notifications about Hyattsville events, government, police and programs at www.hyattsville.org/list.aspx

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event of inclement weather, please call 301-985-5000 to confirm the status of the Council meeting.

Meeting Notice:

The Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, June 10, 2024 remotely via video conference. The Council meeting will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance.

The meeting will be broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast), channel 12 (Verizon), and available via live stream at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

If you wish to address the Council during the Public Comment period, please use the "Raise Hand" feature in the virtual meeting interface. Participants may also submit statements electronically via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. Submitted electronic statements will be sent to Councilmembers prior to the meeting and included in the official meeting record. Electronically submitted statements will not be read aloud. All participants shall remain respectful in their contributions and associated functions of the virtual meeting interface are not intended for public dialogue or discussion.

Members of the public who wish to comment during the virtual Council meeting must register in advance using the link below.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMk1wyVfTAWItlg9KtbHRg

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:01 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Director of Community Business Economic Development Debi Sandlin

City Treasurer Ronald Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy Director of Public Works Priyanka Joshi

Housing Manager David Cristeal

Deputy Finance Manager Natally Palma

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council President Joseph Solomon

Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Danny Schaible

Councilmember Emily Strab

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

Councilmember Kareem Redmond

Councilmember Michelle Lee

Councilmember Edouard Haba

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**3. Approval of Agenda**

Amendments to the agenda are as follows:

-Addition of Proclamation HCC-379-FY24-Proclamation to Celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary of North Brentwood

-Addition of Proclamation HCC-380-FY24-Proclamation to Celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary of Edmonston

-Addition of Consent Agenda Item HCC-381-FY24-Motion for the Mayor and Council to authorize the disbursement \$914.48 of Ward 4 discretionary funds to CM Haba for the upcoming Ward 4 Community Day and Pig Roast.

-Addition of Action Agenda Item HCC-382-FY24-Motion for the Mayor and Council to give authority for City of Hyattsville staff to provide testimony before the Prince George's County Council expressing support for a rent stabilization ordinance and articulate concerns with CB-055-2024.

A motion was made by Council Lee, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that this was Approved as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

4. Public Comment (7:10 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Michael Gorman (Ward 5) urged the Council to vote against the issuance of bonds as he feels that this will negatively impact the City's finances and stressed the need for transparency in reporting on City finances.

Claire Tombes (Ward 2) urged the Council not to stifle speech of residents in public meetings.

Will Seath (Ward 2) expressed concerns about the Council passing a budget that requires the use of reserve funds and stated that the Council needs to act promptly to reverse this trend.

Melissa Schweisguth stated that she would like to see the Council do more community outreach around events and activities that are affiliated with proclamations such as LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Ryan Washington (Apartment & Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington) expressed that his association opposes the rent stabilization legislation as they fear a negative impact on the industry.

Daniel Broder (Ward 2) is concerned about the increasing cost of the new police department. He expressed that residents could benefit from redirecting some of the funds related to this project. He also urged the Council to pass a Ceasefire Resolution for the people of Palestine.

Martha Wells (Member of St. Matthews/San Mateo) made a request that a portion of remaining ARPA funds be allocated to support their meal distribution programs.

Mr. Marshall is opposed to approving the budget in its present form and outlined items that he felt could be reduced and/or removed. He also discussed the last minute additions to the agenda and asked that these items be made available to the public for transparency.

5. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:40 p.m.)

City Administrator Douglas provided an update on City related news and events.

6. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**6.a. City of Hyattsville 10 Year Financial Forecast**[HCC-367-FY24](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Treasurer Brooks, Deputy Finance Manager Natally Palma, Mike Sudsina (City of Hyattsville Financial Advisor), Greg Van Wagnen (City of Hyattsville Financial Advisor), presented the City of Hyattsville 10 Year financial forecast and discussed the new forecasting model that was utilized in its creation.

The Council and staff discussed staffing levels utilized in the model, the projected decrease in expenditures, a potential financial surplus in the FY24 budget, and ways to improve one year projections. Council members also inquired about the metrics to measure growth. Mr. Sudsina advised that new construction projects, increases in available housing, and increased property taxes are measurable growth metrics. The Council requested that the financial projection tool be made available in the form of a dashboard for the Council to use. Treasurer Brooks advised that he would provide this information to the Council.

7. Appointments

All Appointments are approved in a single motion.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

7.a. Appointment to Board of Supervisors of Elections[HCC-366-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor, with Council approval, appoint Nicola Konigkramer (Ward 3) to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for a term to expire on January 12, 2027.

Sponsors: Croslin

Attachments: [Nicola Konigkramer 5.24.2024 redc.pdf](#)

Proclamations

All Proclamations are approved in a single motion.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Lee, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

HCC-379-FY24 Proclamation Celebration North Brentwood Anniversary

[HCC-373-FY24](#)

HCC-380-FY24 Proclamation Celebrating Edmonston Anniversary

HCC-374-FY24

8. Consent Items (8:10 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine in nature, and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the Mayor/Council request specific items be removed from the Consent agenda for separate action.

All Consent Agenda Items are approved in a single motion.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Lee, that the Consent Agenda was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

8.a. Disbursement of Ward 3 Discretionary Funds[HCC-372-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the disbursement of \$90.46 to Kareem Redmond for reimbursement for refreshments provided at the community meeting held on June 6, 2024 at the City Building.

Sponsors: McClellan and Redmond

Attachments: [Receipt.jpeg](#)

8.b Disbursement of Ward 4 Discretionary Funds[HCC-375-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor & Council approve the disbursement of \$914.48 of Ward 4 discretionary funds to CM Edouard Haba for the upcoming Ward 4 Community Day and Pig Roast.

9. Action Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)

9.d HCC-382-FY24 - Testimony to Prince George's County Council

[HCC-377-FY24](#)

Council Vice President Waszczak asked if Community Business & Economic Development Director Sandlin or City Planner Jeff Ulysse could provide insight into the City's Rent Stabilization legislation in comparison to Prince George's County Rent Stabilization legislation.

Housing Manager David Cristeal provided an overview of the proposed Prince George's County rent stabilization ordinances in comparison to the City of Hyattsville draft motion.

CM Strab inquired if the bill set forth by Prince George's County Council has a provision for vacancy decontrol. Mr. Cristeal confirmed that the bill proposed by Prince George's County Council does not have it. Additionally the Prince George's County bill gives exemption to all units constructed after the year 2000 in perpetuity. She also asked for clarification about the rent increases for units outside of senior living facilities and asked that the Council define what items they would like to be in the testimony prior to voting.

CM Redmond inquired what views would Mr. Cristeal will be communicating to the Prince George's County Council. CM Schaible stated that he would like for Mr. Cristeal to advocate for Prince George's County Council to consider reframing their bill to be closer to the City of Hyattsville's draft ordinance.

Council President Solomon stated that it is too late to submit a letter with Hyattsville's proposed recommendations to the Prince George's County Council. He would like to see the testimony focus on vacancy decontrol, the stabilization rate, and the period of exemption. Council President Solomon feels flexibility should be allowed for staff to testify before Prince George's County Council.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Council Vice-President Waszczak, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye:	Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino
Nay:	Strab

9.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-02: Fiscal Year 2025 Budget (Second Reading and Adoption) [HCC-364-FY24](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-02, an ordinance adopting an annual budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the general purpose, fixing the tax rates for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024; authorizing collection of taxes herein levied, and appropriating funds for the fiscal year (Second Reading and Adoption).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-02 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Final DRAFT .pdf](#)
[University Town Center Special Tax Report \(2024\).pdf](#)

Council Vice President Waszczak requested a pie chart graphic to reflect the balance of investment in prevention and intervention efforts versus suppression efforts overseen by the police department. City Administrator Douglas stated that the communications team produces infographics for the budget each year and it includes the information requested.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Council Vice-President Waszczak, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

Nay: Denes

9.b. Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-03: Authorizing the Issue and Sale of General Obligation Bonds (Second Reading and Adoption)

[HCC-365-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-03 authorizing and empowering the City of Hyattsville to issue and sell from time to time one or more series of general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$17,500,000), the proceeds of the sale of the bonds to be used and applied for the public purpose of financing, reimbursing or refinancing costs of the project identified as 3505 Hamilton Street Public Safety Building, together with related costs; specifies the amount of the bonds to be allocated to the project, provides that each series of the authorized bonds may be sold at public sale or private sale; authorizes the City Council to determine or provide by resolution for various matters relating to the authorization, sale, security, issuance, delivery, payment, and redemption or repayment of, and for each series of bonds. The City pledges its full faith and credit and unlimited taxing power to the payment of debt service on the bonds and provides for the imposition of ad valorem taxes sufficient for such purposes. Details of any series of the bonds to be issued shall be determined or provided for by resolution of the City Council.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City of Hyattsville Ordinance 2024\(189724225.4\) 1.pdf](#)

The Council and staff discussed the status of the bond rating, status of the capital fund budget, and the potential increase in interest rates. Mike Sudsina (City of Hyattsville Financial Advisor) advised that the City is conducting a semi-public sale and working with the underwriting firm to solicit buyers for the bonds. He also stated that this is an accepted method to convert bonds into permanent funding and the outcome should not be significantly different from a fully public sale.

Treasurer Brooks stated that Ordinance 2024-03 grants the authorization for the issuance of the bonds. This ordinance will be followed by a resolution to sell the bonds to sell the bonds in accordance with the City Charter.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

9.c. Contract with Motorola Solutions for New Dispatch Center Equipment and Installation[HCC-369-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Motorola Solutions for dispatch center equipment and installation not to exceed \$2,000,000, with \$650,000 funded by ARPA.

I further move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an equipment maintenance and support contract for the dispatch center equipment with Motorola Solutions for years 2-5, at a cost not to exceed \$560,000.

The total expenditure for this project is not to exceed \$2,560,000. The contracts are subject to review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Motorola Proposal Communications Center](#)

The Council and staff discussed potential ways to recoup funds expended on the Motorola equipment, alternate funding sources such as grants and government funding, CCTV network compatibility, and potential partnerships with external agencies.

CM Haba expressed concerns about this funding request as there was a previous request made for equipment in the new police facility. He also inquired if the funding for this request will come from remaining ARPA funds. Treasurer Brooks advised that these funds were previously approved and will not be allocated from remaining ARPA funds. Council President Solomon stated that the \$650,000 referenced by CM Haba was discussed and approved at the January 16, 2024 Council meeting and asked Chief Towers for an update on how those funds were spent. Chief Towers stated that the previous request for \$650,000 was related to IT infrastructure at the new facility which differs from the items in the Motorola contract. The infrastructure includes network switches, servers, cabling, voice over IP phone systems, and computer systems for the entire building with the exclusion of the communications center.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Nay: Haba

10. Council Dialogue (8:45 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)**11. Motion to Close (8:55 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.)**

11.a. Motion to Close - Note: Council will Not Return to Open Session[HCC-370-FY24](#)

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of June 10, 2024, to discuss the performance evaluation and compensation of an employee over whom this public body has jurisdiction.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Sponsors: City Administrator

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 10:13 p.m. on June 10, 2024.

In addition to the City Council, the following staff members were present:
Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

Topics Discussed: The compensation and performance evaluation of an employee over whom the this public body has jurisdiction.

Action Taken: None Taken

The closed session adjourned at 10:45 PM.