

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 2, 2022

6:30 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4eZYwAEtSSqCG_hiTRZtoA

Virtual

City Council Public Hearing

Robert S. Croslin, Interim Mayor
Danny Schaible, Council Vice President, Ward 2
Sam Denes, Ward 1
Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1
Ben Simasek, Ward 3
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Daniel Peabody, Ward 4
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Joseph Solomon, Ward 5
Rommel Sandino, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator
Laura Reams, City Clerk, 301-985-5009, 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 using the eComment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. 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.

Public Hearing Notice:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its Public Hearing on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. (prior to the City Council Meeting) remotely via video conference. The Public Hearing will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow for residents to comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Real Property Tax Rate of \$0.63 per \$100 of assessed value. It is anticipated that the Council will set the tax rate during this Public Hearing. Budget Documents can be found at www.hyattsville.org/budget. Paper copies of the budget can be requested by calling 301-985-5009 or via email at cityclerk@hyattsville.org.

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 using the eComment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. 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_4eZYwAEtSSqCG_hiTRZtoA

1. Call to Order

The hearing was called to order at 6:35pm.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Chief of Police-Jarod Towers

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council Vice-President Danny Schaible

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Edouard Haba

Daniel Peabody

Ben Simasek

Joseph Solomon

2. Public Comment - Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Mr. Scott Wilson stated he would suggest lowering the tax rate, the 10% tax rate increase due to increased property assessment value is not sustainable over time. He stated that any collection of taxes over the rate of inflation is asking for trouble.

Ms. Melissa Schweisguth thanked the staff for the work on the budget. She requested the Council consider giving residents a tax break due to the rise in property assessment.

Mr. Marshall stated the tax rate should be set lower than proposed.

Mr. Marcus Hendrick disapproved of the proposed tax rate. He feels the tax rate should be lowered versus being raised.

Ms. Irene Marsh stated the property assessments have risen, so property taxes will be too high. Please do not raise the property tax rate.

Ms. Claire Panak stated she supports keeping the rate as it is.

3. Action Item

3.a. Fiscal Year 2023 Real Property Tax Rate[HCC-358-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council set the City of Hyattsville's Real Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) at \$0.63 per \$100 of assessed value.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2022 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification - City of Hyattsville 4-27-2022](#)
[2022 City of Hyattsville CYTR Tax Advertisement 4-6-2022](#)
[PGPost 4-14-4-20 2022 A3 FY23 Tax Rate Advertisement](#)

City Treasurer Ron Brooks provided a brief update on the proposed real property tax rate for the City of Hyattsville.

Councilmember Peabody stated he understands the desire to reduce the tax rate to reduce the burden on the taxpayer. He is not in favor of reducing the tax rate. A reduction in the tax rate should be considered for residents who are on a lower tax rate or on a fixed income. There should be additional work on expanding the current tax credits offered by the City.

Councilmember Simasek stated he is in support of maintaining the current tax rate and lowering the cap for the homestead tax credit.

Councilmember Haba stated he would like to see the constant yield tax rate adopted this budget cycle, but he stated that amending the tax rate to \$0.60 per \$100.00 of assessment is fair.

Councilmember Sandino agrees that additional tax credit programs should be researched and discussed but not at tonight's meeting. He is in favor of lowering the tax rate.

Councilmember Solomon reminded his colleagues that inflation has risen, interest rates have increased and the cost of living hinders residents ability to pay more property taxes. He stated he feels \$0.60 is a happy medium and a good faith demonstration to the citizens.

Councilmember Waszczak asked Councilmember Solomon how he determined the \$0.60 for the amendment to the motion. Councilmember Solomon responded stating the constant yield rate is \$0.58 and the proposed tax rate is \$0.63. He felt the \$0.60 was a good number between the two. Councilmember Waszczak asked Councilmember Peabody if there was information disseminated regarding the scalable tax rates in other municipalities in Maryland. Councilmember Peabody stated this was research he had done on his own on the Maryland Comptrollers website.

Councilmember Peabody asked City Treasurer Brooks if the vote could be delayed tonight on the tax rate until the information is received from the State. City Treasurer Brooks responded that tonight is the required public hearing to set the tax rate and it cannot be delayed.

Councilmember Denes stated he is opposed to the amendment to the tax rate, but would

support an affordable housing initiative.

Council Vice President Schaible is concerned with lowering the homestead tax credit.

Councilmember Solomon motioned to amend the tax rate to \$0.61 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sandino.

Yes: 4(Schaible, Haba, Solomon, Sandino) No: 6(Croslin, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Peabody, McClellan)

Motion to Amend Fails

A motion was made by Simasek, seconded by Haba, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Denes, Waszczak, McClellan, Peabody, and Simasek

Nay: Schaible, Sandino, Haba, and Solomon

4. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.