

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 18, 2024

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N9K1p7n2QamMMelY3fKWnA

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
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Kareem Redmond, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Michelle Lee, Ward 4
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.

Present: Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Danny Schaible
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
Councilmember Kareem Redmond
Councilmember Michelle Lee
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

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. 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.

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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, March 18, 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:

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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_N9K1p7n2QamMMelY3fKWnA

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas
 Acting Director of Community and Economic Development-Debi Sandlin
 City Treasurer-Ron Brooks
 Chief of Police-Jarod Towers
 Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle
 Director of Community Services-Sandra Shepherd
 Director of Human Resources-Jay Joyner
 Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk
 Emergency Services Coordinator-Reggie Bagley
 Deputy Director Public Works-Hal Metzler
 Deputy Director Public Works-Priyanka Joshi
 ARPA Funds Manager-Patrick Paschall
 ARPA Specialist of Contracts, Grants and Audits-Krissi Humbard

Present:	Mayor Robert Croslin Council President Joseph Solomon Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak Councilmember Danny Schaible Councilmember Emily Strab Councilmember Jimmy McClellan Councilmember Kareem Redmond Councilmember Michelle Lee Councilmember Edouard Haba
Absent:	Councilmember Sam Denes Councilmember Rommel Sandino

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

There were two amendments made to the agenda:

-Clerk's Office: Change the amount listed in item 10.f to \$1,094.94.

-Councilmember Schaible: Move item 11.a from the Consent Agenda to the Action Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Lee.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that the Agenda be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Denes, and Sandino

4. Approval of the Minutes**4.a. Approval of the Minutes**[HCC-232-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 20, 2024 and the Council Budget Work Session of February 26, 2024.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes Feb 20 2024](#)
[Minutes Feb 26 2024 Budget Work Session](#)

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

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

Absent: Denes, and Sandino

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

There was no public comment.

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

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

At Council's request, staff provided more information regarding the implementation of parking sticks and additional parking options in Hyattsville.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

7.a. Vandalism Program Update-ARPA[HCC-230-FY24](#)

For presentation only.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Vandalism Recovery and Prevention Grant Presentation](#)

City ARPA Specialist of Contracts, Grants and Audits Krissi Humbard presented the details of the Vandalism Recovery Grant and the Vandalism Prevention Grant.

Council Vice President Waszczak expressed concern that the time frame for the program was too narrow and supports allowing businesses to apply for funds based on incidents that happened in the past two years.

Councilmember McClellan added his support to allowing businesses to apply for funds based on incidents going back two fiscal years.

Councilmember Redmond asked if the timeline was a staff decision or due to an ARPA guideline. Ms. Humbard responded that based on input from the City's ARPA consultant and the amount of money allocated in the program, staff decided on the time limits.

Councilmember Haba expressed his support to extend the time frame for an additional fiscal year. He also asked if there will be a physical paper way to apply or if it will be all online. Ms. Humbard replied that currently the application is online only and in both Spanish and English. She added that it will be possible to print applications for businesses that do not have computer access.

Councilmember Lee asked if there will there be follow up to ensure that the applicants spent the money for its intended use. Acting Director of Community and Economic Development Debi Sandlin clarified the program provides funds as a reimbursement grant for money that has already been spent.

Council Vice President Waszczak reiterated her desire for the time frame to be changed and asked if there was any other directive that staff needed to go back and address that.

Treasurer Brooks spoke to the source of the funding for the program and the staff need to be certain that the use of the funds will meet the audit requirements.

8. Proclamations**8.a. Proclamation Welcoming the Morehouse College Glee Club**[HCC-236-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation welcoming the Morehouse College Glee Club to the Bowie Center for Performing Arts for their March 21, 2024 concert.

Sponsors: Solomon, Haba, Sandino and Lee

Attachments: [CM 0318_24 Welcoming the Morehouse College Glee Club](#)

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that the Proclamation be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Denes, and Sandino

9. Appointments

9.a. Appointment to the Race and Equity Task Force

[HCC-231-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Nykia Clemonts (Ward 3), Ana Valdez Curiel (Ward 5), and Idra Akan (Not a City Resident) to the Race and Equity Task Force for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 31, 2026.

Sponsors: Haba and Lee

Attachments: [Nykia Clemonts W3 Dec 4, 23 redac](#)
[Ana Valdez Curiel W5. Jan 24, 24 redac](#)
[Idra Akan Nov 24,2023 redac](#)

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

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

Absent: Denes, and Sandino

10. 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.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Council Vice-President Waszczak, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Denes, and Sandino

10.a. Community Garden Shed Purchase

[HCC-237-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure of up to \$10,000 for the acquisition and installation of two new storage sheds from Creative Outdoor Sheds LLC.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Option 1](#)

10.c. FY24 - Landscaping Contract Expenditure - Work Extension[HCC-227-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 to Professional Lawn Maintenance Service (PLMS) for mowing services along the Trolley Trail under their existing landscaping contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Mowing Maintenance Work extension- City of Hyattsville.docx](#)

10.d. FY24 - Alley Maintenance Contract Expenditure - Work Extension[HCC-228-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$8,000 to Professional Lawn Maintenance Service (PLMS) for extending work services to include additional alleys under their existing alley maintenance contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Alley Maintenance Additional 2024 \(2\)](#)

10.e. Renewal Contract with Lexipol[HCC-229-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to renew the contract with Lexipol for a period of one (1) year commencing April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, at a cost not to exceed \$17,467.08 annually.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Lexipol Invoice INVLEX123481](#)
[Lexipol Contract](#)

10.f. Disbursement of Ward 5 Discretionary Funds[HCC-234-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the disbursement of ~~\$927.36~~ \$1,094.94 from the Ward 5 discretionary fund to Trinity Grill in support of the March 14 Ward 5 Community Meeting.

Sponsors: Solomon and Sandino

Attachments: [Trinity Grill](#)

**10.g. FY24 Special Revenues Funds Grant Budget Appropriation
Amendment: FEMA COVID-19 Reimbursement Grant**[HCC-235-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the FY24 Special Revenues Funds Budget to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$605,056 to close-out COVID-19 FEMA Reimbursement Grant Funds. These funds cover the remaining close-out costs for vaccines, equipment, and testing sites that are 100% reimbursable by FEMA for the period July 1, 2022, to May 30, 2023.

Sponsors: Douglas

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

10.b Throne Public Bathrooms - Contract Extension[HCC-238-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the renewal of Throne Labs rental services for five public restrooms for 1-year under their existing contract with the City. This expenditure, not to exceed \$230,000, will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as part of the Public Restrooms and Shower Facility project pre-approved by the Council during the April 17th, 2023 meeting. The Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary adjustments to the budget to facilitate this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Throne Labs Proposal Hyattsville 022024](#)
[Throne Usage Analysis 2023 Aug thru 2024 Feb](#)

Councilmember Schaible asked for an update on Portland Loos and the renovations to the Driskell Park restrooms. Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle responded that the City is in the permitting process for the Portland Loos at Hyatt Park and Heurich Park. She estimates that installation would be complete in 8-12 months. She added that the bathrooms at Driskell Park are slated for renovation and the extra bathroom that has been added nearer the field has been very beneficial to the community.

Councilmember Schaible expressed his concerns with access to the Throne and the cost of the Throne. He added that he calculated the per use charge to the City and finds it to be very expensive. He expressed his support for more time to study the use. Director Riddle provided an alternate cost per use.

Council President Solomon expressed his support for the current expenditure request based on the community's need before a permanent installation of facilities is complete at the parks.

Council Vice President Waszczak asked for an equity analysis of access to and locations of the Thrones. She asked if the companies could make the outside be more content sensitive. Director Riddle responded that locations are decided by community need and access to utilities. Deputy Metzler added that the Throne does have an option to change the outside for a fee.

Councilmember Redmond asked what would happen if the Council did not act on the item tonight. Director Riddle responded that the City would lose one Throne and there would be a possibility of losing the whole contract if action is not taken at the next meeting. Deputy Metzler added that there is a high demand for the units.

Councilmember Schaible reiterated the cost issue and that he would rather make this decision than cut something else given the City's \$5 million structural deficit. He expressed his support to keep the Thrones at the higher use areas and not renew for the lower usage areas.

Councilmember Haba agreed that it makes sense to keep the higher use Thrones with the expectation that permanent facilities will be installed in the next 8-9 months.

Council President Solomon asked if the information provided by users could be given to Council. He added that the City does not have a \$5 million structural deficit, noting that \$5 million was a projection of the amount to be drawn from the general fund during this fiscal year.

Council President Waszczak made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Councilmember Schaible seconded the motion to table.

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

Aye: Waszczak, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Lee, and Haba

Nay: Solomon, and Redmond

Absent: Denes, and Sandino

Abstain: Croslin

11.a. Streetlight Utility Negotiations and LED Conversion

[HCC-203-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Tanko Lighting to provide utility negotiation and LED conversion support to complete the conversion of the City's Streetlights to LEDs, pending legal review. An expenditure not to exceed \$200,000 was approved in the FY24 CIP budget and the Treasurer is authorized to make the budget amendments necessary to facilitate this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Tanko Lighting Utility Negotiations and LED Conversion Proposal - Hyattsville, MD - 3.11.24](#)

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle and Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler gave an overview of the proposed contract.

Councilmember McClellan expressed his concern about the effects of white light on the environment. Director Riddle responded that Tanko is on the cutting edge of light technologies and agreed that environmental impacts need to be taken into account. Deputy Metzler added the lighting levels can be adjusted to lessen the impact on the environment and that the ability to direct the light is better with LED technology.

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, and Haba

Absent: Denes, and Sandino

12. Council Dialogue (8:45 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)

13. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Schaible, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Denes, and Sandino