

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2023

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KsHF3vf-S92PX9Lr-0Klha

Virtual

City Council

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

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.

Meeting Notice:

The Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023 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_KsHF3vf-S92PX9Lr-0KIhA

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas
Deputy City Administrator-Consuela Barbour
Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler
City Treasurer-Ron Brooks
Chief of Police-Jarod Towers
Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle
Director of Community Service-Sandra Shephard
City Clerk-Laura Reams
Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk

Present: Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
Councilmember Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Ben Simasek
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

Council President Solomon moved to amend the agenda to add a proclamation honoring Jim Chandler.

Councilmember Denes moved to amend motion HCC-372-FY23 to read as follows:

I move that the Mayor and Council allocate a total of \$7,136,500 of American Rescue Plan Act funds for the following projects and amounts:

Title of Project Proposal Amount

Ager Rd/Queens Chapel Alley Pedestrian Safety Improvements \$1,500,000

Driskell Park Community Building Renovation \$500,000

Public Wi-fi Study \$60,000

Beautify Alternate Route 1 \$200,000

Hyattsville Tree Canopy Restoration Budget \$331,000

City Facilities Security Upgrades \$200,000

Hyattsville Crossing BID \$150,000

Environmental Depot \$600,000

Circulator Study Update \$25,000

Mental Health Coordinator for Teen Center \$100,000

Expand Electronic Sign System \$120,000

Publish a Small Business Directory Online \$80,000

Public Restroom and Shower Facilities in City-Owned Parks ~~\$300,000~~ \$850,000

~~**Driskell Park Three Season Programmable Outdoor Space \$300,000**~~

SMART Waste Management Study \$60,000

PD Recruitment Advertising \$15,000

The Spot Placemaking Project \$250,000

Updates to City Building Restrooms \$280,000

VR Training Technology - PD \$110,000

City Building 2nd Floor Renovations \$800,000

Solar Community Message Boards \$71,500

IT Infrastructure Investment \$150,000

Scholarships for City Camps \$34,000

Roof Repair of Teen Center \$450,000

Treasurer Summer Emergency Flex Fund \$200,000

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Waszczak, Simasek, Denes, Peabody, Strab, McClellan, Haba, and Sandino

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

Melissa Schwiesguth submitted written comments in support of The Spot, the Environmental Depot, tree canopy restoration, and upgrading City restrooms.

David Marshall spoke in opposition to funding for The Spot.

Chuck Perry submitted written comments against providing public money for private buildings and in regards to the budget and staff salary adjustments.

5. Community Notices and Meetings**5.a. Main City Calendar: May 2, 2022 - May 15, 2022**[HCC-364-FY23](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City AdministratorAttachments: [City Calendar May 2, 2023 - May 15, 2023](#)**6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.)**

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on City-related news and events.

Councilmember Simasek asked about the timeline for the draft Sustainability Plan. City Administrator Douglas said public comment should begin end of summer/beginning of fall.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about weed and invasive treatments in the City. Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle replied that the City's policy on pesticides states that Round-Up is not used on any public property.

Councilmember Haba asked for an update on Hyattsville Fine Wine & Spirits. City Administrator Douglas said there is no current update but she will share additional information at the next meeting. Councilmember Waszczak asked Director Riddle for a King Park update. Director Riddle said the park is closed and testing is taking place there, so for safety and environmental mitigation it must remain closed.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)**7.a. DeMatha Site Plan - Amendment to DSP-97030/03**[HCC-373-FY23](#)

Presentation Only.

Sponsors: City AdministratorAttachments: [Memo - DeMatha Site Plan - Amendment to DSP097030-02](#)
[DeMatha DSP Presentation \(002\)](#)

Dan Lynch presented the limited minor revision to the DeMatha Site Plan.

Councilmember Waszczak and Councilmember Simasek asked about community access to the facilities. Mr. Lynch said he does not have any information but that the issue had been discussed with the leadership team at DeMatha.

Councilmember Denes asked about the height differential. Mr. Lynch said that the new structure is nearly the same.

Proclamations

All proclamations were adopted in a single vote.

The added proclamation honoring Jim Chandler can be found at the end of the minutes.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Waszczak, Simasek, Denes, Peabody, Strab, McClellan, Haba, and Sandino

a. Proclamation of Municipal Clerks Week [HCC-366-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing the week of April 30 through May 6, 2023, as Municipal Clerks Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0501 Municipal Clerks Week 2023](#)

b. Proclamation of Mental Health Awareness Month [HCC-367-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0501 Mental Health Month 2023](#)

c. Proclamation Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month [HCC-368-FY23](#)

I move that Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to declare May 2023 as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0501 Jewish American Heritage Month 2023](#)

d. Proclamation of Citizenship Celebration Day [HCC-369-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim May 6, 2023, as Citizenship Celebration Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0501 Citizen Celebration Day 2023](#)

e. Proclamation of Children’s Mental Health Matters Week [HCC-370-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing May 7-13, 2023 as Children’s Mental Health Matters week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0501 Childrens Mental Health Matters Week 2023](#)

f. Proclamation of Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month [HCC-371-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing May 2023 as Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0501 Asian Pacific Native Hawaiian American Heritage Month 2023](#)

8. Consent Items (8:00 p.m. - 8:05 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 Councilmember Waszczak, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Waszczak, Simasek, Denes, Peabody, Strab, McClellan, Haba, and Sandino

8.a. Neighborhood Design Center - Work Order [HCC-362-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a work order with Neighborhood Design Center, under the terms of the Master Contract for Services, for a total cost not to exceed \$40,000 for the purpose with assisting the City in the design of The Spot, a trailhead and recreational amenity to be located at the east terminus of 4500 block of Hamilton Street, Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - NDC Contract](#)
[NDC The Spot Redesign](#)

8.b. IT Adobe Suite Licensing - GHA Technologies Inc. [HCC-363-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council to authorize the City Administrator to execute a work order with GHA Technologies Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$16,000 for the purpose of providing the City with Adobe Suite licensing products necessary to support City operations.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - IT Adobe Licensing - 4.25.2023](#)

8.c. ARPA: Staff Salary Adjustments[HCC-374-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds in an amount not to exceed \$759,000 for the purposes of reimbursing the City's General Fund for expenditures related to salary adjustments for City employees based on the results of the 2023 Compensation Study.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Comp Study Adjust. Cost Summary](#)

9. Action Items (8:05 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

9.a. American Rescue Plan Act Funds Allocation[HCC-376-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council allocate a total of \$7,136,500 of American Rescue Plan Act funds for the following projects and amounts:

Title of Project Proposal Amount

Ager Rd/Queens Chapel Alley Pedestrian Safety Improvements \$1,500,000

Driskell Park Community Building Renovation \$500,000

Public Wi-fi Study \$60,000

Beautify Alternate Route 1 \$200,000

Hyattsville Tree Canopy Restoration Budget \$331,000

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Hyattsville Crossing BID \$150,000

Environmental Depot \$600,000

Circulator Study Update \$25,000

Mental Health Coordinator for Teen Center \$100,000

Expand Electronic Sign System \$120,000

Publish a Small Business Directory Online \$80,000

Public Restroom and Shower Facilities in City-Owned Parks \$300,000 \$850,000

Driskell Park Three Season Programmable Outdoor Space \$300,000

SMART Waste Management Study \$60,000

PD Recruitment Advertising \$15,000

The Spot Placemaking Project \$250,000

Updates to City Building Restrooms \$280,000

VR Training Technology - PD \$110,000

City Building 2nd Floor Renovations \$800,000

Solar Community Message Boards \$71,500

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Scholarships for City Camps \$34,000

Roof Repair of Teen Center \$450,000

Treasurer Summer Emergency Flex Fund \$200,000

Sponsors: City Administrator

Councilmember Denes voiced his concern about the allocation of these funds with a proposed budget shortfall.

Councilmember Denes proposed an amendment to remove the Circulator Study from funding and Councilmember Waszczak seconded.

Councilmember Simasek and Councilmember McClellan agreed that a study the City can't act on isn't useful.

Councilmember Waszczak added that there is a metro bus that already acts as a circulator. Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Solomon and Councilmember Peabody spoke in favor of the study.

Roll call vote on the amendment:

Yes: 5(Croslin, Denes, Strab, Simasek, McClellan) No: 5(Solomon, Schaible, Haba, Peabody, Sandino)

Abstain: 1(Waszczak)

Amendment Failed

Councilmember Solomon and Councilmember Schaible spoke in favor of passing these proposed items to get the projects moving forward.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Waszczak, Simasek, Denes, Peabody, Strab, McClellan, Haba, and Sandino

9.b. Enterprise Community Partners Inc. - Rent Stabilization Ordinance Technical Analysis [HCC-372-FY23](#)

I move the City Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a contract for services with Enterprise Community Enterprise, Inc to provide the City with a Rent Stabilization Policy Study to inform the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance, for a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - Enterprise Rent Stabilization Analysis](#)

Director of Community and Economic Development Jim Chandler outlined the scope of the proposed study.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if this study would address the City's housing affordability generally. Director Chandler responded that the study as proposed by Council would look at rent stabilization and the establishment of a fund.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Waszczak, Simasek, Denes, Peabody, Strab, McClellan, Haba, and Sandino

10. Council Dialogue (9:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)

11. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Waszczak, Simasek, Denes, Peabody, Strab, McClellan, Haba, and Sandino

CITY OF HYATTSVILLE

PROCLAMATION

HONORING JIM CHANDLER AND HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE

In recognition of his steadfast efforts to improve the quality of life for all residents through the promotion of sustainable business, economic and community development projects and his leadership in the areas of planning, zoning, licensing, and parking, this proclamation celebrates the distinguished career of Jim Chandler and his years of service to the City of Hyattsville.

WHEREAS, Jim Chandler began his service to the City of Hyattsville as Community and Economic Development Manager in 2007 and in an illustrious career spanning 16 years, has served in the capacities of Director of Community and Economic Development (CED), Interim City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator; and

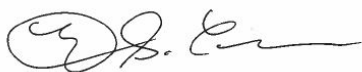
WHEREAS, under his leadership and foresight, the City has engaged in strong partnerships with county agencies, businesses owners and community groups that would help to revitalize the City's commercial corridors and improve commerce throughout the community; resulting in Hyattsville being acclaimed by local media as one of the jewels of Prince George's County and the DC Region; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chandler was responsible for leading strategic initiatives to support residents, which include the development of the Revitalization Tax Credit Program and the City's first ever Sustainability Plan, the initiation of PARK(ing) Day and Small Business Roundtable events, as well as the implementation of the Corridor Improvement Grant Program and Commercial Façade Improvement Programs; and

WHEREAS, it is notable that Mr. Chandler's dedication to response and recovery though the COVID-19 Pandemic was impactful to the business community and resulted in the distribution of over \$900,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support small businesses and the establishment of a permit and licensing program for outdoor dining and curbside pickup, allowing restaurants to continue operation in new and creative ways; and

WHEREAS, among his many accomplishments, Mr. Chandler's work has been publicly recognized by way of Hyattsville's designation as certified 'Sustainable Community' and *Speak Up HVL: The 2017-2021 Community Sustainability Plan* being awarded the 2018 honor of 'Outstanding Plan' from the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Planning Association.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council and staff extend their sincere gratitude for the vision, leadership, and friendship of Jim Chandler and are proud to see him take his passion for Community and Economic Development to even greater heights.



Robert Croslin
Mayor, City of Hyattsville
May 1, 2023

