

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 18, 2023

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FAuDkJhoRDqJjUokTRs8bA

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.

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.

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, December 18, 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_FAuDkJhoRDqJjUokTRs8bA

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

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development: Holly Simmons

City Treasurer: Ron Brooks

Chief of Police: Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works: Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services: Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources: Jay Joyner

Deputy City Clerk: Nate Groenendyk

ARPA Funds Manager: Patrick Paschall

Deputy Director Public Works: Hal Metzler

Transportation Manager: Taylor Robey

Housing and Economic Development Advisor: Debi Sandlin

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

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

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

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.a. Approval of the Minutes

[HCC-168-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 and May 15, 2023 Public Hearings and the minutes of the October 2, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes_Oct 2 2023](#)
[Minutes_May01 2023](#)
[MinutesPublicHearing_May 15 2023](#)

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, 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

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

Nathaniel Tombes suggested that City Council ask the firm that has completed the City's most recent audit to present to Council.

Melissa Schweisguth thanked Councilmembers Solomon and Sandino for supporting the traffic calming devices in the Landhart neighborhood.

Audrey Hill expressed her concern about the continued flooding on her property. She reported the problem to public works in August and would like to know what is going to be done.

Marshall stated he is not in support of traffic calming speed humps or traffic circles. He asked about the alley access plans for the Ager Road Townhomes. He expressed his support for ARPA funds to be allocated specifically to business in West Hyattsville.

Chris Militello, the owner of Arrow Bicycle expressed his support for using ARPA funds to help small businesses that have been victims of vandalism.

Patricia Page expressed her support for the Landhart project and asked for funds to be made available to seniors who need tree trimming services.

6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)

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

Council asked for and received further information on Route 1 sidewalks, the traffic issues at Route 1 and Charles Armentrout Drive, the Environmental Depot, the open grant writer position, the implementation of Safety Sticks, the 2021 and 2022 audits, the ownership of Hamilton St. streetlights, and the train derailment investigation.

7. Proclamations**7.a. Proclamation Recognizing National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day**[HCC-167-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing December 21, 2023, as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1218 National Homeless Persons Memorial Day Proclamation](#)

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

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

8. Appointments

Both appointments were approved in a single vote.

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

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

8.a. Appointment to the Ethics Commission

[HCC-163-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor, with Council approval, reappoint Michael Horlick (Ward 2) to the Ethics Commission for a term of three (3) years to end on December 31, 2026.

Sponsors: Croslin

Attachments: [Michael Horlick reappoint Dec 2023 rdac](#)

8.b. Council of Governments Policy Committee Appointments

[HCC-166-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council make the following appointments to the Council of Governments (COG) Policy Committees for a term of one (1) year, beginning on January 1, 2024:

- Region Forward Coalition: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Tracey Douglas
- Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Police Chief Jarod Towers and Sandra Shephard
- Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Lesley Riddle
- Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Lesley Riddle

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [MWCOG Policy Committees](#)

9. Consent Items (7:45 p.m. - 7:50 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 McClellan, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

9.a. FY24 Budget Amendment - Acceptance of Donation from Toyota of Bowie

[HCC-162-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate \$1,000 from Toyota of Bowie in support of the City's initiatives to provide holiday meals to residents.

Sponsors: City Administrator

9.b. Agreement with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) [HCC-164-FY24](#)

I move that Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement between the City of Hyattsville and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) for secondary employment for HPD officers, upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

9.c. Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force [HCC-165-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an MOU between the City of Hyattsville and the U.S. Marshals Service Task Force regarding part-time staffing for Hyattsville Police Department officers, pending the review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

10. Action Items (7:50 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)**10.a. Landhart Neighborhood Traffic Calming, Pedestrian Improvements, and Road Reconstruction [HCC-154-FY24](#)**

I move the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$1,650,000 to NZI Construction Inc. for the reconstruction of the roads and sidewalks as well as the installation of drainage and traffic calming in the Landhart Neighborhood located behind Bestway and south of Hamilton Street. This work is facilitated utilizing their existing rider contract with the City and funding was included in the FY24 CIP budget. The Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary budget amendments to facilitate this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Proposal Gallatin, 36th\(s\), 37th, Farragut, Gaines, Alley 22](#)

Council President Solomon thanked the DPW staff for their commitment to this project.

Councilmember Schaible asked about trees and sidewalks. Director Riddle provided a description of the work to be done.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember McClellan, 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

10.b. Ager Road Townhomes, 5715 Ager Road - Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 2023-030[HCC-169-FY24](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to send to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission a letter in support of the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision (PPS 2023-030) Ager Road Townhomes, at 5715 Ager Road, Hyattsville, subject to the following conditions:

1. When addressing Landscape Manual and Tree Canopy Coverage requirements at time of permit, the applicant shall propose use of native plant materials.
2. At time of permit, the applicant shall include in the design driveways that will facilitate and allow for standard passenger vehicles to easily exit garages and utilize private alley.
3. At time of permit, pedestrian-scale lighting shall be shown on plans along the walkways leading to the dwellings' front entries; and mounted to the building facades at front and rear entries.
4. City of Hyattsville trash and compost services at the Ager Road frontage shall be utilized, and this shall be reflected in the initial structure of the HOA as applicable.
5. At time of permit, the applicant shall consider designing the dwellings with front porches and trash/compost enclosures to facilitate easy access to Ager Road street front.
6. Prior to approval of the Preliminary Plan of Subdivision, the locations of the mitigated and unmitigated 65 and 55 dBA Ldn lines be shown on the PPS.
7. Prior to approval of building permits for a residential building located within the unmitigated 65 dBA Ldn noise contour and/or 55 dBA Ldn noise contour of Ager Road during the hours described by Section 27-6810(d), a certification by a professional engineer with competency in acoustical analysis be placed on the building permits outdoor activity areas will be mitigated to 65 dBA during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., and 55 dBA during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and that the building shells of structures have been designed to reduce interior noise levels to 45 dBA or less.
8. Development of the site shall be in conformance with an approved Stormwater Management Concept Plan (46389-2022) or any subsequent revisions.

The City supports the applicant's request for the following relief:

1. The applicant's request for a waiver from County Code Sections 27-6207(b)(1) and 27-6208(b)(1), pedestrian and bicycle cross-access between the subject property and the multifamily property to the north.
2. The applicant's request for a variation to allow lot depths of 125 feet.

The City advises that the applicant will be required to apply for a City of Hyattsville fence permit prior to fence installation. Fence application(s) will be subject to review for conformance with City requirements as outlined in City Code Article II § 68-7, Fences and walls.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Action Memo - Ager Road Townhomes - PPS 2022-030](#)
[Preliminary Plan of Subdivision \(PPS 2022-030\)](#)
[Statement of Justification](#)
[Open Space Exhibit](#)

Acting Director Simmons gave an overview of the project.

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

11. Discussion Items (8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

11.a. ARPA Spending Plan Discussion

[HCC-171-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council allocate and authorize the expenditure of \$650,000 for the Police Communications Center and \$30,000 to develop a Hyattsville Business Vandalism Fund, criteria to be developed under the Corridor Investment Program, using American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [ARPA Spending Plan Update Discussion December 2023](#)

Council received clarification on the \$650,000 request for ARPA funds to be allocated for the Police Communications Center and the separate cost for IT and security infrastructure.

After the discussion, two motions were brought to the floor by Council President Solomon.

-I move that the Mayor and Council allocate and authorize the expenditure of \$30,000 to develop a Hyattsville Vandalism Fund, criteria to be developed under the Corridor Investment Program, using American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Seconded by Councilmember Haba. Approved (Yes: 10/Abstain: 1-Denes).

-I move that the Mayor and Council allocate and authorize the expenditure of \$650,000 for the Police Communications Center using American Rescue Plan Funds.

Seconded by Councilmember Strab. Approved (Yes: 6-Croslin, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Sandino/No: 3-Denes,Haba, Lee/Abstain: 2-Waszczak, Schaible)

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

13. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the meeting be Adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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