



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021 7:00 PM

Kevin Ward, Mayor
Sam Denes, W1
Robert Croslin, W2
Danny Schaible, W2
Ben Simasek, W3
Jimmy McClellan, W3
Edouard Haba, W4
Daniel Peabody, W4
Joseph A. Solomon, W5
Rommel Sandino, W5

Absent: None

Also present were the following City staff members:
Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
Ron Brooks, City Treasurer
Lesley Riddle, Director of the Department of Public Works
Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator
Vivian Snellman, Director of Human Resources
Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk

Meeting Notice:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 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:

Public comment may be made using the e-comment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or by emailing cityclerk@hyattsville.org. All electronic comments must be submitted by 5 PM on June 7, 2021. Comments received will be read by City staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

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

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5CFyvqMcQ6K8EC3teksv2Q

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Mayor Kevin Ward called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag



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3. Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENTS

ADD HCC-374-FY21 to Consent agenda: Hyattsville Crossing BID: Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Hyattsville and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

ADD HCC-375-FY21 to Consent agenda: Ward 4 Discretionary Expenditures

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Peabody
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Denes, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Sandino
ABSENT:	None

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

There were no public comments.

6. City Treasurer Update (7:30 p.m. - 7:35 p.m.)

City Treasurer Ron Brooks addressed the Mayor and Council with an update of the City's financial position explaining the purpose and content of regular Treasurer updates and providing information regarding the beginning and end of the Fiscal Year, the budget process, and the incoming and outgoing of City funds.

Treasurer Brooks displayed an illustrative document consisting of funds, balances, and expenses describing the document as a snapshot of the City's financial status and explained that the first displayed account was a previously used account that was repurposed for the current fiscal year, the second account included post-employment benefits to set aside money for employee retirement. Mr. Brooks reviewed a third account which served as the City's main account with which all liabilities were paid, and cash reserves were held.

Mr. Brooks relayed the City's balances in various accounts recalling the borrowing of funding to renovate the Department of Public Works (DPW) building and the new Police station. He explained the schedule of receiving revenues from multiple sources and the frequency of payments to obligations. The City Treasurer encouraged the Body to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding anything under his purview.

5. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor and Council with an update regarding events, news, and programming in the City and began her presentation by showing a video that captured the processes and highlights of the May 2021 City Election.



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Ms. Douglas acknowledged the swearing-in ceremony for the new Council that was held prior to the meeting citing the outgoing and incoming members and providing details about the event and thanking all who helped including the Prince George's County Clerk.

Administrator Douglas reported that the name change to David C. Driskell Community Park was proceeding as planned with only the filing of the deed and approval from the County needed to complete the transition. Ms. Douglas explained that the City code, ordinances, and anything else bearing the former name of the park would be edited out of any such documentation and expressed gratitude for the hard work of all involved in passing the measure. She continued by stating that discussions regarding façade, artwork, and aesthetics in the park were being scheduled.

Ms. Douglas informed the Body of the process for naming the Council President and Vice-President and liaisons to City Committees noting that changes were made to the scheduling for the event to coincide with the scheduling of the 2021 Election and new Council transition.

Ms. Douglas provided information regarding the City's COVID-19 vaccination site stating that the infection rates were decreasing, the site remained open three (3) days a week, the implementation of a pop-up vaccination site was nearing, and outreach was being performed to spread information about how and where residents could be vaccinated and in an effort to reach elderly residents or residents with mobility deficiencies.

The City Administrator reported on the operations of the Community Services Department communicating that City staff would be distributing 675 boxes of non-perishable food from the Capital Area Food Bank every Tuesday through the end of June. She stated that 36K diapers had been distributed to 239 families the previous Saturday and was made possible through the partnership with the Greater DC Diaper Bank.

Ms. Douglas detailed camp programming stating that in-person summer camp was to begin in late June serving 16 campers and the Teen Summer Staycation would begin later in the month which would include small group trips for bowling, laser tag, wildlife nature center tours, and several other outings. It was reported that sports permits issued for athletic activities on the City's sports field would be issued in early July and the park pavilions had reopened for reservations through October.

City Administrator Douglas relayed that the Maryland Municipal League (MML) had named Hyattsville a 2021 Banner City in which the community was honored for transparency, partnership, goodwill, education, and participation in the operations that better municipal staff and officials. Ms. Douglas closed her comments mentioning the state of the County address on June 9th in which residents would be updated regarding changes to the recommended safety guidelines amid the COVID-19 health crisis.



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8. Proclamations (7:55 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

8.a) Proclamation Honoring Councilmember and Council Vice President Bart Lawrence

[HCC-358-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Ward

Co-Sponsor(s): Croslin, Haba, Peabody, Schaible, Simasek, and Solomon

[CM 0607 \(1\) Honoring Councilmember Bart Lawrence](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation honoring Bart Lawrence for his years of service and dedication to the City of Hyattsville as Ward 1 Councilmember and Council Vice President.

8.b) Proclamation Honoring Councilmember and Council Vice President Carrianna Suiter

[HCC-359-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Ward

Co-Sponsor(s): Croslin, Haba, Peabody, Schaible, Simasek, and Solomon

[CM 0607 \(1\) Honoring Councilmember Carrianna Suiter](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation honoring Carrianna Suiter for her years of service and dedication to the City of Hyattsville as Ward 3 Councilmember and Council Vice President.

8.c) Proclamation Honoring Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf

[HCC-360-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Ward

Co-Sponsor(s): Croslin, Haba, Peabody, Schaible, Simasek, and Solomon

[CM 0607 \(1\) Honoring Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation honoring Erica Spell Wolf for her years of service and dedication to the City of Hyattsville as Ward 5 Councilmember.

8.d) Proclamation Designating June 20th as National ASK Day

[HCC-371-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[CM 0607 \(2\) National Ask Day 2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation designating June 20, 2021 as National ASK Day in Hyattsville.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Schaible
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Denes, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Sandino
ABSENT:	None



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7. Presentations (7:35 p.m. - 7:55 p.m.)

7.a) Presentation on Renovation of the Teen Center

[HCC-354-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

Presentation

Deputy Director of DPW Hal Metzler addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the site and building chosen to serve as the new Hyattsville Teen and Mentoring Center recalling that the City began searching for a site for the new Teen Center in 2018 and purchased a facility located at 5812 40th avenue in the Spring of 2019. Mr. Metzler described that City staff began developing interior and exterior concepts for renovation in collaboration with staff to determine the types of programming and activities that would need to be considered.

Deputy Director Metzler described the design as being created with multiuse space and a central room that could be configured several different ways for multiple events or activities and would also provide for classroom settings and computers. Mr. Metzler stated that the facility would also include enough space for a calming environment or a big event that could cater to large crowds.

Mr. Metzler further detailed the interior and exterior renovations and explained that at the following Council meeting DPW staff would bring forward a proposal for the design portion of the project for Council approval which would be followed by estimates for construction. Mr. Metzler noted that the City was exploring outside funding in the way of grants and other resources.

Consent Items (Added by Amendments to the Agenda)

Hyattsville Crossing BID: Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Hyattsville and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

[HCC-374-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

I move the Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) for the purposes of the Commission to contribute \$125,000 in funding for the development of Hyattsville Crossing Business Improvement District

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Denes, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Sandino
ABSENT:	None



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Ward 4 Discretionary Fund Expenditures

[HCC-375-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Haba

Co-Sponsor(s): Peabody

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the disbursement of Ward 4 discretionary funds, in the amount of \$1,700, Edward Felegy Elementary School to support the purchase and distribution of back-to-school materials.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Schaible
AYES:	Ward, Denes, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Sandino
ABSENT:	None

9. Action Items (8:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

9.a) Hyattsville Resolution 2021-05: Designating Ward 1 Special Election as a Vote-by-Mail Election

[HCC-369-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Resolution 2021-05 - Special Election - Vote by Mail 06.07.21](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2021-05, a Resolution whereby the City Council declares a vacancy on the Council in Ward 1, notifies the Board of Supervisors of Elections (Board) to fill the vacancy, and declares the City’s 2021 special election for Ward 1 to be a Vote-by-Mail election.

City Clerk Laura Reams displayed a presentation that provided details regarding the Ward 1 Special Election to be held to fill the vacancy created by the election of Kevin Ward as Mayor of the City of Hyattsville.

Clerk Reams explained that the elected official would serve the remaining two (2) years of the former Councilmember’s term ending in June 2023 and detailed the guidelines that govern the processes with which the Special Election would be conducted including a deadline related to the conclusion of the May election and a resolution requiring the approval and adoption of Council.

Ms. Reams reported that candidate registration would open on July 6th and conclude on July 23rd explaining that any individual seeking the Ward 1 Council seat must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the United States, a registered voter in the City of Hyattsville, and must reside in Ward 1. She gave details for aspiring candidates and stated that certified candidates would be presented to Council on August 2nd.



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Ms. Reams informed the Mayor and Council that the initial voter registration deadline was July 30th giving details about the process with which voters could register, the distribution of ballots, the methods with which a ballot could be submitted, and declared Election Day to be September 14, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Solomon
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Ward, Denes, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Sandino
ABSENT:	None

10. Council Dialogue (8:15 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.)

Ward 4 Councilmember Edouard Haba welcomed the newly elected Councilmembers and expressed the importance of not only serving one's Ward but serving the City as a whole and stated that he looked forward to working with everyone.

Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon welcomed the new members bringing awareness to a multi-week recess in between Council meetings and expressing anticipation for the next legislative cycle.

Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin echoed the sentiments of his colleagues and expressed eagerness to start new work.

Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek welcomed the three (3) new Councilmembers and expressed appreciation for their committed service.

Ward 4 Councilmember Daniel Peabody congratulated the new members and the newly elected Mayor welcoming all to a dialogue and collaboration and offering his assistance in any way. He provided some insight as to the experience of being a Councilmember and promoted participation in the Maryland Municipal League (MML).

Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible welcomed the new members expressing gratitude for the opportunity to work with them and promoted participation in MML.

Ward 5 Councilmember Rommel Sandino thanked his new colleagues expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Councilmember and reflected on his history as an undocumented citizen to his achievement of being elected a City official.

Ward 3 Councilmember Jimmy McClellan thanked his new colleagues for their perspectives and welcoming demeanor and wished all a happy Pride Month inviting the community to celebrate with an event that would be held at nearby Streetcar 82.

Ward 1 Councilmember Sam Denes thanked his supporters, candidates, new colleagues and expressed anticipation in improving the way of life for all Hyattsville residents.



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Mayor Kevin Ward thanked everyone for their contributions and provided some speculation about the coming months for the Body. He expressed appreciation for City staff noting their exceptional talent and encouraged the new members to use them as a resource and guide.

11. Community Notices and Meetings

11.a) Main City Calendar June 8 - July 19, 2021

[HCC-372-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Main City Calendar June 8 - July 19, 2021 FINAL](#)

12. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Croslin
SECONDER:	Schaible
AYES:	Ward, Denes, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Sandino
ABSENT:	None

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

September 20, 2021

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk