



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 7:00 PM

Kevin Ward, W1, Interim Mayor
Carrianna Suiter, W3, Council Vice President
Bart Lawrence, W1
Robert Croslin, W2
Danny Schaible, W2
Ben Simasek, W3
Edouard Haba, W4
Daniel Peabody, W4 (*arrived at 7:11 p.m.*)
Joseph A. Solomon, W5
Erica Spell Wolf, 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
Hal Metzler, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works
Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator
Vivian Snellman, Director of Human Resources
Laura Reams, City Clerk
Adrienne Augustus, Media Relations and Mental Health Programs Manager
Cheri Everhart, Acting Community Services Director
Acting Chief Scott Dunklee, Hyattsville City Police Department

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, April 5, 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 April 5, 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_XMw8IFNHRXCbm3vmQf2etg

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Interim Mayor Kevin Ward called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.



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2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Spell Wolf
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.a) Approval of the Minutes

[HCC-277-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Minutes Mar 15 2021 CM FINAL](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the City Council meeting minutes March 1, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

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

City Clerk Laura Reams read a public comment submitted electronically.

Ward 3 resident Jimmy McClellan addressed the Mayor and Council requesting that the Body consider items that would relieve the financial burden on low or fixed-income residents so that they may continue to live in the City.

Ward 2 resident David Marshall addressed the Mayor and Council recalling the racist deed language of the land and expressed opposition for any name associated with an individual or group and disagreed with the renaming process.

Michael Ostroff addressed the Mayor and Council on behalf of a property owner seeking a variance which was a scheduled agenda item that evening. Mr. Ostroff made his presence known and offered to field any questions the Council or staff may have had.



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6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:35 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor and Council with an update of the City's programming and current events highlighting the departure of Private First Class (PFC) David Chanthavong and Sergeant Tom Berling from the Hyattsville City Police Department (HCPD) as well as the additions of Executive Assistant and Senior Staff Coordinator Sandra Roque, Community and Economic Development (CED) Coordinator Amy Boyd, Bilingual Communications Specialist Yeny Villalta, and Parking Aide Kenny Moore. Ms. Douglas noted the return of former employee and Grounds Maintenance team member James Jones.

Administrator Douglas reported that two (2) legislative priorities, the new Police and Public Safety Building and the new Teen and Multigenerational Building, had been approved to receive grant funding of \$500K and \$510K, respectively.

Ms. Douglas noted that the COVID-19 vaccination site was operational and had served over 1200 patients since opening and provided details regarding scheduling, days of access, and qualifications for being administered the vaccine. Ms. Douglas provided information regarding the COVID-19 testing site stating that it was open three (3) days a week and that family gatherings had been the leading cause of spread in the area. She relayed information for individuals to obtain their vaccination cards and immunization record and reported that there would be a food and diaper distribution the next day to provide items to residents in need.

Ms. Douglas stated that Department of Public Works (DPW) would be moving in to their new facility on April 12, relayed that the Heurich Park parking lot was in the process of being newly paved, work had begun on the Dietz Park emergency drain system, and provided detail regarding the progress of the West Hyattsville street and sidewalk renovations and the procurement of two (2) Portland Loos; outdoor restrooms for the public equipped for privacy and self-sanitation.

The City Administrator commended the continued work of the Department of Community Services recognizing that Spring camp had begun, and the program offered online activities, virtual field trips, and an in-person group field day. She provided details regarding the upcoming Summer Camp program, its schedule, and registration requirements. Ms. Douglas brought attention to the Creative Minds virtual programming directed toward ages one (1) to three (3) which offered opportunities to learn American Sign Language (ASL) and receive education from animal experts.

City Administrator Douglas reported on the HCPD's Mental Health and Wellness Program in which Phase 1 had commenced and officers had received the mandatory mental health first aid training. She noted Mental Health and Wellness Day in which education would be provided on mental illness, the effects of domestic abuse and recovery, techniques that aid in sound mental health and reported that the Department took part in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. Ms. Douglas stated that several meetings had taken place with the County Behavioral Health Authority and the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention and that multiple sources were being explored to procure outside funding to minimize cost to the City for implementing the programming.



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Ms. Douglas acknowledged the 135th anniversary of the City of Hyattsville and encouraged the community to participate on social media and to provide staff with their favorite photos of Hyattsville to include on the City website history page.

Ms. Douglas provided details regarding the City's 2021 Mayoral and Councilmember election highlighting BallotScout, an online tool provided to voters by which they could track their ballot and check its status as it moved from the mail system to the voter and, finally, when it had been received and accepted. She reiterated the process for voting stating that votes could be sent in by mail, placed in one (1) of two (2) drop boxes in the City, or in person on election day at the City Municipal building. Ms. Douglas communicated that an election guide was sent to residents which provided an overview of the election and its components, and two (2) candidate forums were scheduled and made available to the public through multiple means in real time.

City Clerk Laura Reams expressed appreciation for the partnership formed with BallotScout and described the process as it stood; over 11K ballots had been sent to residents and the City had already started to receive completed submissions. Ms. Reams introduced an all-spanish instructional video about the voting process noting that it was the first video ever released by the City featuring only Spanish dialogue.

7. **City Treasurer Update (7:35 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.)**

City Treasurer Ron Brooks addressed the Mayor and Council to offer any assistance that may have been needed regarding information about the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget as presented. Mr. Brooks stated that the budget would be presented in greater detail at the following Council meeting and reiterated that he was available to address any concerns or questions the Council or staff had.

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

8.a) Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development Right of First Refusal Program

[HCC-283-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[ROFR Presentation Memo - 03.29.21](#)

[ROFR Regulations - June 2020](#)

[Roster of ROFR Developers](#)

Presentation Only

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler introduced the new Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Aspasia Xypolia, Program Manager Pam Wilson, and Project Consultant John Maneval stating that they would be presenting information regarding the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) program for the purposes of expanding availability of affordable rental housing in the County.



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John Maneval addressed the Mayor and Council providing a summary of the ROFR program stating that it was developed in 2013 with access expanded to the entire County in 2015 but that it had not been exercised since its inception. Mr. Maneval explained that the program allowed DHCD to purchase any multi-family rental property in excess of 20 units that is placed on the market for sale. He continued that sellers and buyers were required to submit notice of the sale to the County and the County would, in turn, have a right to match any offer to purchase the property at the same price as the private market.

Mr. Maneval relayed that the program was codified with the County and that upon the purchase of a property by the County a third-party would be assigned to manage the property that had proven ability to act as the owner of an affordable rental property. He forecasted that he would provide the Body with a list of nonprofit and for-profit companies who had been selected as potential assignees of the County's right to purchase.

Mr. Maneval explained that this was the first time the County had exercised the ROFR because County officials were developing a programmatic structure that was amicable to all parties and allowed the City to make informed, educated decisions when choosing properties with which to implement the program.

Mr. Maneval cited 15 companies listed in a memo provided to Council that had been selected as potential partners and that the County's selection process resulted in National Housing Trust (NHT) being chosen for the particular property in question. He described the process stating that there were three (3) methods with which the County could pursue. The first of which presented a scenario in which the County accepts the ROFR and then has seven (7) days to announce that action will be exercised at which time the associated municipality would be informed and within 60 days the County would solidify a contract with the chosen developer. He explained that the developer would be given 180 days from approval of purchase to purchase the property and if the municipality took no action, it would be considered an approval.

Mr. Maneval recounted the second method in which the ROFR was declined or waived in which case the DHCD would notify the seller and buyer to proceed with the sale of the property. The third method presented was the exception of the ROFR in which the seller and buyer secured a waiver of the ROFR process with which affordable housing would be provided with collaboration with the County.

Mr. Maneval recalled that the DHCD received the ROFR notice from the seller of Hamilton Manor on February 18, 2021, DHCD notified the seller of its intent to exercise ROFR rights on February 24, 2021, the ROFR rights were granted to NHT communities by way of Request for Proposal (RFP) on March 18, 2021 at which time NHT partnered with the Washington Housing Conservancy.

He continued that NHT Communities had 180 days from February 18, 2021, to purchase the property and the City of Hyattsville was tasked with approving the DHCD acceptance and assignment of rights in writing within 180 days of the first notice or do nothing to achieve the same result.



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Mr. Maneval provided an overview of the Hamilton Manor property referencing the location of Lancer Drive and stating that it was a 245-unit rental complex with 117 one (1)-bedroom units, 128 two (2)-bedroom units, with average rental costs ranging from \$1200 to \$1400 monthly. He stated that the agreement with NHT properties would ensure that 75% of the units will be limited in their ability to increase rent to allow affordable housing long term.

He explained that NHT Communities had agreed to invest a sizeable amount of cash flow from operating the property to make improvements to improve energy efficiency and lower utility costs for residents and would be able to access State funding in the future to augment and maintain the property.

Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek inquired about a scenario in which NHT was unable to reach settlement and the ensuing consequences to which Mr. Maneval responded that County code compels the County to provide the current owner with a certificate of compliance allowing the property manager to move forward with the original contract of sale and would end the program's involvement with the property.

Councilmember Simasek sought clarity regarding details associated with the definition of affordability and long-term affordability as well as rent control to which Mr. Maneval replied that the County would require NHT to enter into a rental agreement that would restrict rent on the property whereby 35% of the units would be limited at 80% of Area Medium Income (AMI) and 40% of the rentals would be limited to 60% AMI. He supplemented that rent could not be raised more than 2.8% each year for 15 years and expected that, in that time, the owner would choose to capitalize the program using various State and County Resources to extend affordability restrictions beyond the 15-year agreement.

Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon inquired as to the background of Mr. Maneval and the aforementioned timeline and how it was affected by the City's choice of action to which Mr. Maneval explained that the County had a strict vetting process in which only quality, proven, firms were considered and reiterated that NHT had until mid-August to purchase the property but would, first, be required to enter into a contract to purchase the property within the first 60 days from the initial notice and greatly encouraged the Body to submit their approval as soon as possible.

Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible recalled an instance involving 38th Avenue in the City in which Hyattsville gave payment in lieu of taxes to allow for below-market rent and asked if any similar action would be considered for Hamilton Manor to which Mr. Maneval replied that NHT had requested County assistance that was in the process of discussion and consideration. DHCD Director Aspasia Xypolia explained that resource funding was being explored and the County would do anything in its power to provide additional tax breaks or funding in order to allow the program to extend to 20 to 30 years, but the sale was not contingent to County support.

Interim Mayor Ward thanked the presenters and expressed appreciation for the effort toward providing more affordable housing opportunities in the City.



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8.b) MR-2038F (Mandatory Referral - Hyattsville Middle School)

[HCC-282-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Hyattsville Middle School - Presentation Memo](#)

[BlueprintSchools Hyattsville Rev April 5 2021 compressed](#)

Presentation Only

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler introduced Director of Public and Private Partnership with Prince George's County Schools Jason Washington who led the presentation.

Jason Washington addressed the Mayor and Council expressing that he was eager to present the new Hyattsville Middle School (HMS) site and introduced Program Executive for Gilbane Building Michael Ricketts, Senior Civil Engineer for Stantech Al Arnold, Project Lead Michael Scarani, and Landscape Architect Lydia Campbell.

Michael Scarani addressed the Mayor and Council with illustrative documents that provided an overview of the new construction and describing the new facility as being part of a larger project involving six (6) new middle schools as part of a three (3)-year design build process with a 30-year maintenance period managed by Honeywell.

Jason Washington relayed parts of the process stating that bi-monthly town hall meetings were conducted with residents to discuss the community investment program and school-specific project planning which were led by principals and community stakeholders. Mr. Washington noted that an acute focus was placed on outreach to businesses and residents to keep them apprised at each step of the development process.

Mr. Maneval explained the project schedule overview explaining that the design build had begun in the Fall of 2020, and they were currently amid the design development phase which would continue throughout the remainder of 2021. He continued that mobilization on the site would begin the following July and construction would continue through the Summer of 2023, with abatement of the current facility starting in July, landscape grading would begin in August, and building demolition in October.

Al Arnold displayed an illustrative document which showed the exiting conditions of the site as well as the adjacent roadways, some of the utilities, and the location for placement of sports fields. Mr. Arnold then showcased a second illustrative document that showed the location of the new building and its corresponding access points describing the method with which traffic would be circulated.

Mr. Arnold provided details on the intended sports fields, green areas on the campus, stormwater retention plans, and described the widening of a back alley to 20' that would be used for deliveries and services to the kitchen area of the building. He described the features of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and referenced the locations of the existing bus stops, a bike rental facility, and reiterated the circulation pattern for cars and school buses.



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Lydia Campbell led the presentation and showcased the landscape plan stating that over 120 new trees would be planted on the site and a water-catching perimeter to provide a buffer between the plantings and the roadways. Ms. Campbell noted a turf surface area that was enclosed with fencing that would be used for outdoor learning and dining in the common area of the campus.

Mr. Arnold provided details regarding the floor plan of the development explaining that the building was made up of four (4) large blocks joined by a common two (2)-story space that would house the dining area and media center. He identified the planned locations for the gymnasium, performing arts area, administrative offices, kitchen, and described the positioning of the buildings and the panoramas from each floor.

Ward 1 Councilmember Bart Lawrence cited an oak tree on the western edge of 42nd avenue and inquired as to its intentions to which Mr. Arnold confirmed that, along with a majority of the trees on the site, that particular tree would not be retained.

Councilmember Lawrence requested further detail regarding the access points and traffic flow to the development to which Mr. Washington stated that access was achieved from Queens Chapel Road to Oliver Street, then to 42nd Street, and would exit on Oglethorpe Street and vice versa.

Councilmember Lawrence cautioned that the chosen route for trucks delivering materials for the site is not normally accessible for semi-trucks and recalled instances in the past where trucks of that size have been found trying to maneuver out of tight spaces damaging property or going on streets with height restrictions for vehicles that had resulted in the destruction of overhead power and communications lines.

Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin inquired as to the stormwater runoff from Oliver Street and it pooling in nearby properties, the placement of utilities in the road, and a potential upgrade to the school's filtration system to which Al Arnold directed the Body's attention to a map of the site and identified the areas in which the drainage system would be placed citing a concrete ditch and wall and stating that water runoff from the roofs of the buildings would be routed to environmental design sites which would flow away from Oliver Street.

Mr. Washington noted that the referenced utilities in the street were actually overhead electricity cables above the street and the filtration system would use MERV-13 filters and they would ensure that the system used would have the option of upgrade as needed. Mr. Scarani stated that the filtration system would implement bipolar ionization and stated that they would comply with the standards dictated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Councilmember Schaible expressed concerns regarding the drop-off area for students located on Oglethorpe Street stating that it would inevitably be crowded with vehicles lined up in that area and questioned the capacity for vehicles. He suggested access on to 42nd Avenue and the adjustment of parking area or storm mitigation to allow for exiting vehicles. Al Arnold responded that the feasibility of an entrance point on 42nd Avenue had been discussed and it was determined that the grading was too steep to be considered.



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Councilmember Schaible requested clarity regarding elements of the bus loop to which Mr. Arnold stated that the buses would not have to make any reverse or point-turning motions, rather it would be a continuous forward loop. He added that the space could accommodate 21 buses and that each of the lanes in the illustrative document represented two (2) lanes traveling in opposite directions.

Councilmember Lawrence concurred with the concerns of his colleague regarding the drop-off point on Oglethorpe warning that it would likely cause heavy congestion and commented that he believed that any improvement to water runoff mitigation at the site would be welcomed when compared to its current status and effectiveness.

Councilmember Solomon reiterated the concerns of his colleagues regarding potential congestion and referenced similar issues at another area school requesting that the plans for said school be reviewed so that the same mistakes would not be made with the HMS project.

Councilmember Simasek expressed concerns regarding the traffic flow and pedestrian congestion and warned that there were not adequate ADA options for pedestrians, and it would cause further challenges. He suggested augmenting the area to reduce danger to pedestrians who cross through the parking lot or use a secondary pathway outside of the regulated roadways and crosswalks.

Ward 4 Councilmember Edouard Haba asked to what energy standard the building would be designed to which Mr. Scarani replied that the building would be designed to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver equivalent and would meet the requirements of the Maryland High Performance Building program.

Interim Mayor Ward noted that many of the concerns addressed during the meeting were persistent from previous meetings and encouraged the presenters to consider the concerns and recommendations when moving forward with the development.

City Administrator Tracey Douglas stated that staff would be reviewing some of the concerns under their purview and would return to the Body with reports and recommendations.

9. Proclamations (8:10 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

9.a) Proclamation in Honor of National Volunteer Week

[HCC-272-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[CM 0405 National Volunteer Week 2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim April 18 - 24, 2021 as National Volunteer Week in the City of Hyattsville.



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9.b) Proclamation Celebrating April 2021 as Autism Acceptance Month

[HCC-274-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Schaible

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[CM 0405 Autism Acceptance Month April 2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing April 2021 as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Hyattsville.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Simasek
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

10. Appointments (8:15 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)

10.a) Appointments to the Education Advisory Committee

[HCC-268-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Peabody

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Jan Edwards April 2021 redac](#)

[Cynthia Totten April 2021 redac April 2021](#)

[Mai Abdul Rahman redac April 2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Jan Edwards (Ward 1), Cynthia Totten (Ward 4), and Mai Abdul Rahman (Ward 1) to the Education Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years ending on April 30, 2023.

10.b) Appointments to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee

[HCC-269-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s): Suiter

[Don Burger April 2021 redac](#)

[Samuel Denes April 2021 redac](#)

[Peter Reiniger April 2021 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Don Burger (Ward 1), Sam Denes (Ward 1), and Peter Reiniger (Ward 2) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2023.



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10.c) Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee

[HCC-270-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Schaible

Co-Sponsor(s): Simasek

[Janet Nackoney April 2021 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Janet Nackoney (Ward 2) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2023.

10.d) Appointments to the Police and Public Safety Citizens’ Advisory Committee

[HCC-271-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Peabody

Co-Sponsor(s): Croslin

[Mariel Alper April 2021 redac](#)

[Mai Abdul Rahman April 2021 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Mariel Alper (Ward 1) and Mai Abdul Rahman (Ward 1) to the Police and Public Safety Citizen’s Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2023.

10.e) Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee

[HCC-273-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Schaible

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Gloria Felix Thompson re-appointment April 2021 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Gloria Felix-Thompson (Ward 1) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2023.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

11. Consent Items (8:20 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.)

11.a) Distribution of Remaining Education Advisory Committee Funds

[HCC-267-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Ward

Co-Sponsor(s): Peabody

[Council Motion EAC Funds 3 29 Ward](#)



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I move that the Interim Mayor and Council distribute the remaining \$7,190 allocated to the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Education Assistant Grant equally to 10 local schools returning to in-person learning (\$719/each).

These awards will go to:

Edward M. Felegy Elementary
Hyattsville Elementary
Rogers Heights Elementary
Rosa L. Parks Elementary
University Park Elementary
Hyattsville Middle
Nicholas Orem Middle
William Wirt Middle
Bladensburg High
Northwestern High

11.b) Grant Agreement with Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for Hyattsville Mobility Options Initiative

[HCC-278-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[HVL Vehicle Contract 2.21](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a subgrant agreement with the Metropolitan Council of Governments for the implementation of the Mobility Options Initiative to enhance transportation for older adults and people with disabilities and procurement of two (2) 19-passenger wheelchair accessible buses.

11.c) The Greater Metropolitan Washington Area Police Mutual Aid Operational Plan (MAOP) –

[HCC-279-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[2020 COG Police MAOP FINAL DRAFT v.3](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to sign the renewal of the Police Mutual Aid Operational Plan from the Washington Area Council of Governments, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

11.d) Zoning Variance Request V-78-20 - 4013 Madison Street, Hyattsville

[HCC-281-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Memo - V-78-20](#)

[V-78-20 Supplemental Materials](#)

[City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy Statement and Variance Process 10 3 11](#)



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I move the City Council authorize Interim Mayor Ward to send correspondence to the Prince George's County Board of Zoning Appeals in support of V-78-20, a request for variances of three (3)-feet side yard depth and three (3)-feet rear yard depth at the subject property located at 4013 Madison Street, Hyattsville.

11.e) Mold Remediation at 4310 Gallatin Street

[HCC-285-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Attachment 1 HCC-285-FY21 Mold Remediation - DPW, Metzler](#)

[Attachment 2 HCC-285-FY21 Mold Remediation - DPW, Metzler](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$15,000 to Hann & Hann, Inc. for emergency mold remediation at 4310 Gallatin St.

11.f) Extension of Lease of 4629 Baltimore Avenue

[HCC-286-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Attachment 1 HCC-286-FY21 Lease Extension 190924 - MOU - 4629](#)

[Baltimore ave - DPW, Metzler](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to extend the lease of 4629 Baltimore Avenue until June 2022 and authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$42,000, pending review and approval of the City Attorney.

11.g) FY21 Capital Improvements Budget Adjustment and Transfer of Appropriations

[HCC-287-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Capital Improvements Budget and adjust appropriations by transferring \$232,000 from the Department of Public Works Capital Budget to the Department of Community and Volunteer Services Capital Budget for the purpose of purchasing a 2021 Ford Electrified Champion Challenger from Rohrer Commercial Bus to support various community services activities.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None



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12. Action Items (8:25 p.m. -8:35 p.m.)

12.a) Recording of Plat

[HCC-288-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Memo - Recording of Plat](#)

[HYATTSVILLE RP 2020-09-11](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Interim Mayor to execute a Record of Plat for parcels owned by the City of Hyattsville, located at 4307 Jefferson Street, Hyattsville, for the purpose of permitting the development of the parcels as approved by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Planning Board for case 4-17008 Armory Apartments.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler introduced the item explaining that the motion was administrative in part and that it would authorize the Interim Mayor to sign a plat that would be recorded in association with Urban Investment Partners’ (UIP) canvas development formerly known as the “armory”. Mr. Chandler continued that issues remained with lot line cleanup and the driveway entrance to the subject properties in which staff awaited guidance from the Maryland Capital Park and Planning Commission (MCPPC).

Councilmember Solomon expressed concerns regarding affordable housing in relation to the aforementioned area to which Mr. Chandler responded that other preliminary plans of subdivision were subject to such review and regulations but that the current item had been supported by the Body and was not subject to anything that would be associated with a Detailed Site Plan (DSP).

Councilmember Solomon cautioned about any support from the Council being misconstrued and thanked the Assistant City Administrator for clarifying that the current item was limited to the subdivision of the property ensuring that all owners of the properties are accurately represented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

13. Discussion Items (8:35 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.)

13.a) Magruder Park Renaming – Discussion

[HCC-275-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Park Name Slides](#)

[Recommendations Memo Renaming Magruder Park updated 2 11 21](#)



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For Discussion

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided a brief summary of the item stating that a great deal of commentary had been received from residents stating that after the discussion a recommendation could be made as to a date in which it could be placed on an agenda as an action item and then move on to approval through resolution. City Clerk Laura Reams explained that the next steps were at the discretion of the Council, but a tentative date for action was set for April 19.

Interim Mayor Ward instructed that the Council would name their preferences among the selected options in a manner similar to the budget process and that a final selection would be determined.

Councilmember Lawrence recanted comments from residents and cited a notion that naming the park after David C. Driskell would garner federal funding which he did not state to be true. He noted the support for naming the park after the Nacotchtank indigenous peoples but expressed disagreement with a population being honored by the very people by whom the Nacotchtank tribe was exterminated and driven from their land.

Councilmember Lawrence reiterated that he did not believe that the park should be named after any individual and reminded the Body that, at the time of dedication, William Pinkney Magruder had a strong, respectable, reputation.

Interim Mayor Ward listed the options for renaming the park as: David C. Driskell Community Park, Gateway Community Park, Inspiration Park, Nacotchtank Park, and Unity Community Park.

Councilmember Solomon recommended a robust dialogue before narrowing the list of names citing comments from residents earlier in the meeting and stating that there was initial discussion about requiring a unanimous vote on the item.

Interim Mayor Ward clarified that his colleague was essentially advocating for further, non-session, discussion and proposals in the following days to better prepare a well thought out motion to be presented on the 19th of which the Council would be well-apprised and come to a final decision at that time.

Councilmember Haba suggested narrowing down the options during the meeting and making a final address at the following Council meeting to which **Interim Mayor Ward** clarified that narrowing down the list that evening was not mandatory and the item could be readdressed as discussion or action at the following Council meeting.

Councilmember Haba stated that while David Driskell made endless contributions to the City of Hyattsville, he was inclined to agree with his colleague opining that the park should not be named after any individual and suggested giving the dedication of Mr. Driskell to a building located within the boundaries of the park.



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Councilmember Croslin stated that discussion regarding the item should take place in an official, public forum and explained that he believed the deliberation should conclude as preferences from the residents and Councilmembers had been established.

City Administrator Douglas concurred with the views of the Councilmembers endorsing further action on the 19th and commending all of the hard work put forth by all involved.

Councilmember Schaible related to his colleague's comments but stated that choosing a member of the Hyattsville community such as David Driskell would be honoring a resident who succeeded in the face of adversity and was a respectable, world-renowned, figure and expressed that he did not have reluctance with supporting it as the new name for the park.

Councilmember Simasek relayed his preferences in order descending from most supportive as David C. Driskell Community Park, followed by Nacotchank Community Park, and finally Gateway Community Park and stated that he did not believe the initiative should serve to erase history and that naming the park after David Driskell or Nacotchank would compel patrons to research and learn about the names and their histories. He concluded that naming the park after an artist from the community would be one of the best ways to make the most out of the effort.

Councilmember Solomon concurred with the comments made by his counterparts and stated that Hyattsville's demographic was not predominantly African American and there should not be a focus on ethnicity when choosing a name. He supplemented that the City was growing its diversity and it was the diversity that should be celebrated before honoring one specific group and proposed a memorial to veterans and a stronger presence honoring the indigenous tribes.

Councilmember Solomon stressed that the name of the park should be one in which residents, especially children, are knowledgeable and apprised of its origin and meaning and expressed disagreement in naming the park after any individual encouraging his colleagues to spend more time making the decision.

The Interim Mayor and Council agreed to continue dialogue over the following days to prepare a motion choosing a new name for the park and the rationale for the decision that would be revisited at the following meeting of April 19.

14. **Council Dialogue (8:50 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)**

Councilmember Solomon wished the departing members well and noted the departure of a local police officer stating that his absence would be a loss to the community.

Councilmember Haba thanked the staff for their efforts and encouraged all residents to vote in the City election.

Councilmember Croslin condemned an attack on an elderly woman in New York that was categorized as a hate crime offering his condolences.



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Councilmember Lawrence commended the work of his colleagues in renaming the City park, recognized City staff for their efforts and work with the Council, and highlighted the contributions of City Administrator Tracey Douglas.

Councilmember Schaible noted the proclamation for Autism Acceptance Month referencing the achievements of his son who was diagnosed with autism and thanked the City for bringing awareness to the issue.

Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf thanked the City staff and announced that she had participated in the 2021 City election.

Interim Mayor Ward reiterated the comments of her colleagues and recalled interactions **Councilmember Schaible's** son and wished the departing Councilmembers well in their future endeavors.

15. Community Notices and Meetings

15.a) Main City Calendar: April 6 - April 19, 2021

[HCC-289-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Main City Calendar April 6 - April 19, 2021 FINAL](#)

16. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Croslin
SECONDER:	Suiter
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m

ATTEST:

June 3, 2021

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk