

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 5, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YpwToo3WQGGe45HBocXxtw

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
Kareem Redmond, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Michelle Lee, Ward 4
Rommel Sandino, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator
Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk, 301-985-5001, 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) 985-5001. 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 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, May 5, 2025, 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.

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION AND CLOSED CAPTIONING: The City of Hyattsville offers translation and closed captioning in over 50 languages for City Council Meetings via the Wordly platform.

Follow the directions below to access the service:

- Go to: <https://attend.wordly.ai/join/RAVY-6886>
 - Ensure the Session ID RAVY-6886 is displayed.
 - Select Your Choice of Language and click on the "Attend" button.
 - You can now read the captions on your device and/or listen to the translation of the City Council meeting.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact info@hyattsville.org.

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_YpwToo3WQGGe45HBocXxtw

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called or order at 7:03 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Director of Community Business and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Deputy Chief of Police Laura Lanham

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

Human Resources Generalist Brenda Cruz

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Services Manager Reggie Bagley

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

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

A motion to amend the agenda was made by Council President Solomon, and seconded by CM Strab, to move the Proclamation Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month to the Discussion Agenda, and move the Appointment to the Audit Committee. It was approved, unanimously.

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

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

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

Daniel Broder (Ward 2) asked that Zionist language be removed from the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation.

Lisa Weiner Mahfuz (Ward 2) raised concerns about the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation and noted the language about anti-Antisemitism and as well as the silence about Palestine.

Lisbeth Melendez Rivera raised concerns about the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation and noted that the proclamation does not celebrate the Jewish community.

Todd Kliman expressed concerns about the push back on the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation stating that it is symbolic gesture and should remain as it is written.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) stated that he doesn't feel that the city should be involved in world politics, in regards to the proclamation.

Michael Bonds ward 3 raised concerns about former Mayor Hollingsworth being appointed to the audit committee, noting that he sees it as a conflict of interest.

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

The City Administrator provided updates on city events and programming.

6. Proclamations

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

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

Absent: Sandino

6.a. Proclamation of Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month[**HCC-318-FY25**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing May 2025 as Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments:

6.b. Proclamation of Citizenship Celebration Day[**HCC-320-FY25**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim May 3, 2025, as Citizenship Celebration Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments:

- 6.c.** Proclamation Celebrating May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville [HCC-321-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0505 Mental Health Month 2025](#)

- 6.e. Proclamation Recognizing National Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week** [HCC-324-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing May 15 through May 21, 2025, as National Police Week and May 15, 2025, as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM0505 National Police Week and National Peace Officers Memorial Day Proclamation 2025](#)

- 6.f. Proclamation of Children's Mental Health Matters Week** [HCC-319-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing May 4-10, 2025 as Children's Mental Health Matters week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0505 Childrens Mental Health Matters Week 2025](#)

- 6.g. Proclamation of Municipal Clerks Week 2025** [HCC-327-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim the week of May 4 through May 10, 2025, to be Municipal Clerks Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0505 Municipal Clerks Week 2025](#)

7. Appointments

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

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

Absent: Sandino

7.b. Appointment to the Race and Equity Task Force[HCC-329-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Jessica Garth (Ward 3) to the Race and Equity Task Force for a term of two (2) years to expire on May 5, 2027.

Sponsors: Lee

Attachments: [Jessica Garth W3 Nov 18 2024 appl redac](#)

7.c. Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee[HCC-330-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the re-appointments of James Wigley (Ward 2) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire May 5, 2027.

Sponsors: Haba and Schaible

Attachments: [James Wiggly W2 Apr 25 redac](#)

8. Consent Items (7:40p.m. - 7:45 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 Strab, that the Consent Agenda was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Sandino

8.a. Contract Award - Landscape and Alley Maintenance[HCC-314-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the award of a one (1) year contract, renewable by the City Administrator for up to four (4) additional years, to Professional Lawn Maintenance Services (PLMS), for landscape and alley maintenance, and authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$100,000 for the first year of the contract.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [PLMS RFP DPW25-001 Proposal 04-07-2025](#)

8.b. Hyattsville Resolution 2025-03: Roadway Transfer: MD 208 (Hamilton Street) [HCC-316-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and City Council introduce and adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2025-03, a Resolution whereby the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to execute the roadway transfer agreement for a segment of MD 208 (Hamilton Street) between the City of Hyattsville and Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [MD208 Road Transfer Agreement](#)
[Memo-MD 208 Roadway Transfer](#)
[Resolution 2025-03-Hamilton Street](#)

9. Discussion Items (7:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)**6.d. Proclamation Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month** [HCC-328-FY25](#)

I move that Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to declare May 2024 as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0505 Jewish-American Heritage_ 2025](#)

The Council discussed modifying the language of the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation and presenting a revised proclamation at the May 19 meeting.

9.a. Retiree Benefits [HCC-307-FY25](#)

For Discussion

Sponsors: City Administrator

Human Resources Director Jay Joyner discussed proposed changes to benefits for retirees. The changes will be implemented in a two phase approach to minimize disruption and confusion.

The Council discussed impacts on current and future retirees, financial implications of not updating the current benefits plan, and the timeline for the proposed implementation. Council Vice President Waszczak asked for an equity analysis of the proposed changes to the benefits plan.

Action Agenda (Items added during the Approval of the Agenda)**7.a. Appointment to the Audit Committee**[HCC-315-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Candace Bacchus (Ward 1), Daniel Lange (Ward 2), Stanislaw Rzeznik (Ward 2), Nancy Hammond (Ward 2), and Glenn Robelen (Ward 2) to the Audit Committee for a term of two years to expire on May 5, 2027, and appoint Councilmember Emily Strab (Ward 2) and Councilmember Kareem Redmond (Ward 3) as Council Liaisons to the Audit Committee.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments:

Council President Solomon expressed his concern about the lack of ward representation on the committee. CM Strab spoke to the challenges of filling a small committee and that the qualifications of the applicants were given top priority, but is in favor of expanding the committee to seven members. CM Schaible expressed his desire to remove the former mayor from the committee due to the perceived conflict of interest. CM Haba agreed with the proposed increase in committee membership and expressed that no former elected officials should serve on the committee if the City is behind on its audits. CM Redmond asked about the process moving forward and if the worksheet needs to be changed, and his concern about the timing given the additional work needed. Council Vice-President Waszczak expressed her support for the former mayor to be on the committee, given her experience. CM Strab expressed her desire to get the appointments done and separate the issues of approving the changes to the worksheet and the approval of the appointments. CM Haba reiterated the issue regarding the lack of ward representation on the committee and his objection to former elected officials serving on the committee. Council President Solomon stated his intention to amend the committee to increase its membership to seven, but to pass appointments tonight and not delay the committee. CM Schaible reiterated his opposition to the former mayor's appointment to the committee.

At the request of the Mayor, Treasurer Brooks explained the advisory role of the committee and the need for financial knowledge among the committee members. CM Denes provided information regarding the recommendations of other organizations for audit committee membership and his support for approving the appointment of the former mayor to the committee.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, and seconded by CM Haba, to expand the Audit Committee to seven members, with the additional 2 seats reserved for representation from Ward 3, 4, or 5. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by CM Haba, and seconded by CM Schaible, to remove Candace Hollingsworth from the appointees of the Audit Committee. The motion failed. Yes: Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Haba, Lee/No: Croslin, Waszczak, Denes, Redmond

A motion was made by CM Solomon and seconded by CM Strab to approve the amended motion. The Motion Failed. Yes:Waszczak, Denes, Strab, Redmond, Croslin/No:Solomon, Schaible, Haba, Lee

Aye: Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Strab, and Redmond

Nay: Croslin, Schaible, Lee, and Haba

Absent: Sandino

9.b. Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-02: Parking Violation Fine Increase

[HCC-326-FY25](#)

For Discussion

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2025-02 Handicapped Parking Fine Increase Ordinance Draft 5.1.25 4916-2205-3949 v.2](#)

Emergency Services Manager Reggie Bagley and CM Denes gave an overview of the proposed ordinance to increase fines for illegal parking in handicap spaces advising that there would need to be a code amendment to facilitate this.

Council President Solomon made a motion, which was seconded by Council Vice President Waszczak, to move the item. All councilmembers voted in favor and the motion carried.

10. Council Dialogue (8:30 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.)

11. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM.

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

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

Nay: Denes

Absent: Sandino