

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 7, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uyTj0pAMQCWGylsy9AM8HQ

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) 985-5009. 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 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, April 7, 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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 included in the official meeting record. Electronically submitted statements 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.

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_uyTj0pAMQCWGylsy9AM8HQ

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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

Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler

Deputy Director of Public Works Priyanka Joshi

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Resources Manager Reggie Bagley

Housing Manager David Cristeal

Communications Manager Cindy Zork

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

The City Clerk offered an amendment to add agenda item HCC-298-FY25 to the Action Agenda.

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

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

Absent: Haba

4. Approval of the Minutes**4.a. Approval of the Minutes**

[HCC-297-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025 and February 3, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes_Feb 3](#)

[Minutes Jan 21](#)

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

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

Absent: Haba

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

Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic (Ward 5) asked the Council to consider scaling down employee benefits and staff.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) expressed that he is opposed to staff reduction and graduated fines for speed enforcement as the latter creates an undue burden to the public. Lastly he stated that he is opposed to waiving taxes for new properties.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) stated that she is opposed to keeping the Throne bathrooms. She also in favor of scaling down staffing numbers and noted the increased costs at "The Spot" and Driskell Park. She also inquired about the funding sources of the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and the resident satisfaction survey.

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

The City Administrator provided updates on City events and programming.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. -9:20 p.m.)

7.a. Pennrose - Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing - Request of City Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) [HCC-287-FY25](#)

For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville Cover Letter Final](#)
[PILOT Memo Apr 1 2025.pdf](#)
[Pennrose Presentation Slides PILOT Request Apr 2025](#)

Housing Manager David Cristeal gave a brief overview of the Pennrose-Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing project before introducing Pastor Yvonne Penn (First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville) and Patrick Bateman (Pennrose) who discussed the project in depth.

Councilmembers discussed comparable projects done by Pennrose, permanent supportive housing units, and ways to expand housing access for disabled residents.

7.b. Hyattsville Elementary School Construction Update [HCC-300-FY25](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2023-12-21-hyattsville-k8-kickoff-meeting-pe-final.pptx](#)

Community Business and Economic Development Director Jeff Ulysse introduced Shawn Matlock, Director of the Prince George's County Blueprint School Program who discussed the Hyattsville Elementary School construction project in depth.

Councilmembers discussed the need for continued community outreach, expanded classroom space, and the impacts of increased traffic in the swing space. Mr. Matlock advised that a virtual community meeting is coming up and information to register will be shared with the City.

7.c. 2025 Resident Satisfaction Survey Results [HCC-298-FY25](#)

For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Probolsky Research - City of Hyattsville - Community Survey - Executive Presentation](#)

Communications Manager Cindy Zork introduced Alyce Basil, of Probolsky Research, who presented the results of the resident satisfaction survey.

8. Proclamations

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Redmond, that this item

was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Haba

8.a. Proclamation Celebrating April 2025 as Arab American Heritage Month [HCC-292-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing April 2025 as Arab American Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0407 Arab American Heritage Month 2025](#)

8.b. Proclamation Celebrating World Autism Acceptance Day and Autism Acceptance Month. [HCC-293-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation celebrating April 2, 2025 as World Autism Acceptance Day and April as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0407 National Autism Acceptance Month](#)

8.c. Proclamation in Honor of National Volunteer Week [HCC-294-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim April 20-26, 2025 as National Volunteer Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0407 National Volunteer Week 2025](#)

8.d. Proclamation in Honor of National Public Health Week [HCC-295-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim April 7-13, 2025 as National Public Health Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0407 Public Health Week 2025](#)

Action Items (Added during Approval of the Agenda)

HCC-298-FY25: I move the Mayor and Council authorize City staff to provide testimony to the Prince George's County Planning Board regarding the replacement of the existing Hyattsville Elementary School.

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

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

Absent: Haba

9. Discussion Items (9:25 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)**9.a. FY26 Capital Improvement Plan and Budget Discussion**[HCC-301-FY25](#)

Discussion to review the CIP and discuss the proposed FY26 Budget.

Sponsors: City Administrator

City Administrator Douglas and Treasurer Brooks introduced the FY26 Capital Improvement Plan before giving a overview. Director Riddle, Chief Towers, and Emergency Resource Manager Bagley discussed closed projects as well as projects currently being funded by the Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilmembers discussed funding for the Capital Improvement Plan, the current deficit, and monies already spent on Capital Improvement Plan projects. Councilmembers also inquired about bonds for the special tax district and funding for the West Hyattsville Green Alley Project.

10. Council Dialogue (10:00 p.m. - 10:10 p.m.)**11. Motion to Close**

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Haba

11.a. Motion to Close - Note: Council will not Return to Open Session[HCC-299-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of April 7, 2025, in order to consult with the City Administrator and staff to discuss negotiations related to the acquisition of real property.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b) (3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto”.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Pursuant to the requirement of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 3-104(1)(2); this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 10:05 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025.

In addition to the City Council, the following staff members were present:

Tracey Douglas, City Administrator

Laura Reams, Deputy City Administrator

Ron Brooks, City Treasurer

Lesley Riddle, Director of Public Works

Jeff Ulysse, City Planner

Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters related thereto.

Topics Discussed: Council was provided an update by staff, and subsequently discussed the ongoing negotiations related to the potential acquisition of a property within the City limits.

Action Taken: None taken.

The closed session adjourned at 11:12 p.m. on a motion made by Councilmember Lee and seconded by Councilmember Strab. The Council did not return to open session.

The meeting ended at 11:12 p.m.

12. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM.