

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2022

6:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jm6oYTE8QvCL9eO17_RILA

Virtual

City Council Public Hearing

Robert S. Croslin, Intemim Mayor
Danny Schaible, Council Vice President, Ward 2
Sam Denes, Ward 1
Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1
Ben Simasek, Ward 3
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Daniel Peabody, Ward 4
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Joseph Solomon, Ward 5
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. 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 City of Hyattsville Mayor and Council will conduct a virtual Public Hearing on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (prior to the City Council Meeting). The Public Hearing will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow residents to comment on a petition for the implementation of traffic calming device(s) for the following streets:

- 4900 block of 41st Place
- 3400 and 3500 blocks of Lancer Drive
- 3500 block of Longfellow Street

The Mayor and Council will announce their decision to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the requested traffic calming device(s) within fifteen (15) days of the close of the hearing, unless, due to extraordinary circumstances, the time limit is extended by a majority vote of the City Council. The petitioners will be notified of the decision of the Mayor and City Council by the City Clerk and the decision will be published in the Hyattsville Public Hearing Minutes.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually and can be accessed through the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jm6oYTE8QvCL9eO17_RILA

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.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas
Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler
Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle
City Clerk-Laura Reams

Present: Interim Mayor Robert Croslin
Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Rommel
Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Councilmember Joseph Solomon
Councilmember Ben Simasek

Absent: Jimmy McClellan Edouard Haba

2. Introduction and Background Information

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle gave an overview of each location petitioned for traffic calming and the additional work needed before proceeding with installation.

2.a. Traffic Calming Petition - 4900 block of 41st Place

[HCC-367-FY22](#)

Presentation to Council on proposed traffic calming - 4900 block of 41st Place

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [41St Place Between Decatur & Emerson St Petition Redacted with map](#)
[Pennoni Traffic Study](#)

Julia Dezelski stated in her block there are approximately 19 families with children under 10. She said she has noticed individuals use the street as an alternative route for other streets, and she is in favor of speed bumps or other traffic-calming devices.

John Fitzmaurice stated he is concerned about no sidewalks for pedestrians. He supports the placement of stop signs, and sidewalks and making the street one-way.

Stephanie Dalke stated she rents her home and since moving in two years ago she has noticed cars will come down Decatur onto 41st street, hardly stopping at the stop sign, and quickly accelerate. She supports traffic mitigations.

Laura Hehman stated her children are becoming more independent and are outside riding their bikes and visiting friends. She is concerned about the traffic on the block and supports traffic mitigation.

Mr. Marshall submitted an ecomment and stated he does not support speed bumps/humps. He said those devices have proved not helpful. He does support the installation of sidewalks.

Megan Haidet stated a petition has been submitted today to study Decatur Street.

Graham Long stated he is in support of mitigation strategies, but not one-way traffic.

2.b. Traffic Calming Petition -3400 and 3500 blocks of Lancer Drive[HCC-372-FY22](#)

Presentation to Council on proposed traffic calming - 3400 and 3500 block of Lancer Drive

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Lancer Drive Petition_redacted](#)
[Pennoni Traffic Study](#)

Ron DeClerk asked if all the measuring details would be shared with the public. There is one single stop sign in direct line sight with his house and only about 50% of the people stop at it. He does support speed humps and a flashing stop sign.

Sophia Oriani submitted an ecomment. She stated she supports mitigation strategies and also asked the study to look at ways to discourage the street as a cut-through.

2.c. Traffic Calming Petition - 3500 block of Longfellow Street[HCC-373-FY22](#)

Presentation to Council on proposed traffic calming - 3900 block of Oliver Street.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Pennoni Traffic Study](#)
[Longfellow St Accidents](#)
[3500 block Longfellow Street Traffic Calming Petition_map_redacted](#)

Tom Novotny stated he agrees with the majority of the comments tonight, but Lancer still has traffic concerns. This street is currently one-way and speeding on the street is a concern.

Chris Duftner stated that he and his wife signed the petition. He noted the traffic measuring device was placed at the beginning of the street. He would like to see the devices placed in the middle of the block where the speeding occurs.

Kurt Brintzenhofe stated this is a well-traveled street. He observed that the measuring device was placed at the beginning of the street.

Daniel Amador stated he agrees with all the statements tonight but is curious how seasonality is factored into the study.

Shari Benson stated the street is heavily traveled and there are speeding and running stop signs. She said that during rush hour the amount of people running the stop sign is incredible.

Scott Wilson stated he was on a previous Citizens Traffic Committee. One of the factors taken into consideration during the discussion was that creating a one-way street generally tends to increase individuals' speeding.

Councilmember Solomon stated a large population who live in this section are Spanish speaking and that may preclude them from speaking tonight with the language barrier.

Steven Howard stated the street is a raceway, and he had concerns for safety.

2.d. Traffic Calming Procedures: Reference Materials[HCC-374-FY22](#)

Reference Documents for the May 16 Public Hearing

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [114-8 Traffic Calming Devices](#)
[Traffic Calming Flowchart](#)

Councilmember Waszczak asked if there is a place where residents can view the website to learn about the traffic studies and the process.

Public Works Director Riddle stated she concurs with the recommendation and feels this can be accomplished. The Public Works Department has requested in FY23 monies for a traffic engineer. This position will only handle the traffic concerns in the City and education can be included.

Interim Mayor Croslin asked if there was a way for citizens to know the status of their request for their streets.

Public Works Director Lesley Riddle stated the traffic engineer will be responsible for this information and updates.

Councilmember Schaible stated he has been meeting with citizens and they informally have called their group the Hyattsville Street Design Team. This team could possibly create a formal committee. He asked the status of the cyclist who was injured at the intersection of Lancer and Queen Chapel in 2021 or 2022. He also asked about the various data counters used in the studies.

Public Works Director Lesley Riddle stated that data counters come in different forms and cars can affect the outcome of the counters such as cars parked on them, and cars blocking them. The City staff conducts visits to the locations during the measuring period. The more long-term solution for the Lancer Drive and Queens Chapel Road area will take some time since the City is working with the State Highway Administration.

3. Public Comment, Limit 2 minutes per speaker Public comment was provided for each item separately and is recorded under the corresponding item above.

4. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Waszczak, seconded by Simasek, that hearing be Adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Sandino, Peabody, Solomon, and Simasek

Absent: McClellan, and Haba