

# City of Hyattsville

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**Virtual Budget Work Session FY25 Departmental Presentations/Introduction FY25 Budget**

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xpkpEuRtTN6tbGaacLZCOA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xpkpEuRtTN6tbGaacLZCOA)**

## 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**  
**Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3**  
**Kareem Redmond, Ward 3**  
**Edouard Haba, Ward 4**  
**Michelle Lee, Ward 4**  
**Rommel Sandino, Ward 5**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator**

**Laura Reams, City Clerk, 301-985-5009, [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings) or via email to [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Wednesday, March 27, 2024 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](http://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.

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**1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Also present:**

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development-Debi Sandlin

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Chief of Police-Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shepherd

Director of Human Resources-Jay Joyner

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk

Emergency Services Coordinator-Reggie Bagley

Deputy Director of Public Works-Priyanka Joshi

**Present:**

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council President Joseph Solomon

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Emily Strab

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

Councilmember Kareem Redmond

Councilmember Michelle Lee

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

**Absent:**

Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Danny Schaible

Councilmember Edouard Haba

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

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

**Aye:** Croslin, Solomon, Denes, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, and Lee

**Absent:** Waszczak, Schaible, Haba, and Sandino

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

There was no public comment.

**5. Presentations (7:20 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)**

**5.a. Introduction of the Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2025**[HCC-258-FY24](#)

For presentation and discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY 25 Budget Book Final](#)

City Administrator Douglas and City Treasurer Ron Brooks gave an overview of the proposed FY25 budget. Department directors presented additional details on the proposed budget for their department.

Mayor Croslin reminded the Council that they can schedule individual meetings with staff to ask questions and asked that information from those meetings be brought back at the next Council Meeting for the public to hear.

Councilmember Denes asked if the year to date (YTD) numbers were all as of February 29, 2024. Treasure Brooks confirmed the YTD is consistent from for all departments. Councilmember Denes asked if the proposed 2% cost of living increase (COLA) is represented in each department's salary lines. Treasure Brooks responded that it is not, but the funds for the COLA are included as part of overall expenditures. Councilmember Denes expressed concern that some budgets are showing an increase in staff but not an increase in the salary budget line and wants to ensure that the City employees are being paid appropriately.

Councilmember Redmond asked for all the shovel ready action plans to be accessible to the Council for review. He asked if there is a tool that can show what an increased tax rate would provide in terms of revenue to the City. Treasurer Brooks responded that it is simple math that can be done and added that he will be presenting a 5-10 year forecast that will have tax rate projections. Councilmember Redmond asked for an explanation of what is included in fringe benefits. Treasurer Brooks replied that it includes health care, FICA, and Social Security.

Council President Solomon expressed his intent to meet with the Department of Public Works, the Police Department, and Human Resources.

Councilmember Strab asked if the projection for the end of FY24 will be plus or minus \$500,000 from anticipated expenditures. Treasurer Brooks confirmed that is his projection. Councilmember Strab expressed her concern about passing a budget that requires a \$4.5 million draw down on reserve funds, and asked if the bond rating could be affected by continued budgets that draw down on the reserve fund. Treasurer Brooks replied that it could. Councilmember Strab restated her desire to balance the budget to anticipated revenues and would like to know how a tax rate increase would impact the budget given the City may offer tax credits that decrease overall revenues. Treasurer Brooks stated that the City's Charter allows for funds to drawn from the reserve balance and noted the advantages of keeping that language in the City Charter. City Administrator Douglas said that any tax credit program would not have an effect until FY26.

Council President Solomon asked that staff send out deadlines to Councilmembers to submit budget or tax amendments. He clarified that the increases in the budget are due to salary costs and not due to Council initiatives. City Administrator Douglas agreed and added that legacy costs, new positions, and increased material costs also affect the budget.

**6. Council Dialogue (9:30 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.)****7. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Croslin, Solomon, Denes, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

**Absent:** Waszczak, Schaible, and Haba