

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2024

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bNNNWYn_RoaHAJh1azvag

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.

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
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

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, December 16, 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.

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_bNNNWYn_RoaHAIJh1azvag

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:03 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Interim Director of Community Business & Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Transportation Manager Taylor Robey

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Services Manager Reginald Bagley

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

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

Aye:	Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino
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4. Approval of the Minutes

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

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

4.a. Approval of the Minutes[HCC-175-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 and November 4, 2024, City Council Meetings.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes June 10 2024](#)
[Minutes Nov 4 2024](#)

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

Margot Nassau (4000 Hamilton St) thanked the Mayor and members of the Council for meeting with residents about the Driskell Park intersection. She is opposed to many elements within the proposed changes and offered suggestions for this intersection.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) is opposed to all of the proposed changes at the Driskell Park Intersection. She also asked that the Mayor and Council support the Rent Stabilization Ordinance in 2025.

Eli Braun (Hamilton St) thanked the Mayor and members of the Council for meeting with residents about the Driskell Park intersection. He is opposed to the traffic proposals, stating he feels they will be ineffective, confusing, and will have negative impacts on parking.

Kara Vegas (Hamilton St) thanked the Mayor and members of the Council for meeting with residents about the Driskell Park intersection. She is opposed to many elements within the proposed changes and offered suggestions for this intersection.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) is opposed to the funding for playground equipment at "The Spot". He is also opposed to the proposed changes in the direction of traffic in the Driskell Road proposal. Lastly, he thanked Mayor, Council, and staff for their hard work this year.

Daniel Broder (Ward 2) is opposed to the proposed changes at the Driskell Park intersection, but stated a roundabout added to the third option could be suitable. He asked for better safety features such as clearer signage at this location and asked the Council to take up the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and ranked choice voting in 2025.

Will Seath (Ward 2) lives near Driskell Park intersection and is opposed to the preferred alternative as it makes intersection more dangerous and creates problems for emergency vehicles.

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

City Administrator Douglas provided updates for City events and programming.

Council members inquired about crime increases as reported on the City Protect app and ongoing issues with Park Mobile and the Passport Parking app.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**7.a. Gallatin Street Intersection Study Preferred Alternative Presentation**[HCC-104-FY25](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Gallatin St Intersection Existing Conditions Report](#)
[Gallatin Intersection CC Presentation](#)

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle, Transportation Manager Taylor Robey, and Oscar Garcia (RK&K) provided an overview of the Gallatin Street Intersection Study. This study was initiated by a Council request and was subject to a competitive solicitation process in accordance with City guidelines. Items presented to the Council and residents are design concepts that will be vetted by all stakeholders. The goal of project is to improve pedestrian safety and maintain efficient traffic flow.

The Council provided feedback and recommendations on three traffic plan proposals. CM Denes stated opposition to the bike lane between parked cars and traffic as he feel is it unsafe for bikers. CM Schaible reiterated his support for a roundabout and encouraged the staff to do additional research this option. Council Vice President Waszczak also supports installing a roundabout at this intersection and encouraged residents and Council members to explore the roundabout behind Whole Foods in Riverdale, MD. She also asked about adding traffic signals to this intersection. Council President Solomon and CM Strab urged the Council to engage with the community more during this process. Council President Solomon also encouraged implementing immediate remedies such as clearer signage for drivers. CM Haba opposes any plan that would negatively impact parking for residents.

8. Proclamations

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, 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, Haba, and Sandino

8.a. Proclamation Recognizing December 21, 2024, as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day [HCC-179-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing December 21, 2024, as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1216 National Homeless Persons Memorial Day Proclamation](#)

9. Appointments

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, Haba, and Sandino

9.a. Re-appointments to Board of Supervisors of Elections [HCC-174-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor, with Council approval, re-appoint Greta Mosher (Ward 1) and Lisa Pineda (Ward 2) to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for a term of four (4) years beginning January 12, 2025 through January 12, 2029.

Sponsors: Croslin

Attachments: [Greta Mosher W1 Oct 14 24 for Jan 12 25 appl redac.pdf](#)
[Lisa W2 Nov 27 25 for Jan 12 25 appl redac.pdf](#)

9.b. Council of Governments Policy Committee Appointments [HCC-178-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council make the following appointments to the Council of Governments (COG) Policy Committees for a term of one (1) year, beginning on January 1, 2025:

- Region Forward Coalition: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Tracey Douglas and Laura Reams
- Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Police Chief Jarod Towers and Sandra Shephard
- Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Lesley Riddle
- Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Lesley Riddle

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [MWCOC Policy Committees](#)

10. Consent Items (8:10 p.m. - 8:15 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 Haba that the Consent Agenda was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

10.a. Purchase of Park and Playground Equipment for the Trolley Trailhead Park project [HCC-176-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Playground Specialist for the furnishing and installation of park and playground equipment for the Trolley Trailhead Park project, "The Spot", for an encumbrance of \$110,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2024-03-11-Site Concept The SPOT.pdf](#)
[PlaySpec Sourcewell 010521-LTS The Spot Proposal 31631G 10-22-2024](#)

10.b. Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-05: Revisions to City Code Chapter 8, Elections (Second Reading and Adoption) [HCC-177-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-05, an ordinance whereby the City Council amends City Code, Chapter 8, Elections to change the requirements related to early voting day hours and election related mailings and update the language regarding the processing of mail-in ballots.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-05 - Election Code Revisions FOR PACKET.pdf](#)
[Election Code Changes](#)

11. Council Dialogue (8:15 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.)

12. Motion to Close

12.a. Motion to Close - Note: Council will Not Return to Open Session[HCC-180-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of December 16, 2024, to discuss a personnel matter and to discuss negotiations related to the acquisition of real property. City staff will be consulted as to each.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b) (1) to discuss a “personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals” and 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 to the acquisition.”

Sponsors: City Administrator

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, 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, Haba, and Sandino

A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 10:05 PM on December 16, 2024.

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

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

Topics Discussed: Negotiations related to the acquisition of real property inside the City limits and a personnel matter.

Action Taken: None Taken

The closed session adjourned at 11:00 PM.