

City of Hyattsville

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



Summary Regular Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gQi4gipfRmuvX-NpdWuUaQ

Monday, April 21, 2025

7:00 PM

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.

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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 21, 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.

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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_gQi4gipfRmuvX-NpdWuUaQ

1. **Call to Order and Council Roll Call** **The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Approval of Agenda** **Approved, Unanimous.**
4. **Public Comment (7:10 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker**
All public comments submitted electronically can be found at the end of this summary.
5. **City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:40 p.m.)**

6. Proclamations Approved, Unanimous.**6.a. Arbor Day Proclamation**[HCC-296-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council to proclaim April 25, 2025 as Arbor Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [CM 0407 Arbor Day 2025](#)

7. Consent Items (7:40 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.) Approved, Unanimous.

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.

7.a. Trolley Trailhead Park (The Spot) Landscaping[HCC-290-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$100,000 to SMC for landscaping for the Trolley Trailhead Park project, "The Spot," under their current contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Public Works

Attachments: [SMC DPW19-011B Task 49 The Spot Landscaping rev Ph1 11-01-2024](#)

7.b. PES Contract Award RFP # CED02282025[HCC-303-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Partners for Economic Solutions (PES) in an amount not to exceed \$59,000 for consulting services to evaluate and recommend strategies to preserve and/or expand the affordability of 4 rental communities in West Hyattsville. This initiative is funded by the MWCOG Housing Affordability Planning Program Grant. The contract is subject to the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community & Economic Development

Attachments: [Memo RFP CED02282025 Award PES April 21 2025](#)
[Draft PES Consultant Contract April 2025](#)

7.c. Change Order - Bry's Lawn Care Tree Planting[HCC-308-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to exercise a change order in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the term of the existing contract with Bry's Lawn Care and Landscaping, expiring April 2026.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Public Works

Attachments: [Bry's Lawn Care Contract](#)

8. Action Items (7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)**8.a. Pennrose - Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing request of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Letter of Intent (LOI)**[HCC-304-FY25](#)**Approved. Yes:9/No:0/Abstain:1**

I move that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a Letter of Intent (LOI) in support of the proposed Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the Pennrose - Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing development project.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community & Economic Development

Attachments: [Pennrose PILOT support Letter of Intent \(LOI\) Apr 22 2025](#)
[Hyattsville Cover Letter Final](#)
[PILOT Memo Apr 11 2025](#)

8.b. FY25 Capital Improvement Budget Transfer of Grant Funds and Amend Budget Appropriations[HCC-312-FY25](#)**Approved, Unanimous.**

CM Strab made a motion, which was seconded by CM Haba to increase funding to the Hyattsville Life & Times to \$ 20,000. Motion Failed. Yes:4/No: 6/Abstain:0

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Treasurer to transfer grant funds not to exceed \$681,655 from the general account fund to the FY25 Capital Improvements Revenue account fund and amend the FY25 CIP budget by adjusting appropriations not to exceed \$681,655 to cover cost of sitework at The Spot. The grant funds were previously received from PG County Revenue Authority and awarded by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for project commonly known as "The Spot".

Sponsors: Douglas

Department: Finance

8.c. FY26 Budget: Council Amendments Approved, Unanimous.[HCC-310-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council amend the FY26 budget to include the following:

- \$15,000 for a patronage grant to the Hyattsville Life and Times in the City Council budget.
- \$18,000 for the Committee Stipend Program
- \$5,000 for ADA Compliance Software
- \$35,000 for Volunteer Service Support
- \$35,000 for Mental Health Programming in the CS budget. Increase from \$15K
- \$348,158 for a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all City staff.
- \$810,361 for waste/snow removal, street maintenance, winter road treatment, and funding for five staff positions in the Department of Public Works.

Sponsors: Croslin, Solomon and Redmond

Department: Legislative

Attachments: [UPDATED FY26 Budget Presentation Council Budget Amendments \(1\).pptx](#)

8.d. FY26 Budget Amendment: EAC Principals' Luncheon Approved, Unanimous. [HCC-311-FY25](#)
CM Strab made a motion, which was seconded by CM Denes, to reduce funding for the Principal's Luncheon to \$1000. Approved, Unanimous.
The amended motion was Approved, Unanimously.

I move the Mayor and Council amend the FY26 Budget by adding \$1,000 for a Principal's Luncheon organized by the Hyattsville Education Committee.

Sponsors: Strab, Waszczak and Redmond

Department: Legislative

9. Discussion Items (9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)**9.a. HOA Trash Collection and City Engagement**[HCC-309-FY25](#)

For Discussion

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Legislative

10. Council Dialogue (9:30 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.)

11. Motion to Adjourn Approved, Unanimous.
The meeting adjourned at 10:29 PM.

Attest: April 23, 2025



Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk

From: HYATTSVILLE TRUTH [REDACTED]

Date: April 21, 2025 at 4:56:27 PM EDT

Subject: MY PUBLIC COMMENT FOR TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING.....21 APR. 25.....

HELLO NATE.....BELOW IS MY WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING.....

THANKS.....

MARSHALL.....

HELLO MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.....

21 APR. 25.....

WHILE YOU HAVE SEEN THESE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS BEFORE.....I AM SUBMITTING THEM HERE TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY BECOME PART OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OFFICIAL RECORDS.....AFTER GETTING SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION I HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES AND EDITS SINCE I FIRST PROVIDED THEM.....ALSO.....THERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS RELATED TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA ITEMS.....

PLEASE MAKE THIS INFORMATION PART OF MY PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION FOR TONIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING.....

P.I.L.O.T. PROPOSAL FOR PENNROSE SANCTUARY AT HYATTSVILLE CROSSING:.....(HCC-304-FY25)

THERE WAS A PRESENTATION LAST MEETING ASKING THE CITY TO SUPPORT A P.I.L.O.T. (PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES) PROJECT PROPOSED BY THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND IT'S PARTNERS.....I AM OPPOSED TO ANY P.I.L.O.T. BEING PROVIDED IN HYATTSVILLE.....

FIRST REASON.....THE CHURCH ALREADY DOES NOT PAY TAXES ON IT'S PROPERTY AND NOW THEY WANT TO NOT PAY "FULL" TAX ON THIS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE WHILE ORDINARY PEOPLE LIKE ME HAVE TO PAY FULL PROPERTY TAX ON MY HOME.....THIS IS A BUSINESS VENTURE AND SHOULD PAY "FULL" TAXES NO MATTER WHAT THE STATED REASON IS.....

SECOND.....THE CITY GOT BURNED ON THE LAST P.I.L.O.T. THAT THEY DID WITH THE APARTMENT PROPERTY OWNERS ON 38TH AVENUE.....THE OWNERS PAINTED A ROSY PICTURE DURING THE PRESENTATION ABOUT SAVINGS FOR THE TENANTS AND KEEPING RENTS LOWHOWEVER AFTER THE PROJECT WAS DONE.....IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS NO SAVINGS FOR THE TENANTS AT ALL.....AND THE UTILITIES THAT USED TO BE INCLUDED WERE NOW A SEPARATE COST THAT THE TENANTS HAD TO PAY.....AND THE CITY HAD NO METHOD BY WHICH THEY COULD BACK OUT OF THE P.I.L.O.T. DEAL.....

IN MY OPINION.....YOU SHOULD NOT PROVIDE A LETTER OF INTENT FOR THIS PROJECT.....

CITY PROVIDED H.O.A. WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES:.....(HCC-309-FY25)

I AM OPPOSED TO ANY METHOD BY WHICH THE CITY COLLECTS TRASH OR WASTE FROM H.O.A. PROPERTIES IN THE CITY THAT DO NOT BUILD STREETS OR ALLEYS TO CITY.....COUNTY.....OR STATE STANDARDS.....I AM OPPOSED TO ANY CITY WASTE COLLECTION PROVIDED TO ANY MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTIES.....

THE SPOT FUNDING.....TROLLEY TRAIL HEAD LANDSCAPING AND C.I.P. BUDGET TRANSFER.....(HCC-312-FY25) AND (HCC-290-FY25)

ONCE AGAIN THIS IS FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT KNOWN AS "THE SPOT"ONCE AGAIN I AM STATING THAT THIS FUNDING AND THIS PROJECT SHOULD NOT GO FORWARD.....THE COSTS ARE NOT REASONABLE AND THIS PROJECT IS NOT WARRANTED IN THIS CITY.....THIS PROJECT WILL ONLY SERVE THE "FEW" AND NOT THE MANY.....THIS PROJECT IS NOT WORTH THE ACTUAL DOLLARS THAT IT IS COSTING.....AND THIS PROPERTY WAS PURCHASED FOR A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PURPOSE.....WHILE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS PROPOSE TO CUT STAFF POSITIONS THIS BUDGET CYCLE.....YOU WANT TO SPEND HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY ON THIS WORTHLESS PROJECT THAT WILL NEVER SUPPORT THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS THAT IT IS CONSUMING.....I AM OPPOSED TO BOTH OF THESE MOTIONS.....

THIS IS MY LIST OF BUDGET QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS AND OPINIONS.....

TAX RATE AND REDUCTION IN STAFF:....

I AM OPPOSED TO ANY TAX INCREASE.....AND I WANT TO SEE THE TAX RATE GO DOWN FOR OWNER OCCUPIED HOMEOWNERS.....I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF A REDUCTION IN SERVICES OR STAFFING.....YES.....I KNOW THAT THOSE TWO THINGS CONTRADICT EACH OTHER.....BUT IT IS HOW I SEE ITHOW WE GET THERE IS UP TO ALL OF YOU.....

D.P.W.:.....

1) FROZEN POSITIONS: TRASH CREW MEMBERS AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR POSITIONS.....

IF THESE POSITIONS ARE NOT FILLED / FUNDED IN THIS BUDGET.....WHAT WILL BE THE AFFECT ON THE CURRENT WASTE COLLECTION CREW AND THE DEPARTMENT?....WILL THE CURRENT TRASH CREW MEMBERS HAVE TO WORK LONGER HOURS TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE IN STAFF LEVELS?....WILL THE VACANT MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR POSITION CAUSE YOU TO HAVE TO OUTSOURCE SOME OF THE REPAIRS UNTIL THE NEXT BUDGET YEAR?....IF SO.....HOW WILL THIS SAVE MONEY IN THE BUDGET?....WHILE WE ADD MORE HOUSEHOLDS TO THE CITY.....HOW CAN WE SERVICE THE NEEDS OF THESE HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ADDING STAFF?....IN MY OPINION.....THESE POSITIONS SHOULD BE FUNDED IN THIS BUDGET.....

H.C.P.D.:.....

1) FROZEN POSITIONS: RECORDS AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR AND DISPATCHER POSITIONS.....

IF THESE POSITIONS ARE NOT FILLED / FUNDED IN THIS BUDGET.....WHAT WILL BE THE AFFECT ON THE CURRENT DISPATCHERS AND THE DEPARTMENT?....WILL THE DISPATCHERS HAVE TO WORK LONGER HOURS TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE IN STAFF LEVELS?....WILL THE VACANT SUPERVISOR POSITION CAUSE YOU TO HAVE TO ASSIGN A SUPERVISOR FROM PATROL OR COMMAND STAFF TO FILL IN FOR THE RECORD'S AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR UNTIL THE NEXT BUDGET YEAR?....

2) FROZEN OR ELIMINATED POSITIONS:.....CADET OR INTERN POSITIONS.....

IN MY OPINION.....THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A YOUNG PERSON TO WORK IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS A VITAL TOOL FOR RECRUITMENT AS WELL AS A PATH FOR THE PUBLIC TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR COMMUNITY.....IF THERE IS A WAY TO FUND THESE POSITIONS IN THIS BUDGET.....I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM REMAIN.....

H.R.:....

1) REDUCTION IN RETIREE DEPENDENT BENEFITS:

EXACTLY WHAT BENEFITS WOULD THEY LOSE.....AND WHAT WOULD THE COST SAVINGS BE?....

FINANCE DEPARTMENT:....

1) A.R.P.A. MANAGER: POSITION BEING ELIMINATED.....

IF THIS POSITION IS ELIMINATED.....WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MR. PASCHALL?....WILL HE BE REASSIGNED TO A DIFFERENT POSITION IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT?....

2) CURRENT FUND BALANCE:

HOW MUCH COULD WE SPEND FROM THE FUND BALANCE TO FUND THE ENTIRE FY26 BUDGET WITHOUT ANY CUTS AND STILL BE WITHIN REASONABLE FINANCIAL GUIDELINES?....

COULD THE CITY FUND BALANCE SUPPORT A TAX REDUCTION TO A RATE OF \$0.59 PER HUNDRED UNTIL THE FY27 BUDGET SEASON WITHOUT LOOSING ANY POSITIONS AND STILL KEEPING A BALANCE WITHIN REASONABLE AND ACCEPTABLE LEVELS?....

CITY ADMINISTRATOR:....

1) RENTAL TOILETS:

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE RENTAL TOILETS ELIMINATED FROM THE BUDGET.....IN MY OPINION.....THE CITY SPENDING ALMOST A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS FOR RENTAL TOILETS IS A MISTAKE AND THE LEVEL OF BENEFIT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE HIGH COST.....

2) THE "SPOT":

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT ELIMINATED FROM THE BUDGET.....IN MY OPINION.....THE LEVEL OF BENEFIT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE ROUGHLY ONE MILLION DOLLAR HIGH COST.....AS WELL AS THIS PROPERTY WAS ACQUIRED FOR A VERY DIFFERENT PURPOSE.....

3) HYATTSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE FUNDING FOR THE H.V.F.D. ELIMINATED FROM THE BUDGET.....THIS IS A PRIVATE CORPORATION THAT THE CITY STAFF AND CITIZENS HAVE NO CONTROL OVER AND NO AUTHORITY OVER.....IN MY OPINION.....THIS MONEY COULD BE BETTER SPENT ON PROJECTS AND PROPERTIES THAT THE CITY OWNS AND CONTROLS.....

4) I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL C.O.L.A.S RETAINED IN THE BUDGET.....

5) I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE MEETING STIPENDS RETAINED FOR THE SCHOOL AGE AND YOUNG COLLEGE STUDENTS.....

THANKS FOR READING.....

MARSHALL.....



Comment on HCC-310-FY25

From Mike Bonds [REDACTED]

Date Mon 4/21/2025 4:52 PM

Good afternoon,

With respect to the action item HCC-310-FY25 (budget amendments) on today's City Council agenda, I would encourage Council to retain the cut to the Committee Stipend Program from the proposed FY26 Budget Book by removing the restoration of funding from the budget amendment, except for members of the Youth Advisory Committee. Members of Council have stated before in this budget cycle that the program has not achieved its purpose of expanding committee participation in Wards 4 and 5, and I'm sure many committee members would willingly serve on the boards they do, even without a monetary incentive.

I would also urge Council to reconsider the amount budgeted for the Hyattsville Police Department, given that the City appears on track to spend less than it budgeted on HPD in FY25. If HPD operations are not expected to change significantly in FY26, then that budgeted amount should be reduced to reflect similar operations next year, with a slight increase for likely inflation. The reduction could then be used to balance the restored DPW and other funding contained in the amendments.

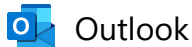
Best regards,

Mike Bonds
Ward 3 resident

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Fwd: Comments for 4/21 meeting

From Melissa Schweisguth [REDACTED]
Date Mon 4/21/2025 5:00 PM
To

Begin forwarded message:

From: Melissa Schweisguth [REDACTED]
Date: April 21, 2025 at 16:59:35 EDT
To:
Subject: Comments for 4/21 meeting

Hello

Thanks for your service.

Here are some comments for the record:

Landscaping change order - Please pull from the consent agenda and require more appropriate procurement practices that ensure best value for the city and taxpayers. As this is a change in the initial scope why is the city not using a competitive RFP or providing an evidence-based sole source justification? I worked in federal procurement and no contracting officer would accept such a scope expansion without justification. The contract also names Casey trees in one place though they don't seem to be related to the company otherwise named. Staff periodically provide such erroneous contracts. The council should require a corrected contract.

PILOT

- A 40-year period seems too generous. Is the developer giving up any margin?
- The staff memo underestimates list taxes by assuming taxes remain flat for 40 years. Assessments generally rise and would do so substantially over 40 years.

Budget additions

- proposing to add \$1.27 million to a budget already drawing down on reserves contradicts council requests to control deficit spending and disregards the overwhelming public comments asking to control deficit spending

- no grant for streetcar suburbs. The city is already advertising. An uncompleted and undefined "grant" is not appropriate for public bodies. HLT covers mount rainier and the Brentwoods and should ask them for funds rather than HVL subsidizing.
- the council should not approve a COLA without considering total compensation including our high fringe and merit increases, which themselves might make Hyattsville's compensation higher than or on par with relevant municipalities.
- spending like this is going to drive me out of HvL, especially as I lost my job. It's just too expensive for what we get.

Thank you

Melissa



Outlook

Council meeting April 21: FY26 budget – City tax, budget savings, and the budget summary

From Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic [REDACTED]

Date Sun 4/20/2025 9:19 AM

To

Cc [REDACTED]

Dear All,

I am Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic from Ward 5.

As the FY26 budget for Hyattsville is being finalized, more information has become available. I am sharing it here with the council, city admin, and Hyattsville residents so that the best decisions can be made. The bottom line is that all expenses should be within common price ranges and covered by revenues. The residents need to be mindful of the expenses when they ask for services and accept city decisions based on the available funds.

Summary:

- **City tax:** The analysis indicates that, over time, the **city's taxes far outstrip the county's tax**, although, according to the [tax rates](#) the city should charge less. This is due to Hyattsville's high homestead cap of 6% (10% in the past), and it can be remedied by adopting PG County's homestead cap and current taxable portion for each property.
- **Budget savings:** To ensure long-term fiscal sustainability, the City should:
 - Reevaluate and restructure its oversized employee benefits.
 - Avoid further increases to the staffing level, which currently stands at 202 employees (approximately 1 employee per 99 residents, which is a very good ratio).
 - Reconsider offering medical benefits to retirees—not a common practice among comparable municipalities.
- **City budget summary:** The \$30 million bond sale was originally intended to support capital investment. However, the current balance of those bond funds has not been disclosed, making the FY26 budget less transparent.

City tax: For many long-time Hyattsville residents, city taxes significantly exceed taxes paid to Prince George's County. For them, the projected tax increase in FY26 will be driven mostly by the City tax.

For instance, a single property may pay **\$3,200 in City taxes** (TOWN LEVY) and **\$2,700 in PG County taxes** (COUNTY PROPERTY TAX – HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT). This despite county charges being higher than city's ([0.872 vs. 0.63 per \\$100](#))

This imbalance stems from Hyattsville's high homestead cap of 6% (previously at 10%), which often prevents residents from receiving a homestead credit from the city. In contrast, PG County's cap of 3% (previously ranging between 1% and 5%) consistently yields a credit that grows annually, thereby reducing the county tax burden. The city can provide the same relief for residents by applying PG county caps and using their taxable portion for properties.

Budget savings: The high city taxes produced annual city revenue increases of 6–7%. Yet, even with this revenue growth, it has not been enough to match spending. In FY26, after considerable effort to contain costs, the City still proposed a \$31.7 million budget with a \$1.7 million deficit.

The cost reductions achieved thus far—primarily in travel, office supplies, and training—are limited and may not be sustainable. A more impactful and enduring solution would involve restructuring employee benefits, which

currently total \$7.7 million and are oversized when compared to common values. Addressing this area could lead to significant and lasting savings.

Employee Costs in Hyattsville based on April 2 version of FY26 report	
Employee cost as a percentage of city revenue (22.3 /31.7 million)	70% (typically 50-60%)
Police benefits as a percentage of salary (4.5 / 7.3 million)	62% (typically 20-40%)
City employee benefits as a percentage of salary (3.3 /7.2 million)	45% (typically 15-30%)

Number of employees: Avoid further increases to the staffing level, which currently stands at 202 employees (approximately 1 employee per 99 residents). Hyattsville spends about \$1,500 per capita, which is a [solid](#) spending.

Medical benefits for retirees: Out of 10 municipalities, 6 do not provide medical benefits to retirees. Hyattsville currently spends about \$400,000 on medical expenses for 43 retirees. Retirees become fully vested after 16 years of service, which is below the standard 30 years. The city also covers spouses and dependents 100%. This expense is projected to grow due to increasing healthcare costs and a rising number of retirees. The council needs to consider what to do about this cost.

FY26 Hyattsville Budget Summary (budget version from April 02)

City Operations (General Fund):

- Revenue: Approximately \$30 million and a reserve of \$31 million
- Expenditures: About \$31.7 million (a deficit of approximately \$1.7 million will bring the reserve to 29 million)

Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs):

- \$13 million funded through the CIP fund or from the reserve (bringing the reserve to about 16 million)
- \$7 million funded by grants (state, federal, etc.)

CIP Fund (the current balance is not known) and City Debt:

The \$30 million bond sale was originally intended to support capital investment. However, the current balance of those bond funds has not been disclosed, making the FY26 budget less transparent. If any balance remains, it could finance the \$13 million in proposed capital projects for FY26.

This bond sale also created significant **long-term debt** for the City. Over the next 23 years, the City is obligated to repay \$43 million from the General Fund. Despite this, the FY26 budget and other publicly available documents do not disclose the details of this debt.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information.

Best regards,

Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic