

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PPuZSuC3Rp27nxfSRfBGgA

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
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~~

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. 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 Tuesday, February 20, 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:

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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_PPuZSuC3Rp27nxfSRfBGgA

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development-Debi Sandlin

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shepherd

Director of Human Resources-Jay Joyner

City Clerk-Laura Reams

ARPA Funds Manager-Patrick Paschall

Deputy Director of Public Works-Hal Metzler

Deputy Director of Public Works-Priyanka Joshi

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

Absent:

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Absent: McClellan, and Redmond

4. Approval of the Minutes**4.a. Approval of the Minutes**[HCC-208-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 5, 2024.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes Feb 5 2024](#)

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

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

Absent: McClellan, and Redmond

Moment of Silence

The Mayor and Council held a moment of silence in honor of the passing of resident William (Bill) O'Grady.

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

Patrick Cavanaugh submitted a written comment regarding the type of LEDs that will be used in street lamps.

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

City Administrator Douglas gave an update on City-related news and events.

Council asked for a detailed update of ARPA spending prior to the budget work session, signage for the newly implemented safety sticks, and for more information regarding the vandalism grant program. Acting Director of Community and Economic Development Debi Sandlin provided details on the program including communication, fund allocation, business eligibility, and required documentation.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)

7.a. Presentation on Streetlight Feasibility Study[HCC-199-FY24](#)

Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville, MD Council Presentation 2.12.24](#)

Deputy Director of DPW Hal Metzler introduced a presentation from Tanko on possible municipal ownership of street lights.

Neil Tolley, Energy Advisor and Jason Tanko from TankoLighting presented a feasibility study of options for the City related to street lighting with a recommendation to enter into a contract with Tanko for reduced expenses related to street lighting.

Council asked for and received feedback regarding the cost estimates, the ownership and management of street lighting, the color and brightness of the lighting, and the time to recoup the City's investment.

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle stated that the City would do its due diligence to seek out additional quotes before determining the best path forward.

7.b. ParkMobile Presentation[HCC-201-FY24](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville Town Council Presentation](#)

Dillon Coats from ParkMobile provided an overview of the services provided by ParkMobile and how the system can be integrated into the City's existing parking system with Passport Parking.

Council asked for and received addition information regarding the fee structure, map displays of available parking, signage, the administrative functions, other municipalities that use both systems, the cost to the City, and ParkMobile's fraud protection.

8. Consent Items (8:20 p.m. - 8:25 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 Strab, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: McClellan

8.a. Disbursement of FY24 Education Enrichment Grant Funds[**HCC-198-FY24**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of \$8,133.00 to support the grant proposals recommended from the Education Advisory Committee and listed in the attached memo for dissemination of the FY24 Education Enrichment Grants.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY24 Education Enrichment Grants](#)
[FY24 Education Enrichment Grant Applications](#)

8.b. Disbursement of FY24 Thrive Grant Awards[**HCC-200-FY24**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of \$8,992 to support the grant proposals recommended from the Health, Wellness and Recreation Advisory Committee and listed in the attached memo for dissemination of the FY24 Thrive Grants.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY24 Thrive Grant Memo to Council](#)
[FY24 Thrive Grant Recommendations](#)
[FY24 Thrive Grant applications redacted](#)

8.c. Hyattsville Flag Redesign Committee[**HCC-202-FY24**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council establish the ad-hoc Hyattsville Flag Redesign Committee to solicit designs from the community and provide recommendations for a new City of Hyattsville flag.

Sponsors: McClellan, Denes and Redmond

Attachments: [Flag Committee Worksheet](#)
[Hyattsville Flag Redesign Presentation](#)

8.d. Driskell Park Stormwater Flooding Investigation[**HCC-205-FY24**](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure to SMC in an amount not to exceed \$21,000 to investigate the source of stormwater flooding at Driskell Park and develop a remediation plan. This task is being facilitated under their existing on-call contract with the City. The Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary budget amendments required to encumber this expenditure.

Sponsors: Douglas

Attachments: [ES-23-829 SMC TO30 Proposal](#)

8.e. HVAC Unit Replacement for 4633 Arundel Place[HCC-206-FY24](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator enter into an agreement with C.L. Hibbard Plumbing, Heating, and A/C, Inc. for the replacement of the HVAC system at 4633 Arundel Place in an amount not to exceed \$24,000, pending legal review. This project was funded in the adopted FY24 CIP budget and the Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary budget amendments required to encumber this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [240123 - 4633 arundel pl - CL Hibbard plumbing heating and ac proposal](#)

9. Action Items (8:25 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)

9.a. Circulator Study 2024 Update - ARPA[HCC-193-FY24](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$30,000 to Pennoni for an update of the 2018 Hyattsville Transit Circulator Feasibility Study under their existing contract with the City. This project will be ARPA Funded as previously authorized by the Council. The Treasurer is authorized to make the budget amendments necessary to encumber this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [EV Bus Feasibility Proposal-Hyattsville-082123](#)
[Transit Circulator Study Updated Final](#)

Deputy Director of DPW Hal Metzler summarized the recommendation to select Pennoni as the contractor to provide an update to the 2018 Transit Circulator Feasibility Study.

Councilmember Denes asked about the scope of the study that related to the purchase of property. Deputy Metzler stated that they have been working with Pennoni to find options for property to park and/or charge a bus.

Councilmember Redmond asked how long the City would have to act upon the recommendations from the study. Deputy Metzler estimated that the study would be valid for a few years, and noted that the previous study needed updating due to the fact it was completed prior to COVID.

Council Vice-President Waszczak stated the fiscal issues that the transit industry is facing and asked if this was the correct timing for this study due to the current environment. Deputy Metzler stated that the timing is driven by the ARPA timeline restriction to expend funds before the end of the calendar year. Ms. Waszczak asked why Pennoni was chosen when Toole Design has more experience with public transportation, and who on the Pennoni staff is an expert in that field. Deputy Metzler responded that Pennoni provided a better value due to its ability to look at alternative funding sources. Council Vice-President Waszczak reiterated that she believes that Toole Design would be a better choice given its area of expertise and is not in favor of the timing or the selection of Pennoni.

Councilmember Haba provided background on the request to refresh the study and the importance for the residents to provide this type of service. He expressed his support for the timing of the study and for the implementation of a circulator in the City.

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

Aye: Solomon, Schaible, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

Nay: Croslin, Waszczak, Denes, and Strab

Absent: McClellan

10. Council Dialogue (8:45 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)

The open session of the meeting ended at 9:14 p.m.

11. Motion to Close (Note: Council will not return to open session)

11.a Motion to Close[HCC-210-FY24](#)

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of February 20, 2024, 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 9:18 p.m. on February 20, 2024.

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

- Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
- Ron Brooks, City Treasurer
- Laura Reams, City Clerk
- Debi Sandlin, Acting Director of Community and Economic Development
- Lesley Riddle, Director of Public Works
- Hal Metzler, Deputy Director of Public Works
- Jeff Ulysse, City Planner
- Patrick Paschall, ARPA Funds Manager (Left Meeting at 9:47 p.m.)

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(4) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Topics discussed: The Council discussed a proposal made to the City to acquire property within the City limits.

Action Taken: none taken.

The closed session adjourned at 10:13 p.m. on a motion made by Council President Solomon and seconded by Councilmember Haba.

The Council did not return to open session.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the Council move to Closed Session. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: McClellan