

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 24, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w5CvVYwRQjaIPGwyDotV2g

Virtual: Introduction of the FY26 Budget

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) 985-5009. 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, March 24, 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.

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_w5CvVYwRQjaIPGwyDotV2g

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The call to order was 7:01 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Interim Director of Community and Business Economic Development

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Resources Manager Reggie Bagley

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

The City Clerk requested to add the Appointment of Rachel Huggins to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a two year term, ending on March 24, 2027, to the agenda as item 5.e. It was approved by unanimous consent.

CM Schaible made a motion to remove item 6.b., Master Services Agreement with Flock, from the agenda. The motion received no second.

CM Redmond made a motion, that was seconded by Council President Solomon, to move item 6.b., Master Services Agreement with Flock, to the Action Agenda. Yes: Croslin, Solomon, Denes, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino Abstain: Schaible
The motion carries.

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

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

Absent: Haba

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

Daniel Broder stated that he is not in support of the Council voting on the Master Services Agreement for the license plate reader program before there is an opportunity for public review, citing how it could impact the community members, political activists, and the immigrant community.

Mr. Marshall spoke in favor of lowering the tax rate advising that the assessments are causing an increase which is a hardship for many residents. He also asked about the scheduling changes for the budget roundtable.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) asked for a practical budget that doesn't require the use of reserve funding. She also expressed concerns about the City taking over state roads like Hamilton Street.

Lisbeth Melendez Rivera expressed concerns about the budget and energy savings for projects moving forward. She also expressed concerns about potential surveillance as a result of the license plate reader program stating it will alienate residents.

5. Appointments

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, and Sandino

Absent: Haba

5.a. Appointment to the Planning Committee[HCC-281-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointments of Yohannes Bennehoff (Ward 4), Gregory Barnes (Ward 1), and William Seath (Ward 2) to the Planning Committee for a term of two (2) years to end on March 24, 2027.

Sponsors: Redmond

Attachments: [William Seath W2 Mar 25 redac](#)
[Gregory Barnes W1 Mar 25 redac](#)
[Yohannes Bennehoff W-4 Mar 25 redac](#)

5.b. Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee[HCC-282-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Gloria Felix-Thompson (Ward 1) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 24, 2027.

Sponsors: Redmond

Attachments: [Gloria Felix-Thompson W1 April 2025 redac](#)

5.c. Appointment to the Education Advisory Committee[HCC-283-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Lisvette Garcia (Ward 1) and Michael Angeloni (Ward 5) to the Education Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years ending on March 24, 2027.

Sponsors: Strab

Attachments: [Lisevett Garcia W1 April 2025 redac](#)
[Michael Angeloni W5 April 2025 redac](#)

5.d. Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee[HCC-284-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointments of Janet Nackoney (Ward 2) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire March 24, 2027.

Sponsors: Schaible

Attachments: [Janet Nackoney W2 Mar 25 redac](#)

5.e Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Committee

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointments of Rachel Huggins (Ward 4) to the Health Wellness and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 24, 2027.

6. Consent Items (7:20 p.m. - 7:25 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, that the Consent

Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Haba

6.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-01: Revisions to City Code Chapter 108, Taxation (Second Reading and Adoption) [HCC-279-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-01, an ordinance whereby the City Council amends City Code, Chapter 108, Taxation, to revise the Homestead Property Tax Credit program and the local supplement to the state homeowners property tax credit as follows:

Section 108-2: Homestead Property Tax Credit Program

- Amend the effective date to July 1, 2025
- Reduce the taxable assessment cap down from 110% to 106%.

Section 108-3: Local supplement to the state homeowners property tax credit

- Assessed Value Limit - increase to \$500,000.
- Combined Net Worth Limit - increase to \$400,000.
- Combine Gross Income Limit - increase to \$90,000.
- Percent of the State homeowner's property tax credit - increase to 30%.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-01_Chapter 108 Taxation_Draft.docx](#)

6.c. Council Meeting Schedule Update [HCC-285-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council approve the following update to the schedule of Council Meetings:

- The in-person budget work session scheduled for March 31, 2025, will now be held at 10 am on April 5, 2025.
- The in-person budget work session scheduled for April 2, 2025, will now be a virtual meeting to present FY26 departmental budgets.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Agenda Item 6.b. Moved to Action Agenda via Motion in Approval of Agenda

6.b. Master Services Agreement with Flock[HCC-280-FY25](#)

I move that Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an Agreement with Flock Safety as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant. This grant was previously awarded to the City of Hyattsville by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy for the purchase of twenty four (24) stationary License Plate Readers (LPRs) throughout the City, not to exceed an amount of \$231,600 of grant funds, pending legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Chief Towers provided an overview of the contract for Flock, to acquire and install 24 stationary license plate readers. The overview included details about processes and guidelines for data uses, storage, retention, and access. He also shared that the City will own all the data generated from this program.

The Council discussed how the license plate reader program could aid in proactive police intervention and additional crimes that could be tracked such as property theft.

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

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

Absent: Haba

7. Presentations (7:25 p.m. - 8:35 p.m.)**7.a. Introduction of the FY26 Budget**[HCC-286-FY25](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY26 Budget Presentation_March 24 2025 - Revenues](#)

The City Administrator and Treasurer provided an audit update which was proceeded by the overview of the FY2026 budget revenues, debt summary and analysis.

The Council discussed budget objectives, projected reduction of revenues, paying down City debt, ARPA programming legacy costs, and proposed cuts to services. Council and staff also discussed funding sources for City projects and restructuring the staff to maximize efficiency.

8. Council Dialogue (8:35 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)

9. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, 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, and Sandino

Absent: Haba