City of Hyattsville

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

Public Hearing Minutes

**Public Hearing FY25
Budget-https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B5x7jRa8RbChJd9BFKsyvg**

Monday, June 3, 2024

6:30 PM

Virtual

City Council Public Hearing

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 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 Public Hearing on Monday, June 3, 2024 remotely via video conference. The hearing 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_B5x7jRa8RbChJd9BFKsyvg

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:04 PM.

Also Present:
City Administrator Tracey Douglas
Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams
City Treasurer Ron Brooks
Chief of Police Jarod Towers
City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

    Present: Mayor Robert Croslin
                          Council President Joseph Solomon
                          Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak
                          Councilmember Sam Denes
                          Councilmember Emily Strab
                          Councilmember Kareem Redmond
                          Councilmember Michelle Lee
                          Councilmember Edouard Haba
                          Councilmember Rommel Sandino

2.   Presentations (6:30 p.m. - 6:40 p.m.)

2a. Public Hearing: Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-02 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget   **HCC-363-FY24**

Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-02, is an ordinance adopting the annual budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the general purpose, fixing the tax rates for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024; authorizing collection of taxes herein levied, and appropriating funds for the fiscal year. The intent of this Public Hearing is to hear public feedback on the proposed FY25 budget.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-02 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget_Final DRAFT .pdf

3.   Public Comment (6:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Nathaniel Tombes urged the Council not to pass the budget without providing updated spending totals from 2022 to the present. He also requested an update on the capital improvement project funds and bonds funding.

Heather Olson stated that the budget is hard to follow and asked for a more detailed budget.

Melissa Schweisguth expressed concerns about the Council utilizing reserve funding for City operations for three consecutive years and referenced the need for budgetary forecasting.

Mr. Marshall asked the Council to consider a rebate on taxes and removing funding for "The Spot" permanently.

Monica Gorman asked for more transparency in the budget, which includes a review of past spending and capital improvement project funds.

Treasurer Brooks provided an overview of how capital improvement project funds are allocated, budget cuts, and the creation and implementation of the 10 year financial forecast.

CM Haba stated concerns about overuse of the reserve funds and advised that he would support a change to the Charter to prevent overspending of the reserve funds.

CM Strab communicated her support for a Charter amendment to limit draw downs of reserve funds citing that stricter financial constraints would help drive City priorities. She also asked Treasurer Brooks for an update on the use of the capital improvement project funds for projects. Treasurer Brooks stated the City had a bond and note issued for proceeds to go towards the new police facility. Of the $13 million from the bond and other sources $8.5 million is allocated, per Council approval, for the new facility.

Mayor Croslin added that tax revenue from new developments in the City will bolster the budget and offset funds spent providing services.

Council President Solomon advised that the capital improvements project funds are for various projects that are funded through a myriad of sources. These funds are tracked by the treasurer and can span multiple fiscal years.

Council Vice President Waszczak stated that the community misunderstand parts of the budget and suggested visuals to help increase understanding.

4.   Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.

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

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

Absent: Schaible, McClellan