



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 7:00 PM

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Kevin Ward, W1, Interim Mayor  
Carrianna Suiter, W3, Council Vice President  
Bart Lawrence, W1  
Robert Croslin, W2  
Danny Schaible, W2  
Ben Simasek, W3  
Daniel Peabody, W4  
Joseph A. Solomon, W5  
Erica Spell Wolf, W5

Absent: Edouard Haba, W4

Also present were the following City staff members:

Tracey Douglas, City Administrator  
Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator  
Ron Brooks, City Treasurer  
Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee, City of Hyattsville Police Department  
Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk  
Cheri Everhart, Recreation, Programs, and Events Manager  
Gary Bullis, Parking Enforcement Manager  
Marci LeFevre, Age-Friendly Program Lead  
Kate Powers, City Planner

### Meeting Notice:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 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](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings).

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public comment may be made using the e-comment feature at [www.hyattsville.org/meetings](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings) or by emailing [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org). All electronic comments must be submitted by 5 PM on January 4, 2021. Comments received will be read by City staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to attend the virtual Council meeting must register in advance using the link below.

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_b8RTkzNETb2X7GvX2MVu7Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b8RTkzNETb2X7GvX2MVu7Q)

### 1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Interim Mayor Kevin Ward called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag



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**3. Approval of Agenda**

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Suiter   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Peabody  |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Haba   |

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

Deputy City Clerk Sean Corcoran read public comments submitted electronically.

Ward 3 resident Tom Wright addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property.

Alyson Reed addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property.

Randy Fletcher addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property.

Beth and Brendan Kara addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property.

Jim Menasian addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property stating that the project was inappropriate for families without personal transportation and would have a negative ecological effect.

Joyce McDonald addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property.

Matthew Palus addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property stating that it was adjacent to the National Records of Historic Property and that the project had several negative impacts on the community.

Rose Fletcher addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property.

Ron Pedone, on behalf of the University Hills Area Civic Association, addressed the Mayor and Council expressing support for HCC-183-FY21; authorization of a letter of opposition to the rezoning of the Clay property stating recommendations were made for the property to remain RSF95 and suggested profit and City revenue as the rationale for the adjustment of standards.



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Ward 1 resident Sam Denes addressed the Mayor and Council in support of reducing the speed limit on City streets to 20 miles per hour; similar to what had been approved in the nearby City of Riverdale Park.

Ward 2 resident David Marshall addressed the Mayor and Council in opposition to motion HCC-187-FY21, HCC-181-FY21, and HCC-183-FY21.

### **5. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)**

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided an update of events and items of interest associated with the City of Hyattsville reporting that clinical staff were being trained and were preparing to administer the COVID-19 vaccine with the expectation of being provided to first responders by the middle of January 2021. Ms. Douglas added that many local testing sites were being transitioned to vaccination sites and the only remaining testing sites were Fort Washington and Hyattsville.

Administrator Douglas announced that distribution of non-perishable food to residents in need would resume the following week, the first time since before the holiday break. She stated that diapers were in high demand and thanked City staff for their coordination with the Greater DC Diaper Bank to provide diapers to residents.

Ms. Douglas announced that a farewell for former Mayor Candace Hollingsworth would be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 prior to a public hearing regarding a Charter amendment adjusting the deadline for registration of Election 2021 candidates to March 12, 2021 and a City Council meeting.

Recreation, programs, and event manager Cheri Everhart took lead of the update to announce the winners of the 2020 Claus Applause awards. Ms. Everhart explained that due to the health crisis, it was the first year in which the winners had been selected solely by residents through means of technology instead of first-hand viewing. She listed the winners, as voted upon, for first, second, and third place in each of the five (5) wards.

### **6. Treasurer Update (7:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)**

City Treasurer Ron Brooks addressed the Mayor and Council with an update of the City's financial position displaying a worksheet for review by Council containing data on revenues, expenses, taxes stating that the information would be made available to the Body for further review and submission of comments.

Treasurer Brooks provided detail regarding the data stating that it featured a comparison of December of Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) and FY21 and directed the attendants to the property tax portion stating that property taxes provided a positive return, and another supplement would be reported in January. Mr. Brooks stated that many preparations and projections were made in consideration of COVID-19 in which he forecasted a significant decrease in revenue, but the return was better than expected and that the City would hold onto cash reserves going into the Spring of 2021.



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The Treasurer continued that a great deal of revenue was accrued from operating taxes and he did not hold concern about any deficit in that area nor about the revenue collected from income tax. He reported that non-tax revenues were far below the average for previous years likely due to interruptions in program related revenue or State aid, service charges, fines, and forfeitures.

Mr. Brooks noted that interest earnings would be far fewer than previous averages and that City Departments were operating under budget and relayed that he would relinquish lead of the update to the City Administrator.

City Administrator Tracey Douglas supplemented the update by recalling the uncertainty staff had experienced when forecasting the City's financial position and stated that they had been able to operate under budget by suspending some programs, services, and hiring as well as prioritizing emergency maintenance and repair, contracts, personnel, and benefits.

City Treasurer Brooks stated that he would return before Council later in the month with further updates.

### **7. Presentations (7:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)**

#### **7.a) Age Friendly Action Plan Year in Review**

[HCC-167-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** At the Request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** None

[Presentation AFI ML 12.15.20](#)

[AF AP FY20-FY22 12.15.22](#)

Presentation only.

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor and Council with background about the item stating that, in 2016, it was requested by the Mayor that the City join the American Association of Retired Peoples (AARP) Age-Friendly Community Network. She continued that within 18 months of joining the network they developed an Age-Friendly Action plan which residents partnered to identify initiatives that they could undertake to help understand some of the areas that were impacting seniors in the City. Ms. Douglas reported that the group determined 84 actionable initiatives and approved the hiring of Marci LeFevre as Age-Friendly Lead in 2019 and that the presentation would serve as an annual report.

Age-Friendly Lead Marci LeFevre addressed the Mayor and Council by thanking all who helped in the Group's mission and began her presentation noting that challenges were incurred and amplified by the COVID-19 health crisis and the presentation would cover FY20-21 Age-Friendly priorities, highlights, the City's COVID-19 response, and FY21-22 priorities.

Ms. LeFevre reiterated that she was brought on staff as Age-Friendly lead in October of 2019 purposed with collaborating with other Departments to prioritize and implement Action Plan components, establish an Age-Friendly Work Group, identify grant funding to support prioritized programs and services, and to create an emergency contact list to reach and support senior



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residents. She stated that she, the Work Group, Community Services staff, and the Emergency Operations Manager met on a monthly basis to revisit priorities and methods to attain grant funding.

Ms. LeFevre explained that mobility options were a vital need among residents and, in identifying that need, the team applied for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Enhanced Mobility Options Grant and were awarded \$340K in grant funding the following January. She explained that the funds would be used to expand and diversify transportation options for older residents and those with disabilities; more specifically, to purchase or procure additional wheelchair accessible buses for senior transport to medical appointments, and errands as well as additional bus drivers.

Ms. LeFevre took the opportunity to acknowledge partnered organizations Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP) and Habitat for Humanity which helped provide the Capable Home Modification and Repair program that allowed eight (8) residents to make modifications to their homes to substantially ease mobility challenges.

She noted a partnership with the County Office of Emergency Management that would identify resources and individuals with whom they could work to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts and the County Food Equity Council to explore the ways in which information could be shared regarding seniors facing food insecurities. Ms. LeFevre recognized Greenbelt Assistance in Living to explore community-based models for income support services and assisting seniors with technology.

Ms. LeFevre turned the focus to helping residents in the wake of COVID-19 reporting that a Senior Community Needs Survey had been developed with the intention of being made public in January 2021 and it would be mailed to over 350 residents who were contacted through the City's Capable Home Modification Awareness program. She added that outreach was being conducted to community stake holders, faith-based groups, and non-profit organizations to raise awareness about the survey that would be available through January 29, 2021.

Ms. LeFevre provided details about the Emergency Assistance Voluntary Registry which compiled names and information about aging residents so that the City would be able to assist them, specific to their needs, in the case of any emergency. She explained that the team was in the process of developing a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map that could identify seniors who lived alone, those in poverty, and those with limited access to transportation and cross-reference that data to locate areas with high concentrations of at-risk groups.

Ms. LeFevre recalled several initiatives in response to the health crisis including the redeployment of a Call-a-Bus that was used to deliver boxes of food to families with food insecurities, expanded meal delivery services in coordination with Meals on Wheels and the County Senior Nutrition Program, donations of cell phones with 90-day prepaid service, and check-in calls to aging seniors in the community. She acknowledged that HAP had been awarded a grant from the COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide transportation services in association with ride share services such as Uber and Lyft.



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Ms. LeFevre reported on FY21-22 priorities citing the launch of the Enhanced Mobility Project made possible with funding from the FTA that would procure wheelchair-accessible vehicles, the continuation of data collection and outreach for the Senior Citizen Community Needs Survey, the rollout of the Emergency Assistance Voluntary registry, advancing the capabilities of a mapping system to identify hard-to-reach and vulnerable residents, and efforts to expand programs associated with senior nutrition, caregiving, fall prevention, and elder abuse.

### **7.b) Hyattsville Middle School Construction Presentation**

[HCC-184-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** At the Request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** None

[Hyattsville Middle School Presentation - 1.4.2021](#)

Presentation only.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler addressed the Mayor and Council with an introduction of the item and presenters Al Arnold, Michael Ricketts, and Jason Washington.

Director of the Prince George's County Public Schools Public/Private Partnerships Jason Washington began the presentation introducing the Blueprint Schools Initiative, also known as the P3 program, and the preliminary plans for the new Hyattsville Middle School. Mr. Washington explained that they had partnered with Prince George's County Education and Community Partners, a development group led by the Gilbane Development, the lead designer, Stantec, and Honeywell.

Mr. Washington reported that the program would set up six (6) new schools in the County over the following two and a half (2.5) years with a 30-year maintenance period that would be maintained and managed by Honeywell. He recognized the need for educational facilities and stated that the approach had been decided upon after multiple discussions with community members and available locations for construction.

In an effort to improve outreach, Mr. Washington explained that a town hall was held the previous December and a second to be held within the following week in which each town hall even had a focus on a specific area and were available for viewing on their website. He added that additional outreach would be conducted by Project Planning Committees set up by school leadership with community residents, schools, elected officials, and stakeholders. Mr. Washington stated that the development team would also host monthly outreach and pre-certification events to find ways of engaging the community through internships and apprenticeships.

Mr. Washington announced that all presentation materials, project updates, timelines, job postings, and pertinent information would be available at [pgpcsschoolsnow.com](http://pgpcsschoolsnow.com) and provided times and dates of upcoming events.

Representative for Gilbane Construction Michael Ricketts addressed the Mayor and Council acknowledging the aggressiveness of the up taking stating that design development and preparation for programming had begun. Mr. Ricketts provided detail regarding the process and



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timeline noting that design and permitting would take place through most of 2021 with construction expected to start in mid-2021. The structure that was present on the site would be demolished and Gilbane would enter the permitting process with construction expected to be complete by July 15, 2023.

Mr. Ricketts displayed a illustrative document that showed an aerial view of the site and described the plans for demolition and debris and waste mitigation. He transitioned to a display of the intended new construction showcasing the separation of construction and pedestrian activity and reiterated the ways in which the area would be maintained as not to cause any unsightliness or inconvenience to nearby residents.

The presentation was then led by representative for Stantech Architecture Camilo Bearman who showed the location of the proposed structure and the correlating entrances, exits, traffic routes, parking areas, location of a multi-purpose field and a south-facing front door that would allow for natural light in the building's lobby. Mr. Bearman described that the plan integrated existing topography and grading and highlighted the stormwater management area.

Mr. Bearman showed an illustrative document featuring a wider aerial view to include adjacent areas which included the option for street views that included nearby apartment buildings, the existing school, and most of the structures being taken into consideration of the project. He provided the proposed layout that featured the sectioning of the school by each level of elevation and ancillary facilities.

**Council Vice President Carrianna Suiter** requested elaboration regarding the stormwater mitigation plan referencing recent flooding issues and sediment runoff from other construction sites to which Mr. Bearman responded that most stormwater would be captured on the west side of the site with a combination of natural and fabricated structures elsewhere including rain gardens and ponding on the south portion. Mr. Ricketts added that they were under very stringent stormwater management requirements and that the combination of underground piping and retention structures with an erosion plan would adequately manage stormwater. He supplemented that silk fencing would be implemented to minimize contaminating runoff that would be transitioned to permanent structures upon completion.

**Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin** expressed concern about the reliance on silk fencing stating that recent storms had resulted in more than a hundred years' rainfall and other projects inability to retain runoff to which Mr. Ricketts replied that global warming had presented several challenges in that regard and described that the silk fencing would be almost entirely sub-grade with multiple layers and Gilbane would do everything in their power to ensure that any runoff is stabilized.

**Ward 1 Councilmember Bart Lawrence** acknowledged Mr. Ricketts response that the firm would work with the County regarding stormwater and sediment mitigation but reminded the Body that the requirements invoked by the County have, at times, not been able to cease the runoff of water and mud into City streets. He asked if the widening of Oliver street would necessitate any coordination with the City to which Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler replied that discussions had been held with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the staff was aware





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of the request that the right of way needs to be improved to accommodate the increase of circulation around the site and that DPW Director Lesley Riddle was comfortable with what was being requested. Mr. Ricketts supplemented that an ongoing transportation study was being conducted that was part of the districting plan which was also ongoing and was unable to provide any further information.

**Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible** noted his appreciation for the open spaces featured in the project that allowed for natural light and inquired about the placement of an elevator to which Mr. Bearman confirmed that it was centrally located to serve all surrounding structures.

**Councilmember Schaible** expressed concern with interpreted mobility constraints in the bus parking area to which Mr. Rickett's responded that the graphic used for reference may have been misleading and assured the Councilmember that all of the buses had enough room to enter and exit the area as well as enough central space to allow for two (2) buses to pass in opposite directions. Mr. Rickett's added that, although it was a difficult task, the parking area met the minimum requirements.

**Councilmember Schaible** requested detail regarding the community servicing that would be associated with the school to which Mr. Washington explained that the project included a health clinic, and that the Hyattsville school would attempt to incorporate into the clinic program for residents and expand programming if possible and financially feasible.

**Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek** sought clarity regarding pedestrian access and walkways to which Mr. Ricketts identified the areas in which sidewalks would be placed adjacent to the school and off of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. **Councilmember Simasek** expressed concern for the degree of traffic coming in and going out of the parking lot and the potential for bottlenecking due to the narrowness of Oglethorpe to which Mr. Bearman replied that there was an existing staircase near the corner of 42<sup>nd</sup> and Oliver and a sidewalk on the opposite side of the building and agreed that it was a congested area.

**Councilmember Simasek** asked whether the school would be a feeder school for others and inquired as to the potential of incorporating solar energy to which Mr. Washington responded that the school would house 1200 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and while solar energy was a possibility in the future, it was not part of the P3 program. Mr. Washington supplemented that there would be outdoor learning areas with teaching platforms affixed with solar panels and an energy monitoring system in the common areas so students and faculty could benefit from solar energy while also witnessing how it works adding an educational element.

**Interim Mayor Ward** referenced a future Committee meeting in which the project could be discussed further with resident input and expressed concern for the widening of Oliver Street and the traffic that may cause, the impact to the City's tree canopy, and the impact to the neighboring area and residences while the structure is being built. Mr. Washington stated that the safety of residents and limiting any negative impact on the surrounding area was of the highest priority and reiterated the rationale behind adopting such an aggressive timeline to deliver the school to the community promptly and with limited inconvenience or challenges to the adjacent and





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neighboring homes. Mr. Ricketts supplemented that the tree canopy to the North would be unaffected.

**8. Appointments (8:30 p.m. - 8:35 p.m.)**

**8.a) Re-appointments to Board of Supervisors of Elections**

**[HCC-182-FY21](#)**

**Sponsor:** Ward

**Co-Sponsor(s):** None

[Mosher BOSE Reappointment](#)

[Pineda BOSE Reappointment](#)

I move the Mayor, with Council approval, re-appoint Greta Mosher and Lisa Pineda to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for a term of four (4) years beginning January 12, 2021 through January 12, 2025.

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Suiter   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Spell Wolf   |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Haba   |

**9. Consent Items (8:35 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.)**

**9.a) Donation to Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR CDC, Inc)**

**[HCC-187-FY21](#)**

**Sponsor:** At the Request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** None

[CKAR CDC Supporting Documentation](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council appropriate \$10,000 as a donation to Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR CDC, Inc) and, in conjunction with Route One Community Cares (ROCC), provide meals to those facing hunger in our local area. This motion replaces the motion passed on December 7, 2020 (HCC-113-FY21).

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| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Suiter   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Simasek  |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Haba   |



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**10. Discussion Items (8:40 p.m. - 9:50 p.m.)**

**10.a) Animal Welfare and Community Safety Act**

[HCC-181-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** Schaible

**Co-Sponsor(s):** None

[Animal Welfare and Community Safety Act, FINAL w responses following Dec 7 Council Discussion](#)  
[Charter and Code March 2019 Ch 52](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Attorney to draft legislation to edit Chapter 52 of the City Code for the purposes of achieving the following goals as described in the supplemental documentation.

Goals:

- 1) Update animal welfare provisions to reflect modern standards and to be consistent with Prince George's County legislation, such as restrictions on tethering and exposure to severe weather;
- 2) Categorize animal control violations as a Public Nuisance violation (less severe) or a Public Threat violation (more severe);
- 3) Clarify enforcement procedures by:
  - a. Requiring the City to designate persons responsible for responding to Chapter 52 municipal infractions;
  - b. Specifying when municipal infractions require a citation and/or coordination with the Prince George's County Animal Services Division;
  - c. Requiring the City to review and adapt Police General Orders to the requirements of Chapter 52 and applicable Prince George's County laws;
  - d. Requiring the City to develop a Standardized Response Protocol for violations;
- 4) Enhance public awareness and preparedness on animal control issues by:
  - a. Ensuring residents are informed of incidents that may present a threat to public safety;
  - b. Requiring the City to collect and maintain data on animal control complaints and on actions taken in response to complaints and violations;
  - c. Requiring the City to prepare an annual report on Chapter 52 complaints and actions to present to the Mayor and City Council, and to be made available to the public.

**Councilmember Schaible** addressed the Mayor and colleagues introducing the item and recalling that the Body held previous discussions on the issue on December 7<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he attained feedback from Councilmembers and the public so that their interests could be taken into consideration and that a recurring concern regarding the public threat category and that some of the guidelines may be arbitrary or subjective.



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**Councilmember Schaible** explained that he modified the language by adding additional clarifying statements under the public threat category and that, specifically, “growling” had been omitted. He noted that there was an emphasis on animals that are off leash which demonstrate threatening and menacing behavior unprovoked.

He addressed the issue of codifying a training requirement and explained that it had also been removed from the language and in its place would be the development of a training manual with which those who respond to animal issues in the City would be required to be familiar.

**Interim Mayor Ward** inquired as to the possibility of forwarding the motion to the Code Compliance Department and Committee for their assessment and to determine how the measure would affect the City Code and potentially create an ad hoc committee to explore options for implementation. **Councilmember Schaible** was amenable to the suggestion noting that he was a Council liaison to the Code Committee.

**Councilmember Simasek** cited Chapter 52 of the Code and asked whether and consideration had been given to augmenting the language regarding category two (2) to include animals in addition to dogs such as cats or other pets to which **Councilmember Schaible** responded that, should the item be forwarded to the Code Department, it could be an item for discussion and possible edit.

**Ward 4 Councilmember Daniel Peabody** opined that he believed the item was not yet ready for action due to a lack of clarity regarding providing information for public awareness and the degree of investment of City staff and resources and stated that he could not be supportive of the item until a better understanding of those aspects were realized. He sought further clarity as to the need for animal control in Hyattsville and the severity of related problems.

**Councilmember Schaible** referenced previous discussions with the County in which they relayed their intention to share their data collection software, Chameleon, with the City stating that staff nor City officials had received it and continued that animal control calls were under the jurisdiction of the County and the City reported about 10 animal related calls for service each month. He explained that tracking animal incidents would be possible with information provided from the County and described that under the legislation the City would have designated individuals to address animal emergencies whether they be members of the Code Department, the Police Department, or other selected staff members.

**Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon** expressed support for the motion as written and stated that if cost was a concern, action should be taken on the motion as soon as possible as staff and Council were nearing the FY22 budget cycle. He stated that the motion as written should be treated as an outline to be edited and adjusted as pertinent parties saw fit moving forward and should any changes to the Code be considered, Council would be required to review and approve beforehand.

**Councilmember Lawrence** posed a question to City Administrator Tracey Douglas requesting elaboration about staff input and recommendations to which Ms. Douglas responded that there was a reliance on attaining information from the County adding that a staff designee was a reasonable request but noted that staff from the Code department may not be applicable due to



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their responsibilities, schedules, and availability. Ms. Douglas added that it may require more personnel or resources and she could not anticipate the need until decisions were made regarding the structure and processes.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler explained that the needs for the motion could be integrated into the regular workload recalling discussions with **Councilmember Schaible** in which they considered regular reports that included six (6) to eight (8) categories the City would deem relevant to incidents involving animals. He described options in which the initiative could be carried out, either with current staff or by hiring additional staff, and reiterated that the need throughout the City for this type of support and service had yet to be determined and expressed hesitancy with supporting the measure until those questions had answers.

Ms. Douglas stated that additional staff would be required and that calls regarding animal issues were handled almost entirely by the County with City intervention a rare occurrence. She reiterated the need to identify what staff could be designated to add another role to their job description and expressed that she was uncomfortable with Code staff taking on the additional responsibilities.

**Councilmember Schaible** relayed that he took the burden on staff into consideration explaining that only animal exposure to severe weather and tethering of animals were the new provisions for animal control and that the focus of the bill was to protect residents from animal aggression and ensure that incidents are responded to and resolved in a safe and timely manner. He expressed his interest in providing an expert-led workshop for residents to educate and inform them of animal control-related issues and was supportive of robust communications and outreach.

**Interim Mayor Ward** reiterated his preference to forward the issue to Code Compliance offering his assistance going forward in developing a timeline and forming effective legislation and stated that the item could be revisited after the incorporation of recommendations and receiving input from interest groups such as Residents United for Furry Friends (RUFF). City Administrator Douglas stated that the item would be explored further and staff would work to meet the needs of the legislation.

### **10.b) Clay Property: Request for Support to Rezone through Countywide Sectional Map Amendment**

[HCC-183-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** Simasek

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Suiter, Spell Wolf, Schaible

[Clay Property CMA - Council Packet Materials - 1.4.2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council oppose the owner's request for the upzoning of the 'Clay Property' to the new Residential Single-Family (RSF)-A category and authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to both the Prince George's County District Council and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) Planning Board requesting denial of the owner's request, expressing that the City of Hyattsville does not support the owner's request to intensify the use of the property through the Countywide Sectional Map Amendment (CMA) process.



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**Councilmember Simasek** introduced the discussion item recalling that the item had been discussed the previous December and stated that staff had concerns with the requirement of revisions to the City's transportation plan and not being able to soundly assess the potential conflict with policies in the Prince George's Plaza Transportation Development Plan and the County Green Infrastructure plan.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler noted that the situation in question was unique in that it was an intensification from one category to another and described that the City could potentially be left with no authority on the property in comparison with the regular process involving the submission of a Conceptual Site Plan (CSP). He continued that there was uncertainty with the County's sectional map amendment process and that the measure would return to Council in a different format the following March.

**Interim Mayor Ward** asked if a CSP process would be the preferred method so that the City could confer with the developer as opposed to bypassing the Council's input altogether to which **Councilmember Simasek** responded that the motion was specifically written to express the City's opposition to intensify the use through the CMA process and sought clarity regarding whether progression of the motion would preclude consideration for a normal CSP process.

Representative for the property owner Christopher Hatcher confirmed that the owner's intention was to proceed with the CSP process.

**Interim Mayor Ward** suggested delaying a decision on the item in order to wait until the CSP was presented to Council and requested the Body's feedback.

**Councilmember Solomon** expressed concern regarding whether Council should take the opportunity to comment on the record in preparation for the CSP presentation. Mr. Hatcher stated that due to the health crisis the District Council announced that the CMA process is postponed indefinitely and could not provide an accurate timeline and that the owner had not submitted anything to the record requesting up-zoning.

The Body agreed to table the motion until the CSP process commenced.

### **10.c) Federalist Pig Restaurant - Detailed Site Plan (DSP-19072) Discussion**

#### **[HCC-185-FY21](#)**

**Sponsor:** At the Request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** None

[Memo - Federalist Pig - 01.04.21 Final](#)

[Fed Pig PPT](#)

[Federalist Pig Reference Documents 12.21.20 \(1\)](#)

Discussion Only.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler provided a summary and background of the item stating that staff held very few concerns regarding the restaurant project aside from a few minor issues and transmitted that staff would not have opposition to the development.



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 7:00 PM

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City Planner Kate Powers took lead of the discussion and provided illustrative documents to the Body explaining that the application consisted of a request to convert an existing auto supply store to the barbecue establishment, The Federalist Pig. Ms. Powers described that the subject property was more than a quarter acre located on the west side of Baltimore Avenue approximately 100 feet North of the intersection with Jefferson Street.

Ms. Powers referenced the developers intentions to retain the current façade of the building, create a covered entrance with stairs and ramp, and described the exterior elements of the structure. She noted that the developer was proposing a concrete block wall along the north and east border of the parking lot of about four (4) feet high to provide a distinction between adjacent properties. She relayed plans for an outdoor patron area in the rear of the building and provided the specifications for parking access.

She described the landscaping components that would be implemented and listed the departures from design standards being requested as a reduction in the building frontage, access to parking, and access for loading and delivery. Ms. Powers reported that staff recommended that Council support the departures but requested that the applicant provide a parking reduction mitigation strategy to address parking demand. She noted former Mayor Hollingsworth's recommendation that Black artists be considered for artistic elements and that the business search locally to employ residents.

### 11. Council Dialogue (9:50 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

**Councilmember Solomon** announced the final meeting of the Maryland Body Worn Camera Task Force in which a final report of recommendations would be submitted for review and provided best wishes to the residents of Hyattsville.

**Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf** sent best wishes to all and expressed appreciation to Treasurer Brooks and relief in regard to the City's financial position.

**Interim Mayor Ward** wished everyone a happy new year stating that every day was a new opportunity and advised everyone to stay safe and wear a mask. He acknowledged the attendance of Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras who congratulated the Interim Mayor and expressed her anticipation of continuing to work with the City in the future.

### 12. Community Notices and Meetings

#### 12.a) Main City Calendar: January 5 - January 19, 2021

[HCC-188-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** At the Request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** None

[Main City Calendar Jan 5 - Jan 19, 2021 FINAL](#)



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 7:00 PM**

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**13. Motion to Adjourn**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>  |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Croslin  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Suiter   |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Haba   |

**ATTEST:**  
**February 1, 2021**

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**Laura Reams, City Clerk**

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**Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk**