



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

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

Absent: None

Also present were the following City staff members:

Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator
Ron Brooks, City Treasurer
Laura Reams, City Clerk
Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee, City of Hyattsville Police Department
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 Tuesday, January 19, 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public comment may be made using the e-comment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or by emailing cityclerk@hyattsville.org. All electronic comments must be submitted by 5:30 PM on January 19, 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_BjN6KRILTFmNT5Aoket4yQ

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Interim Mayor Kevin Ward called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM**

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENT

ADD a moment of silence for the passing of Dr. John Moylan, Principal Emeritus of DeMatha High School and Maryland Senator President Mike Miller.

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED, [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Solomon
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.a) Approval of the Minutes

[HCC-200-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Minutes Dec 21, 2020 CM FINAL](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the Council Meeting of December 21, 2020.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suiter
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

5. Public Comment (7:40 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.) Limit 2 minutes per speaker

City Clerk Laura Reams read the public comments submitted electronically.

Ward 3 resident Chuck Perry addressed the Mayor and Council in support of item 8.b), Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Prince George’s County (PGC) for Replacement of the Traffic Signal at Adelphi Road and Wells Boulevard opining that it had been an issue in need of resolution for a long time.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

Mr. Perry submitted a second comment regarding item 9.f) authorizing letter to the Maryland State General Assembly (MDGA) regarding the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 in which he expressed displeasure with the current processes of police departments in general, a need for police reform, and suspicion of officers abetting and enabling an insurrection.

Mr. Perry submitted a third comment regarding item 10.a), purchase of BolaWrap Devices and Cartridges, stating that police officers should not be primary responders to incidents involving individuals under mental distress and expressed support for defunding.

6. City Administrator Update (7:50 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor and Council with an update regarding news and events in the City citing the inauguration of the new President of the United States the following day and reporting that security had been increased due to the event and Hyattsville's close proximity to Washington, D.C. but assured that no specific threat was apparent and the increase in security was a practice of vigilance and diligence.

Ms. Douglas announced the departure of Community Planner with the Department of Community and Economic Development, Lillian Lamptey, who was moving on to be a Community Planner and Development Specialist with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the hiring of James Jimmy to the Hyattsville Police Department.

Administrator Douglas reported that COVID-19 infection rates were very high in the area and relayed that food and diaper distribution would continue. Ms. Douglas noted that volunteers had served nearly 40K meals and would be receiving 20K diapers for distribution the following month.

Ms. Douglas relayed that phases 1A, B, and C of COVID-19 vaccine distribution were expected in January with phases 2 and 3 the following February and that the City had one (1) vaccination site but was working with Doctor's Hospital and Kaiser Permanente to establish a second and potentially a third. She added that individuals from outside the County and Country were attempting to receive the vaccine under false pretenses.

Ms. Douglas reported that work on the new Department of Public Works (DPW) facility was nearing completion and would likely be inhabitable by the end of February. She expressed appreciation for the completion of the bioretention facility in the nearby City park that would allow for community gardens and fresh fruits and vegetable for residents.

She referenced the construction of the waiting area on the first floor of the Municipal Building that would provide a reception area for residents to be completed in March and noted a previous delay to the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for streets and sidewalks in West Hyattsville and University Park Wells Boulevard. Ms. Douglas stated that the CIP for the two (2) sites was to reconvene after staff were able to reassess budget priorities.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

Administrator Douglas provided detail regarding the construction of the new Police and Public Safety Headquarters stating that the design was being finalized and it would be followed by a request for proposal (RFP) process, contractor selection and negotiation, and construction completed in the summer of 2022. Ms. Douglas supplemented that community engagement opportunities would be abundant.

Ms. Douglas cited the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service in which the City would work with the Capital Area Food Bank providing services and resources to the community. She added that she was appreciative to give back to the Capital Area Food Bank as they had been instrumental in Hyattsville’s food distribution efforts.

Ms. Douglas brought attention to the facility dog, Nola, who was providing calm companionship to those recovering from emergency situations. She stated that Nola was involved in many activities and programming in the City and had garnered inquiries from several other Departments about the process in which one could acquire a service dog.

Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible expressed concerns regarding the distribution of information from the City regarding the COVID-19 vaccine stating that the website was not intuitive and requested that clarity be provided to which City Administrator Douglas replied that staff were aware of the challenges detailing other aspects that had led to the confusion and assured that the issues would be addressed.

7. Proclamations (8:00 p.m. - 8:05 p.m.)

7.a) Proclamation Honoring Candace B. Hollingsworth
[HCC-192-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[CM 0119 Honoring Candace Hollingsworth](#)

I move that the interim Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation honoring Candace B. Hollingsworth for her years of service and dedication to the City of Hyattsville as Councilmember and Mayor.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lawrence
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

8. Consent Items (8:05 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

8.a) Comcate Inc. Licensing Agreement

[HCC-189-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Memo - Comcate Inc Services Agreement - 2021](#)

I move the City Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a one (1) year extension of services agreement with Comcate Inc., 144 Linden Street, Oakland, CA 94607, at a cost not to exceed \$13,344.66, upon the legal review of the City Attorney.

8.b) Memorandum of Understanding with Prince George’s County for Replacement of the Traffic Signal at Adelphi Road and Wells Boulevard

[HCC-190-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Hyattsville MoU](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Prince George’s County for the replacement of the traffic signal at Adelphi Road and Wells Boulevard and authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$125,000.00 for the City’s portion of the costs.

8.c) Letter of Support for Prince George’s Board of Education Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and Committing Prince George’s County Public Schools to 100% Clean Energy

[HCC-202-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Schaible

Co-Sponsor(s): Suiter, Solomon, Simasek

[Supporting Doc CCAP Resolution Schaible](#)

I move that the Council authorize Interim Mayor Ward to send a letter of support to the Prince George’s County Board of Education entitled “Support of Adoption of a Resolution Committing to 100% Clean Energy Schools and Implementation of a Focus Workgroup” prior to the Board of Education’s vote on February 11, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Lawrence
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

9. Action Items (8:10 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)

9.a) Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-01: Close of Candidate Registration (Introduction & Adoption)

[HCC-193-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Charter Sec 4-8 Changing Candidate Registration Time 1.4.20](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-01, a Resolution amending Article IV of the City of Hyattsville’s Charter to alter the last day candidates for office may register for an election (INTRODUCTION & ADOPTION).

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Spell Wolf
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

9.b) Hyattsville Ordinance 2021-01: Close of Candidate Registration (Introduction)

[HCC-194-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Charter Sec 4-8 Changing Candidate Registration Time 1.4.20](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2021-01, an ordinance whereby the City Council amends Chapter 8 of the Hyattsville Code to change the day by which candidates for office are required to register as candidates (INTRODUCTION).

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

9.c) FY21 Budget Amendment: City Election 2021

[HCC-195-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Memo for Election 2021 Budget Amendment](#)



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an FY21 budget amendment in the amount of \$45,000 for the Board of Elections budget to be appropriated as follows: \$4,000 Ads & Notices, \$25,500 Equipment Rental, \$9,750 Postage, \$3,000 Contracted Services and \$2,750 for miscellaneous expenses.

Councilmember Schaible expressed concern with the cost associated with including an “I voted” sticker with the mailings for the 2021 election stating that he believed it to be excessive to which City Clerk Laura Reams responded that including a sticker was not a simple process and was, indeed, a supplemental cost noting that staff were currently in negotiations to lower the price or come to some agreement to have them included. **Councilmember Schaible** reiterated that he did not think it was a necessity and to consider excluding the insert if the cost could not be augmented.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

9.d) Award of Contract for Mail Vendor - Election 2021
[HCC-196-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Memo for Recommendation Fort Orange Press](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Fort Orange Press for the printing and mailing of ballot packets and ballots for the May 2021 City Election at a cost not to exceed \$31,000. The agreement will be effective upon the review and approval by the City Attorney.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

9.e) Resolution 2021-01, Condemning the Actions of the Individuals Responsible for the Events which Took Place at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

[HCC-199-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s): Ward, Suiter

[1.12.21 Resolution regarding January 6, 2021 Capitol FINAL](#)



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2021-01, a Resolution condemning the actions of the individuals responsible for the events which took place at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

9.f) Authorizing letter to the Maryland State General Assembly regarding the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021

[HCC-203-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s): Spell Wolf, Simasek, Peabody, Ward, Suiter

I move the Mayor and Council authorize Interim Mayor Kevin Ward to send a letter to the Maryland State General Assembly regarding the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The letter shall communicate the following items:

- Calls on MGA to provide legislative action to empower the MD AG and State’s Attorneys greater capacity to protect Maryland communities from domestic terror. Any additional powers granted to the MD Attorney General or State’s Attorneys should be crafted in a manner that fosters trust within Black, LatinX, Indigenous, and LGBTQ populations, rather than increasing the surveillance and over-policing of such populations.
- Requests A commission/task force to plan greater coordination between State resources and local agencies in responding to the threat of domestic terror within Maryland municipalities. This includes an analysis of the actions on Jan 6 and the development of a detailed response and coordination plan.
- Requests A commission to determine the extent and pervasiveness of biased or extremist views held by law enforcement officers within the State of Maryland and provide recommendations on corrective actions.
- A commitment to great public awareness and data sharing through reports and analysis on the current status of the threat of domestic terrorism in the State of Maryland.

Ward 1 Councilmember Bart Lawrence expressed concerns regarding the process with which the motion was developed explaining that he had only been allowed a short time for review and had reservations about the possibility of providing an uninformed or ill-informed correspondence to State counterparts. He further detailed concern regarding policing powers applied disproportionately on communities and the lack of clarity regarding the responsibilities of a formed commission.

Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon described that the attempted insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 caused him concern and frustration and that he believed there was an urgency to act by passing a resolution reiterating the City’s commitment to democratic values and



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

acknowledging that Hyattsville would require assistance from the State to move toward changes that established the area's position in regard to the state of the Country.

Councilmember Solomon continued that many surrounding area police departments were on alert in the case that the events transgressed into Washington, D.C. suburbs and that the window to submit actionable items to the State delegation would close before the following City Council meeting. He stated that he believed the item listed bullet points from which the motion could build upon and it was important to request the State create a task force to implement changes with regard to domestic terrorism.

City Administrator Tracey Douglas noted that no police representation was present at the meeting to offer comments as all members of the Police Department were working double shifts and overtime. Ms. Douglas stated that the vetting process for City police officers was thorough and stringent with coordination with State police departments and the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to identify any potential concerns before approving employment.

Councilmember Lawrence stated that **Councilmember Solomon's** remarks raised more questions, and he would have liked to ask questions of the Deputy Chief of Police and reiterated disappointment with the method in which the item was brought to his attention. He noted that the City attorney had the opportunity to review the letter and expressed the importance of giving further consideration and review from the entire Body as the issues brought forth in the letter were of great importance.

Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin contributed that he was supportive of the content of the letter and appreciative of its intention but agreed with **Councilmember Lawrence** that further investigation into the actions of the State would be wise and additional attention should be given to the matter in general before finalizing and submitting such a letter.

Ward 4 Councilmember Daniel Peabody expressed support for the contents of the letter and sought clarity as to whether edits would be implemented before submission to which **Interim Mayor Ward**, with confirmation from City Clerk Reams, stated that there was flexibility to make changes to the letter after receiving comments and recommendations from the entire Council. He asked the group if there was support for tabling the motion until further review could be conducted.

Councilmember Solomon expressed opposition to tabling the motion and **Interim Mayor Ward** sought clarification from other members of the Body that their preference was to hold discussions with State representatives, police officials, and the City attorney to receive information to ensure that the letter was objectively informed and did not imply any assumptions.

Councilmember Peabody expressed support for the motion including the caveat that Council should have the opportunity to provide comment before the final version is submitted to which **Councilmember Solomon** responded that no amendment to the motion would be necessary to allow for review and recommendations.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

Ward 4 Councilmember Edouard Haba expressed support for the submission of the letter to State officials stating that a prompt response should be provided and that the motion was not prescriptive, thereby allowing the Delegation to choose what items to act upon.

Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek stated that he shared some of the concerns of his colleagues noting that after the events of September 11, 2001 legislation was hastily enacted that resulted in unsound regulations that compromised the privacy of citizens and noted that he agreed with the intent of the letter to show support but reiterated that some concerns remained.

Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf recognized the final bullet point in the motion which referenced improved data sharing and identification of the extent of domestic terrorism stating that she agreed that the motion was not prescriptive and expressed support for the last bullet point specifically.

Councilmember Lawrence disagreed that the language was not prescriptive and reiterated his concern with the presentation offering an amendment to table the motion which was seconded by **Councilmember Croslin**.

Councilmember Solomon argued that the motion was not prescriptive supporting approval of the legislation and stating that Council would have the opportunity to have their questions answered before the letter was submitted. He reiterated that the associated actions moved swiftly due to the limited time offered for actionable legislation considered by the State to which **Councilmember Lawrence** reiterated that he was not made aware of the letter until the previous Friday, after the letter had been written. He added that he was unaware of a time in which the Body voted on a letter to be sent when the later still awaited input from Council.

Council Vice President Carrianna Suiter proposed providing two (2) weeks with which to review the letter allowing for edits, comments, and recommendations before sending to the State Delegation.

Interim Mayor Ward announced the motion to table, which was met with requests for clarification of what, exactly, the amendment would allow.

Councilmember Schaible requested that legal review be included during the two (2) weeks and to ensure the City attorney had ample time to review and adequately assess the content of the letter.

Councilmember Solomon acknowledged that Council held concerns and questions that went unanswered explaining that questions could still be answered before submission and that legal review had already taken place. He expressed his opposition to delaying for weeks as he expected the opportunity would cease in a matter of days.

Councilmember Peabody agreed with **Councilmember Solomon** citing the limited time for action and the completed legal review.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

Interim Mayor Ward confirmed that the amendment to be voted upon was to allow for two (2) weeks of review, with the attention of the City attorney, followed by a vote to send at the next City Council meeting.

The amendment failed with five (5) ayes and five (5) nays.

Councilmember Lawrence proposed another motion to amend the language of the first bullet point in the original motion to foster trust with minority populations which was seconded by **Councilmember Croslin** and approved unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Simasek
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

10. Discussion Items (9:10 p.m. - 9:35 p.m.)

10.a) Purchase of BolaWrap Devices and Cartridges

[HCC-197-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Solomon

Co-Sponsor(s): Ward, Spell Wolf, Simasek, Schaible, Peabody, Haba

[BolaWrap 1 \(002\)](#)

[Bolawrap2 \(002\)](#)

[BolaWrap Pictures](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure in the amount of \$12,039 to East Coast Tactical for the purchase of 10 BolaWrap devices and 90 cartridges to be divided between each squad and our Emergency Response Team. The funding source for this purchase is the speed camera special revenue fund.

I further move that, upon procurement, the Hyattsville City Police Department move swiftly to adequately train and staff members of each squad and the Emergency Response Team on the appropriate use and deployment of the BolaWrap Device.

Councilmember Solomon introduced the item thanking the co-sponsors and stating that he conferred with the police department about what non-lethal means could be explored in bringing individuals into custody as well as other improvements that could be made. He expressed his gratitude for the police department and the resources that they researched and recommended noting there were many other areas in which the department was investigating to improve overall operations.

City Administrator Tracey Douglas supplemented that staff had done extensive research and that the technology was being introduced to an increasing number of local departments as an alternative to tasers.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

Interim Mayor Ward asked if the item had been included in the police budget and inquired as to what other means of non-lethal containment were entertained to which Ms. Douglas responded that it was not included in the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) police budget and stated that she could not answer specifically about what other options had been considered, but that Deputy Chief Scott Dunklee would provide that information to Council.

Councilmember Croslin expressed support for the implementation of BolaWrap technology stating that he was thankful that alternative means and resources were being considered.

Councilmember Lawrence explained that he was appreciative of the intention of the item but questioned the efficacy of the technology stating that it had not been properly tested and results were still unproven. He recalled the shooting incident of September 2019 in which several non-lethal weapons were deployed in an attempt to subdue a suspect that concluded with a fatality and averred that if the motion were to be voted upon that evening, he would not be in support.

Councilmember Solomon retorted that additional tools did exist stating that multiple Councilmembers had been conducting research and holding meetings to address several policing issues while there were also options being weighed with regard to the inclusion of crisis professionals and services. He cited documentation that showed that the devices were being used in over 200 police stations throughout the country and that it was imperative that training hold a priority in the initiative.

Councilmember Haba expressed support for the purchase of the devices rationalizing that increasing the amount of non-lethal tools at the department's disposal only increased non-lethal options and that the motion did not exclude an investment into providing mental health services.

Councilmember Croslin relayed the benefit of having a representative from the police department provide further detail as to the devices potential to which Ms. Douglas apologized that she was unaware that most of the police department would be unavailable to field questions describing the features and detailing the function of the restraining device. She stated that the items had been researched for approximately eight (8) to 10 months noting that some officers had already become familiar with the devices and had received training.

Councilmember Croslin sought clarity regarding how the device was deployed and whether it could be effective on an individual in motion to which no pertinent information was provided.

Councilmember Schaible opined that it was not an adequate substitute for a well-staffed crisis intervention team but supported the purchase with the intention of further searches for alternative non-lethal resources. He noted that it would still be a more attractive alternative to tasers which have been identified as a cause of fatality in some cases.

Interim Mayor Ward agreed that perspective from the police department would be beneficial requesting that they provide commentary to which Ms. Douglas replied that she was certain they would be amenable and confirmed that staff were simultaneously developing a mental health and awareness initiative in addition to other steps taken to improve the safety and toolkit of the department.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

10.b) Recommended Revisions to City Committee Procedures

[HCC-198-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Committees Presentation 019120](#)

[City of Hyattsville Handbook for Committees FINAL](#)

[Appendix A - Committee Descriptions and Worksheets](#)

For discussion.

City Clerk Laura Reams introduced the item providing a summary and overview of City Committees including membership statistics and growth over the past six (6) years. Ms. Reams explained that the City Committees Handbook was developed with the intention of providing a clear, user-friendly, set of instructions and best practices for potential Committee members and described that some of the newly implemented requirements included regulation of the appointment and re-appointment schedule, the requirement of any prospective member to attend at least one (1) meeting of their chosen Committee, and a required meeting, virtual or in-person, with Council and/or staff liaisons to allow for any questions or discussion.

Ms. Reams continued that members would only be allowed to serve on two (2) committees concurrently and Chair only one (1) at a time as well as only allowing for Chairs to serve in that capacity for two (2) consecutive terms to provide the opportunity for engagement from other community members. She noted that all members of any committee would be required to attend at least 50% of meetings unless otherwise subjecting themselves to review by Council liaison and possible replacement as well as annual reports pertaining to the actions, challenges, and goals of each committee.

City Clerk Reams expressed that she was eager to hear feedback and recommended adopting the new procedures, proceeding with the proposed appointment schedule, and begin the coordination with residents, staff liaisons, and Council liaisons to schedule meetings with committee candidates. She stated that after feedback was received, necessary changes or recommendations would be included in the handbook and the final version would be presented to Council later in the year.

Councilmember Spell Wolf thanked the City Clerk for the presentation expressing her excitement for the measure and relaying that she was supportive of more interaction with residents and that a meet-and-greet event of some sort was a very good idea.

Councilmember Peabody expressed his gratitude for the item and the commitment to improving the process asking if the 50% attendance threshold should be revised to a shorter time period than one (1) year or an increase of attendance frequency to 75% or a similarly aggressive approach. He asked if there was any method with which to assure diversity among the Committees.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM

Councilmember Solomon expressed concern with the interview process and the annual reports stating that he was supportive of an informal meet-and-greet session as to not deter anyone from applying and suggested a preparation period with assistance from liaisons to present their annual report.

Councilmember Simasek expressed an appreciation for the suggestions that would increase interaction between residents and elected officials as well as promoting diversity among members adding that the task of producing an annual report could be intimidating and burdensome and suggested ways in which the reporting requirement could be less stressful.

Councilmember Schaible highlighted the importance of Committees and their contributions but acknowledged the issues with an interview process and challenges with maintaining attendance levels. He was supportive of a meet-and-greet in place of an interview and suggested the annual report be one (1) page to make the responsible parties aware of its brevity thereby lessening the extent of commitment and work rate.

Councilmember Croslin expressed his appreciation for the work put in by City Clerk Reams and her team and sought clarity regarding the terms of Committee Chairs to which Ms. Reams confirmed that the two (2) term threshold for the Chair of a Committee could be extended in certain situations.

Ms. Reams responded to the comments stating that some of the recommendations could be easily implemented and that adjustments could be made to the handbook to substitute the interview process and agreed to examine an attendance requirement of 60%.

11. **Council Dialogue (9:35 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)**

Councilmember Croslin recalled the events of January 6, 2021 and expressed his condemnation and stated his assessment of the state of the country was incorrect. He expressed excitement regarding the inauguration of President-elect Biden the following day.

Councilmember Schaible echoed the sentiments relayed by **Councilmember Croslin**.

Councilmember Simasek recalled the words and actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and mentioned the challenges to democracy and expressed hopefulness for the future with the institution of a new administration.

Councilmember Lawrence acknowledged his disdain for the events of January 6th, speculated about the direction in which the Council was moving, and reiterated his dissatisfaction with the way in which his questions went unanswered and asked that his colleagues be more considerate with the legislative process going forward.

Councilmember Solomon expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with **Councilmember Spell Wolf**, echoed the sentiments of his colleagues regarding what transpired on January 6th, and expressed anticipation in light of the following day's inauguration.



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 7:30 PM**

Councilmember Spell Wolf read a message that was sent to her colleagues earlier the same day informing that she would not be seeking another term as City Councilmember. She sent her best wishes to colleagues, residents, staff, and the City of Hyattsville.

Interim Mayor Ward expressed his appreciation for **Councilmember Spell Wolf** and commented about the current events and the struggles and challenges facing communities, especially minority populations. He stated his hopefulness for the future and needed change.

12. Community Notices and Meetings

12.a) Main City Calendar January 20 - February 1, 2021

[HCC-201-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Main City Calendar Jan 20 - Feb 1 2021 FINAL](#)

13. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Croslin
SECONDER:	Suiter
AYES:	Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	None

ATTEST:

February 16, 2021

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk