



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 6:00 PM

Candace Hollingsworth, Mayor
Kevin Ward, W1, Council President
Carrianna Suiter, W3, Council Vice President (*arrived at 6:21 p.m.*)
Bart Lawrence, W1
Robert Croslin, W2
Danny Schaible, W2
Ben Simasek, W3
Edouard Haba, W4
Daniel Peabody, W4 (*arrived at 7:04 p.m.*)
Joseph A. Solomon, W5 (*departed at 9:19 p.m.*)
Erica Spell Wolf, W5 (*arrived at 6:20 p.m.*)

Absent: None

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
Lesley Riddle, Director of Public Works
Vivian Snellman, Director of Human Resources
Laura Reams, City Clerk
Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk
E.I. Cornbrooks, IV, City Attorney
Cheri Everhart, Recreation, Programs, and Events Manager
Gary Bullis, Parking Enforcement Manager
Hal Metzler, Deputy Director of Public Works
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, December 21, 2020 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 4 PM on December 21, 2020. 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_xTisLCwHRdWU2DTVyl6Oew



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1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Mayor Candace Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

AMENDMENTS

- 1) **ADD** to Consent: HCC-180-FY21 – Greater DC Diaper Bank Agreement
- 2) **TRANSPOSE** the order of agenda items “Workshop” and “City Administrator Update”

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ward
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Solomon
ABSENT:	Suiter, Peabody, Wolf

4. Motion to Close (6:10 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.)

4.a) Motion to Close

[HCC-179-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of December 21, 2020 to consult with the City Attorney and staff about litigation. The reasons for closing the meeting under these exceptions are to maintain legally required confidentiality regarding ongoing and pending litigation.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ward
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Solomon
ABSENT:	Suiter, Peabody, Wolf

The open session ceased at 6:15 p.m.

Pursuant to the requirement of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 3-104(1)(2); this statement is included in these minutes:



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A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 6:18 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2020.

In addition to the City Council, the following staff members were present: **Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator; Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator; Laura Reams, City Clerk; Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk; E.I. Cornbrooks, IV, City Attorney.**

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

Topics Discussed: The Mayor and City Council were advised on privileged and confidential matters relating to ongoing litigation regarding construction projects within the incorporated City limits.

Action Taken: **Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek** moved that the Council approve the authorization of the City Attorney to file an intent to appeal the decision of the Werrlein case; **Council President Kevin Ward** seconded the motion. A motion to amend to require a monthly confidential memo relaying an update of accrued legal costs was made by **Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible** and seconded by **Council Vice President Carrianna Suiter**. The motion was approved 7 - 4, with **Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin, Ward 4 Councilmember Edouard Haba, Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon, and Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf** voting against the motion.

The closed session adjourned at 7:19 p.m. on a motion made by **Councilmember Haba** and seconded by **Councilmember Croslin**.

The open session recommenced at 7:25 p.m.

5. Approval of the Minutes

5.a) Approval of the Minutes

[HCC-178-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Minutes Dec 7, 2020 CM FINAL](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the Council Meeting of December 7, 2020.

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



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

Deputy City Clerk Sean Corcoran read the public comment submitted electronically.

Kurt Brintzenhofe addressed the Mayor and Council with comments regarding the multi-family improvement initiative stating that the measure required greater control to limit the opportunity for rental property owners to profit at the taxpayers' expense.

7. City Administrator Update (8:50 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor and Council with an update of news and events in the City of Hyattsville beginning with a report on Community Services in which she referenced phone calls from City staff to young residents to wish them a happy holiday season on behalf of Santa and Mrs. Claus expressing her appreciation for the initiative and providing the timeline. She noted the annual Claus Applause contest providing details and stating that it was the first year in which the contest winner would be determined through social media.

Ms. Douglas reported on the City's food distributions explaining that the previous week 900 boxes of perishable food was given out to residents in need as well as 400 frozen turkeys, canned food, and diapers donated from Dick Patterson. She supplemented that the City had partnered with several area churches and other entities to explore various methods of charitable events and outreach.

City Administrator Douglas announced that staff were awaiting reimbursement for time and resources spent assisting with COVID-19 relief efforts from Prince George's County and addressed the COVID-19 vaccine availability stating that local distribution would begin in the coming weeks.

Ms. Douglas reported that Green Owl Design would be working with the Race and Equity Task Force (RETF) to choose local artists to paint murals on buildings in the City reflective of the Black Lives Matter movement expressing messages of unity and tolerance.

Ms. Douglas closed the update relaying to the audience that the meeting would be the last meeting for **Mayor Hollingsworth** as an elected city official. She announced that a farewell ceremony for the Mayor would take place prior to the following Council meeting that month and expressed her appreciation for her leadership and accomplishments and her anticipation of what the outgoing Mayor would accomplish in the future.

8. Workshop (7:20 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.)

7.a) Affordable Housing Action Plan: Phase II

[HCC-170-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Hyattsville City Council Workshop Part 3 v2](#)

[Hyattsville Council Workshop Part3 Background Memo 121520 cln](#)



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Presentation Only

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler introduced the workshop and provided a history and summary of the initiative and its purpose. He explained the process that would be followed with the intention of coming to a consensus which would be the base for a report that would be produced by Enterprise and presented to Council prior to adoption. Mr. Chandler introduced Laura Searfoss who would help lead the workshop on behalf of Enterprise Community Development.

Ms. Searfoss addressed the Mayor and Council by thanking them for their partnership and stated that they would be taking a more thorough assessment of the previously identified priority needs and acknowledged her colleagues Zachary Patton and David Huaman. She provided a brief history of actions taken to that point and reiterated that the Body had decided that the four (4) priorities for developing affordable housing for residents was rental units for low-income households, clear, consistent regulatory environment, relief of the property tax burden for homeowners, and reducing the gap in home ownership rates by race and ethnicity.

Ms. Searfoss noted that there was substantial interest in anti-displacement and serving seniors and those with disabilities but explained that the focus would be with the top four (4) priorities. Ms. Searfoss referenced an earlier task in which the Body was asked to envision what they would like to see accomplished by the priorities ten (10) years in the future and recognized strong interest in giving the ability to residents to reside in Hyattsville for a majority of their lives, should they so choose.

Ms. Searfoss explained how she and her team had arrived at the recommended tools by taking into consideration the decision-making authority of the Council, experience with implementing each tool, existing structures and policies, and external constraints.

Councilmember Schaible stated that the categorizations presented were helpful and expressed that he did not agree with some of the findings but would reserve the conversation for later in the discussion.

Councilmember Simasek asked if the evaluation included the need for public funding as well as the administrative cost to the City to which Ms. Searfoss responded in the affirmative.

Zachary Patton took lead of the presentation categorizing rebalancing tax burden to increase tax rates for commercial and decrease for residential as high-impact and low-effort and stating that the City would have significant control in establishing property tax rates. He showcased low-impact, low-effort, items that could be accomplished through partnerships and outreach to residents such as a partnership with a financial institution that could allow for programming, alternative mortgages, savings accounts, and homeowner counseling, as well as expanding property tax relief for income qualified homeowners.

Mr. Patton displayed characteristics of low-impact, high-effort tools which included rent stabilization, upzoning, housing preservation, inclusionary zoning, density bonuses, and zoning changes for “missing middle” and other diverse housing types. He explained some of the



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challenges with the items and potential benefits upon implementation. Mr. Patton identified the high-impact, high-effort tools which were categorized as such due to degree of public commitment and financial investment.

Mayor Hollingsworth sought confirmation that the assessments were not of the utility broadly, rather the utility within the context of the City of Hyattsville to which Ms. Searfoss concurred.

Councilmember Schaible expressed concern regarding the cost of some of the high-impact tools citing the City's financial position during a global pandemic and stated that the tools presented would not make a significant impact for residents or substantially relieve their cost burden. He expressed disappointment that the recommendations were not more systemic and endorsed accessory dwelling units, rent stabilization, vacancy control, and tenant protections.

Councilmember Simasek agreed with the concerns of **Councilmember Schaible** stating that identifying a local funding source seemed like a part of the process in achieving goals rather than a goal in and of itself. He explained that it was a prerequisite for accomplishing a number of the goals laid before the Council.

Laura Searfoss thanked the Councilmembers for their comments and added that she acknowledged the cost to the City and stated that public funding sources and gap financing could leverage new tax credit development, but if by the end of the discussion Council deemed the matter unrealistic it should be addressed soon to determine a new approach.

David Huaman took lead of the discussion and described that he would be reviewing the five (5) high-impact, high-effort tools that consisted of local public funding source, public land, local rental assistance program, financial incentives for the maintenance and rehabilitation of unsubsidized affordable rental properties, and increased tenant protections.

Mr. Huaman detailed the definitions, impact, and required efforts of a local public funding source and stated that funding could be found from multiple sources and could result in \$7K per household earning 50% of area medium income (AMI) annually but may require the City to incorporate and experienced third party.

Mr. Huaman relayed that the public land tool could result in 15 acres and 341 new townhomes and noted that it could be directly implemented by the City but would also require some first-hand expertise.

Mr. Huaman described the parameters for local rental assistance programs which would financially affect residents similarly to local source funding and would require the institution of new programming and administrative structure.

The discussion lead was returned to Zachary Patton who showcased the financial incentives tool reporting that 1,756 unsubsidized rental units for households at 50% of AMI was the potential outcome through administering tax abatements and extensive policy implementation.



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Mr. Patton highlighted the final tool of increased tenant protections describing that 3,400 households could be affected in preventing displacement and would require additional capacity for administration and new programming.

Mayor Hollingsworth inquired as to whether the intention for the rental assistance and local public funding source tools would hypothetically involve a scenario in which the City was unable to come to an agreement with a developer on tax abatement and chose an alternative of subsidizing or dividing housing units to which Mr. Huaman responded that it was more closely associated with a local rental assistance program but the local public funding source could allocate funding in such a scenario. Further scenarios were discussed that identified approaches for land acquisition and joint developments.

Laura Searfoss commenced the group discussion portion of the workshop asking Council to identify the priorities the City would pursue over the next ten (10) years to which **Councilmember Schaible** reiterated his interest in pursuing rent stabilization, accessory dwelling units, zoning changes, and inclusionary zoning. He recommended using the home equity homesteader tax credit as a mechanism to achieve those goals and provided details and logistics.

Council Vice President Suiter expressed her interest in pursuing property tax relief citing long-time residents who are encountering challenges and an inability to keep up with the cost of living in the City to which Ms. Searfoss agreed that it was a recurring issue that several Councilmembers feel an obligation to investigate.

Councilmember Simasek sought clarity regarding the purpose of the discussion segment of the workshop and the possibility of keeping all low-effort items available to which Ms. Searfoss stated that many items required large investments but having them included as priorities was important and part of the discussion was for the Body to determine if there were items that should not be considered. The Councilmember cited closing the home ownership gap and supporting renters to transition to homeownership as priorities.

Councilmember Croslin expressed his interest in prioritizing tax reduction, extended tax relief, so long as it was economically feasible.

Ms. Searfoss announced that three (3) tools had been identified and directed the Body to an online poll to, again, choose the order of priorities in which the results showed extended property tax relief and a tie between public land, increased tenant protections, and rent stabilization. Ms. Searfoss asked the group if the priorities were to improve tax relief, rent stabilization, and tenant protections, or if public land should also be included.

Council Vice President Suiter requested elaboration regarding the public land tool and its impact to which Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler replied that the City had some experience in 2004 and 2005 in which a previous City Hall site was sold to a housing initiative partnership and the tool referenced could be of possible use should opportunities arise.



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Councilmember Haba addressed his colleagues proposing a balance among the priorities and explained that a majority of City funding would come from property taxes and it would be very challenging to acquire adequate funding while providing subsidies and still achieve an outcome that increased affordability for residents.

Councilmember Simasek recognized the comments of **Councilmember Haba** and agreed that moving forward with any priority would bear a cost but stated that, while some would reduce revenue, others would raise revenue and encouraged the group to search for a balance that would be beneficial to the most residents. He advocated for a local public funding source stating that it would be productive and cost-efficient but held concerns about how to use development as a source of possible revenue outside of raising taxes for existing property owners.

Ms. Searfoss acknowledged concerns about costs to the City related to expanding property tax relief and suggested another poll vote to identify any other areas that could potentially be included as one of the top three (3) priorities.

Mayor Hollingsworth noted the untimeliness of the endeavor with regard to the ongoing health crisis expressing her awareness of the reluctance of her colleagues to agree to any spending and encouraged the Body to assess from a perspective that considers the progress of each item over the following ten (10) years. She noted that two (2) of the three (3) priorities were considered low-impact and suggested concentrating more on prioritizing items that would require extensive, consistent attention as opposed to items that could be achieved in only a few years and emphasized that the work done during these workshops would clarify direction for future Councilmembers.

Council Vice President Suiter echoed the comments of the Mayor and queried the Body about their willingness to, perhaps, remove one of the more easily achieved priorities and replace it with an item that would more impactful.

Ms. Searfoss suggested that the next poll omit the original three (3) priorities and only include local public funding source, public land, local rental assistance, increased tenant protections and incentive for unsubsidized rentals.

Councilmember Schaible held reservations regarding advancing in the suggested manner and opined that the items considered high-impact were actually low-impact because the ability to fund them would not generate a strong impact and suggested conducting more analysis to which **Council Vice President Suiter** suggested dividing the items to determine the top tier of high-impact items and categorizing others into low-effort, low-impact.

Ms. Searfoss was amenable to the Vice President's suggestion and initiated the next poll which reflected the preferred choices of rent stabilization, local public funding source, and a tie between public land and increased tenant protections. She closed by informing the Body that she and her team would review the decisions and prepare answers for the questions posed that evening and be in contact with staff and Council regarding next steps.



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9. Presentations (9:00 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.)

9.a) Federalist Pig Restaurant - Detailed Site Plan (DSP-19072) Presentation

[HCC-172-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Memo - Federalist Pig - 12.21.20 - Final](#)

[Federalist Pig Reference Documents 12.21.20](#)

Presentation Only

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler introduced the item announcing that representatives on behalf of Federalist Pig would be presenting a Detailed Site Plan (DSP) for the construction of a restaurant on a site that repurposed an existing building on Baltimore Avenue. Mr. Chandler explained that the item would return before the Council the following January with comments and recommendations from staff.

Attorney for the developer, Thomas Haller, addressed the Mayor and Council with a summary of the item stating that the building that would be refurbished was located at 5504 Baltimore Avenue and provided details. Mr. Haller reported that Federalist Pig had another location in Washington, D.C. and had prepared a DSP with a statement of justification that requested modifications including a waiver to retain the existing building as it stood, allowing access from Baltimore Avenue as opposed to 44th Avenue exclusively, a waiver of the requirement for minimum off-street parking, and augmenting the loading and unloading area.

Mr. Haller displayed illustrative documents which showed the landscape plan and featured an intended addition to the structure consistent with 963 square feet which would provide a gaming area as well as additional patron seating. He cited a nearby single-family detached home that had been purchased by the property owners. Mr. Haller reported that the building had been brought up to required standards and that a four (4) foot tall wall would be erected to provide screening from the adjacent properties and exteriors.

Representative for the development, Kirk Philipson, addressed the Mayor and Council with architectural details displaying plans for preservation of the building frontage, the side access of the building for order take-out, walls of the structure that would be reserved for murals, and an aerial view of the project. Mr. Philipson described the intentions for signage, access points, and the designated areas including the patio and gaming area. He described potential plans for the façade and associated foliage and landscaping.

Mr. Haller recollected previous presentations to the Planning Committee and relayed that the extended corrugated metal had been removed upon their request and reiterated the more pronounced features of the building.

Mr. Chandler stated that the item would return the following January and was under the impression that the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) had, or were near, accepting the plan.



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Councilmember Schaible expressed his support for the project noting that he would likely abstain from any related votes due to a conflict of interest due to his friendship with pertinent parties.

Citing the Council meeting as her last, **Mayor Hollingsworth** requested that Federalist Pig seek out as many opportunities as possible to employ local workers, particularly those acquainted with the Prince George’s Community College Culinary and Hospitality Institute. She emphasized the importance of having the staff of a City establishment be reflective of makeup of Hyattsville and complemented the plans for the artistic mural requesting that local black and Hispanic artists be implemented in its creation to which Mr. Philipson expressed full support.

10. Appointments (9:20 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.)

10.a) Appointment to the Ethics Commission

[HCC-177-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Hollingsworth

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Ethics Commission Michael Horlick Application redacted](#)

I move that the Mayor, with Council approval, appoint Michael Horlick (Ward 2) to the Ethics Commission for a term of three (3) years to begin on January 4, 2021 and expire on January 4, 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ward
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	Solomon

11. Consent Items (9:25 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

11.a) DPW New Facility Project - Parking Lot Paving

[HCC-163-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Mill & Overlay Proposal](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$33,000 to Keller Construction Management to complete the paving restoration of the Department of Public Works (DPW) facility.



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11.b) Approval of Election Equipment Vendor for Election 2021

[HCC-164-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[ESS Quote Hyattsville Election 2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the recommendation of the Board of Supervisors of Elections to select Election Systems and Software (ES&S) to be the City's election equipment vendor for the Biennial Election to be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 and to authorize the City Administrator to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$13,000, upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

11.c) Council of Governments Policy Committee Appointments

[HCC-166-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[MWCOCG Policy Committees](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council make the following appointments to the Council of Governments (COG) Policy Committees for a term of one-year, beginning on January 1, 2021:

- Region Forward Coalition: Interim Mayor Kevin Ward, with staff alternate Jim Chandler
- Human Services & Public Safety Policy Committee: Interim Mayor Kevin Ward, with staff alternate Acting Police Chief Scott Dunklee and Marci LeFevre
- Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee: Interim Mayor Kevin Ward, with staff alternate Lesley Riddle
- Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee: Interim Mayor Kevin Ward, with staff alternate Lesley Riddle

11.d) MOU with Maryland Department of the Environment for Funding from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust

[HCC-168-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Hyattsville MOU](#)

[2021 Ford E450 Electrified Challenger Proposal \(1\)](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the Maryland Department of the Environment for Funding from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust for the purchase of an all-electric 14 passenger bus, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.



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11.e) Distribution Agreement with Capital Area Food Bank

[HCC-173-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Distribution Agreement Final COVID-19 January 2021-March2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Capital Area Food Bank for the weekly receipt and distribution of non-perishable food boxes through March 2021, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency, in support of the City's efforts to provide food to families in need during COVID-19.

11.f) Hyattsville Ordinance 2020-07: Processing of Vote-by-Mail Ballots

[HCC-175-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[HO 2020-07 VBM - Processing Ballots 15 Days Prior](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Ordinance 2020-07, an ordinance whereby the City Council amends Section 8-4, Article V, Chapter 8 of the Hyattsville Code to change the time for which the Board may begin to process ballots received before the closing of the polls on Election Day in an election that is conducted primarily by mail (SECOND READING & ADOPTION).

11.g) Schedule Public Hearing for Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-01: Adjusting Date for Close of Candidate Registration

[HCC-176-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

I move the Mayor and Council schedule a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00 PM for Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-01, a resolution amending Article II of the City of Hyattsville's Charter to adjust the date for the close of candidate registration to accommodate the required timeframe necessary to print and mail ballots to all registered voters.

11.h) Greater DC Diaper Bank Agreement

[HCC-180-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Greater DC Diaper Bank Emergency Hub Application Form - 2021 \(1\)](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Greater DC Area Diaper Bank for the intermittent receipt and distribution of diapers in support of the City's efforts to provide support to families in need, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.



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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ward
SECONDER:	Haba
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	Solomon

12. Action Items (9:30 p.m. - 9:50 p.m.)

12.a) FY2021 Legislative Item - Parking Schedule Maximum Fine Modification

[HCC-162-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Chapter 114 Vehicles and Traffic](#)

[Memo - FY2021 Legislative Item – Parking Schedule Maximum Fine Modification](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council restrict the maximum fine for nonpayment of parking violations to no more than one and a half (1.5) times the value of the original fine after thirty (30) days of nonpayment. I further move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator or her designee to negotiate amendments to any agreements impacted by this adjustment provided that such negotiations do not modify the existing base fee/fine schedule.

Mayor Hollingsworth provided a summary and relayed the details of the item explaining that she took all feedback into consideration and recognized parking fines as a revenue source. She expressed her position that it was an opportunity to improve upon an area in need of more sound policy. She stated that the acceleration of fines due to late fees was excessive and could be needlessly burdensome for residents under financial constraints.

Ward 4 Councilmember Daniel Peabody inquired as to the rationale behind designating one and a half (1.5) times the original value to be the particular parameter to which **Mayor Hollingsworth** responded that it was partly due to the degree of decrease from four (4) times the original amount and still compelled the paying of fines in a timely manner.

Councilmember Peabody agreed with the assessment that four (4) times the original amount was excessive and suggested a 100% increase for late fees opining that it would serve the solution in a slightly more efficient manner.

Mayor Hollingsworth recollected the methods and considerations leading up to her decision and encouraged a dialogue among her peers relaying other possibilities such as augmented the deadlines in which a fine is due or becomes subject to increase. She questioned the rectitude of maintain high fees to justify the continued function of a municipal department.

Council Vice President Suiter expressed opposition to the acceleration of fees being implemented as a mechanism for revenue and included a fine of \$100 for expired automobile tags as equally excessive when compared to other violations that incurred similar or identical fees. She encouraged her colleagues to explore ways in which fee payments could be incentivized.



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Councilmember Peabody continued the dialogue stating that the cost for parking in certain areas of the City were extremely low when compared to surrounding areas and while he did not fine the initial fine to be relatively high, he reiterated that he found the escalation of late fees to be overtly aggressive and suggested identifying more reasonable methods with which revenue is accrued through parking.

Councilmember Haba suggested an incremental approach in which increasing are applied at 15 or 20 days and reaches the maximum amount of one and a half (1.5) times at 30 days. He endorsed the compromise and recommended regular reassessments to consider any changes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ward
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	Solomon

13. Discussion Items (9:50 p.m. - 10:10 p.m.)

13.a) Multi-Family Property Improvement Program

[HCC-174-FY21](#)

Sponsor: Hollingsworth

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Memo - MF Property Improvement Program](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator (or her designee) and the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to create the Multifamily Improvement Rebate Program. The ordinance shall provide for the following:

- Offering a rebate of \$1 for every \$2 invested in critical multifamily upgrades and improvements that increase energy efficiency, remediate environmental toxins, improve air quality and circulation, and/or increase reliability of heating and cooling systems, up to \$50,000.
- The Mayor and Council to authorize the cumulative award ceiling for each fiscal year.
- Prioritization for funding of multifamily properties designated affordable and/or for senior and disabled residents.
- Eligibility limited to multifamily buildings of more than four (4) units.
- Rebate to begin upon commencement of improvement project.

Mayor Hollingsworth proposed omitting the discussion item as it was closely aligned with the same intentions of the affordable housing initiative discussed earlier in the meeting to which the Body was amenable.

City Administrator Tracey Douglas sought clarity regarding the decision agreed upon for the previous action item HCC-162-FY21 to which **Mayor Hollingsworth** responded that the motion was passed as written.



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Councilmember Haba sought clarity regarding the details of the passed motion to which **Mayor Hollingsworth** explained that a ticket of \$35 would increase to \$52.50 after 20 days and \$70 after 30 days.

14. Council Dialogue (10:10 p.m. - 10:20 p.m.)

An extensive Council dialogue was held as it was the Mayor's final meeting in her official capacity. **Mayor Hollingsworth** paid respect to each of her colleagues and staff members with whom she had worked over the previous ten (10) years recalling memories, challenges, and achievements. **Councilmember Croslin** thanked the Mayor for her service and friendship and stated that she would be dearly missed.

Ward 1 Councilmember Bart Lawrence acknowledged the amount of time and rate of effort committed to her public service to the City of Hyattsville and expressed his appreciation for her friendship, leadership, and what he had learned from **Mayor Hollingsworth**.

Council Vice President Suiter expressed her appreciation for the efforts of the Mayor, her gratitude for the Mayor's leadership, and anticipation of what she would achieve in the future.

Councilmember Peabody stated that he truly enjoyed serving with and learning from the Mayor and wished her well.

Council President Kevin Ward expressed his profound appreciation for the Mayor's counsel, friendship, service to the community, and positive impact to him personally.

Councilmember Simasek commended the brilliance, dignity, and leadership of the Mayor and expressed his appreciation for what she had done for community residents.

Councilmember Haba echoed the previous sentiments and applauded her ability to think outside the box and encourage her peers to set more ambitious goals. He provided best wishes to the Mayor on her future endeavors.

Councilmember Schaible expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work alongside the Mayor and commended her leadership and positive influence. He wished her the best in her next steps.

Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf thanked the Mayor for her kind words and expressed admiration for her leadership and contributions to the City of Hyattsville.

15. Community Notices and Meetings

15.a) Main City Calendar December 22, 2020 - January 4, 2021

[HCC-171-FY21](#)

Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Main City Calendar Dec 22 2020 - Jan 4 2021 FINAL](#)



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16. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Croslin
SECONDER:	Ward
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, Spell Wolf
ABSENT:	Solomon

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

ATTEST:
January 19, 2021

Laura Reams, City Clerk

Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk