

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 20, 2023

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kJZUCpCSTD2cYs4CxiT78g

Virtual

City Council

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor
Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5
Danny Schaible, Council Vice President, Ward 2
Sam Denes, Ward 1
Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1
Emily Strab, Ward 2
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Ben Simasek, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Daniel Peabody, Ward 4
Rommel Sandino, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator
~~Laura Reams, City Clerk, 301-985-5009, cityclerk@hyattsville.org~~

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING!
Your participation at this public meeting is valued and appreciated.

AGENDA/PACKET: The Agenda/Packet is available for review at the Hyattsville Municipal Building and online at www.hyattsville.org prior to the scheduled meeting (generally available no later than the Friday prior to the scheduled Monday meeting). Please note, times given for agenda items are estimates only. Matters other than those indicated on the agenda may also be considered at Council discretion.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT: In compliance with the ADA, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting or other services in conjunction with this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (301) 985-5009. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

AUDIBLE DEVICES: Please ensure all audible devices are turned off or otherwise not audible when the City Council is in session. Thank you.

PUBLIC INPUT: If you wish to address the Council during the Public Comment period, please use the "Raise Hand" feature in the virtual meeting interface. Participants may also submit statements electronically using the eComment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. All participants shall remain respectful in their contributions and associated functions of the virtual meeting interface are not intended for public dialogue or discussion.

WAYS TO WATCH THE MEETING LIVE: City Council meetings are broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon). You may also view meetings live online at hyattsville-md.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?camera_id=2

REPLAY SCHEDULE: The meetings will be re-broadcast on cable television, channel 71 (Comcast) and channel 12 (Verizon) daily at 7:00 a.m., 1 p.m., and 8 p.m. Meetings are also able for replay online at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

CITY INFORMATION: Sign up to receive text and email notifications about Hyattsville events, government, police and programs at www.hyattsville.org/list.aspx

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event of inclement weather, please call 301-985-5000 to confirm the status of the Council meeting.

Meeting Notice:

The Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023 remotely via video conference. The Council meeting will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance.

The meeting will be broadcast live on cable television channel 71 (Comcast), channel 12 (Verizon), and available via live stream at www.hyattsville.org/meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kJZUCpCSTD2cYs4CxiT78g

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Also Present

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas
Deputy City Administrator-Counsuela Barbour
Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler
City Treasurer-Ron Brooks
Chief of Police-Jarod Towers
Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle
Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard
Director of Human Resources-Jay Joyner
City Clerk-Laura Reams
Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk
Emergency Services Coordinator-Reggie Bagley
ARPA Fund Manager-Patrick Paschall
Deputy Director of Public Works-Hal Metzler
City Planner-Holly Simmons
Age Friendly Program Lead-Marci LeFevre

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Ben Simasek
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent:

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**3. Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Simasek moved to add item HCC-320-FY23 to the Action Agenda.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Simasek, that the Agenda be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan

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

Mr. Perry submitted a written comment regarding the City-wide security system.

5. Community Notices and Meetings**5.a. Main City Calendar: March 21, 2022 - April 3, 2022**[HCC-316-FY23](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City Calendar March 21, 2023 - April 3, 2023](#)

6. Motion to Close (7:20 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.)

6.a. Motion to Close[HCC-314-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of March 20, 2023, to consult with the City Attorney to receive legal advice related to the City's interest in a particular parcel of real property. The reason for closing the meeting under this exception is to protect attorney/client privilege.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Sponsors: City Administrator

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

A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 7:19 p.m. on March 20, 2023.

In addition to the City Council, the following staff members were present:

- Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
- Ron Brooks, City Treasurer
- Consuella Barbour, Deputy City Administrator
- Reggie Bagley, Emergency Operations Manager
- Nate Groenendyk, Deputy City Clerk
- Laura Reams, City Clerk

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Topics Discussed: The Council received legal advice related to the City's interest in a particular parcel of real property located within City limits.

Action Taken: none taken.

The closed session adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion made by **Council Vice President Schaible** and seconded by **Council President Solomon**.

The open session recommenced at 8:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Simasek, that the Council enter into a Closed Session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan

7. City Administrator Update (7:50 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on City related news and events.

8. Presentations (8:10 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)**8.a. Presentation of the 2023 Biennial Election Candidates**[HCC-309-FY23](#)

For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Candidate Certification March 20 \(Presentation \(169\)\)](#)

Board of Supervisors of Elections Chair Zach Peters, presented the certified candidates for the 2023 Biennial Election and provided information about the "I Voted" sticker contest.

8.b. The Spot at Trolley Trailhead Placemaking Project[HCC-298-FY23](#)

Discussion Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - The Spot Placemaking Project](#)
[The Spot Concept Design](#)

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler provided an update on The Spot Placemaking Project and concept design.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if the project will have access to water for bathrooms. Mr. Chandler stated if there is an option to access water, it will be installed, and will need to consult with the Department of Public Works.

Councilmember Schaible asked if there had been any consideration for a Farmer's Market in this location. Mr. Chandler stated there has not been any discussion internally, but the property is not inhibited from that type of use.

8.c. Throne Restroom Pilot[HCC-300-FY23](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville Throne Presentation to Council.pptx \(1\)](#)

Jessica Heinzelman from Throne, presented the information from the test pilot from the restroom at Driskell Park and gave an overview of Throne restrooms in general.

Councilmember Simasek appreciated the ADA upgrades to the Throne and confirmed with staff that ADA compliance would be required for any future City use.

8.d. Age Friendly Action Plan Year in Review[HCC-301-FY23](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [3.20.23 AFP Presentation Short Version](#)

Age Friendly Program Lead Marci LeFevre presented the work done by the team in the past year and the plan for the upcoming year.

9. Consent Items (9:10 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.)

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine in nature, and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the Mayor/Council request specific items be removed from the Consent agenda for separate action.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Simasek, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan

9.a. Decommissioning and Surplus of Public Works and Parking Compliance Equipment[HCC-249-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the decommissioning and disposal of the vehicles and equipment noted in the memo dated March 13, 2023.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [220313 - memo - surplus items](#)

9.b. The Spot - SoHy Cooperative Renewal of Use Agreement[HCC-297-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a renewal agreement with the SoHy Coop for use of The Spot through December 31, 2023. Should the property become unavailable before the end of the agreement, the city would provide 60 day notice of early termination.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - SoHy Co-op Renewal of Use Agreement](#)
[Use Agreement Extension 2023](#)

9.c. Lower Ward 1 Resiliency Projects - Coordination and Project Management [HCC-302-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure to the Low Impact Development Center (LIDC) in an amount not to exceed \$110,000 for the coordination and project management for the Lower Ward 1 Resiliency Projects under their existing contract with the City. The Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary adjustments to the budget to facilitate this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [LIDC Proposal Lower Ward 1 Letter 03-07-2023](#)

[Cost Proposal HY Ward 1 03-07-2023](#)

[Hyattsville CS Study 093019 FINAL](#)

9.d. On-Call Stormwater Engineering, Design, and Construction [HCC-303-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$150,000 to SMC for various stormwater projects throughout the City under their existing contract with the City. The Treasurer is authorized to make budget adjustments necessary to fund this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2023 03 03 SMC TO23 Oil Grit Separator Maintenance REV 1.1 \(1\)](#)

[SMC TO19 Proposal Oglethorpe St](#)

[SMC TO20 Proposal Powhatan Rd](#)

[SMC TO21 Proposal Gumwood Drive](#)

[SMC TO22 Proposal Pyramid Atlantic Art Center](#)

[SMC TO23 Proposal Pyramid Atlantic Art Center](#)

9.e. Replacement of Fence - 5600 Block Jamestown Road [HCC-304-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to accept the proposal from Chesapeake Iron Works, Inc. for the replacement of the fence along the 5600 block of Jamestown Road for an expenditure not to exceed \$17,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CITY OF HYATTSVILLE JAMES TOWN PROPOSAL 2-1-23](#)

9.f. Approval of Tree Planting Contracts[HCC-305-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to negotiate agreements with Casey Trees, Lorenz, Inc., and Bry's Lawn Care and Landscaping, LLC to provide Tree Planting services in response to a Request for Proposal. The cumulative expenditure for the agreement is not to exceed \$500,000 over the life of the agreements, pending review by the City Attorney. The Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary adjustments to the budget to facilitate this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [casey trees - tree planting RFP - proposal](#)
[Lorenz inc - tree planting RFP - proposal](#)
[Brys - tree planting RFP - proposal](#)

9.g. Zoning Variance Request V-10-23 - 5608 36th Place, Hyattsville[HCC-306-FY23](#)**Suggested Action:**

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Board of Zoning Appeals in support of V-10-23 for the subject property at 5608 36th Place, Hyattsville, for the purpose of constructing a 3'x7' canopy, requiring a 3' variance to the requirements of Prince George's County Code Section 27-4202 (e)(2).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - V-10-23 Final](#)
[V-10-23 Binder](#)
[City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy Statement & Variance Process ENGLISH](#)

9.h. Zoning Variance Request V-8-23 - 3814 Nicholson Street, Hyattsville[HCC-307-FY23](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to send to the Board of Zoning Appeals a letter in support of V-8-23, for subject property at 3814 Nicholson Street, Hyattsville. The purpose of the zoning variance request is to validate existing conditions of net lot area, lot width, lot frontage, front yard depth and side yard width to enable the approval of a building permit to allow for the construction of a one-story addition on an existing residential dwelling unit.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - V-8-23 FINAL](#)
[V-8-23 Binder](#)
[City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy Statement & Variance Process ENGLISH](#)

9.i. Acceptance of King Park Renovation Petition [HCC-312-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the resident petition regarding the King Park Renovation received by the City Clerk's Office on March 7, 2023.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [KingParkPetitionRedacted](#)

9.j. Letter in Opposition to SB-11 Establishment of School Zones [HCC-313-FY23](#)

I move the City Council to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the General Assembly Environment and Transportation Committee and the State Delegates of District 22 and 47B in opposition to SB-11: Establishment of School Zones.

Sponsors: Denes, Haba, McClellan, Peabody, Sandino, Schaible, Simasek, Solomon, Strab and Waszczak

Attachments: [sb0011t](#)

9.k. Letter in support of SB-813 Flood Management Grant Program [HCC-315-FY23](#)

I move the Council authorize the Mayor to send to the Maryland State Senate a letter in support of SB-813 - Flood Management Program, a bill that will provide \$20 million to the State's existing Comprehensive Flood Management Program.

Sponsors: Croslin, Denes, Haba, McClellan, Simasek, Solomon and Strab

9.l. Hyattsville Ordinance 2023-01: Adopting the Compensation Review Committee Recommendation [HCC-318-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2023-01, an Ordinance whereby the City Council raises the salary of the Mayor and Councilmembers beginning July 1, 2025, and grants raises in each successive year through July 1, 2028 pursuant to the recommendation of the 2022 Compensation Review Committee (FIRST READING).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Ordinance 2023-01 2023 Compensation Ordinance 3.12.23](#)
[Compensation Review Committee & Recommendation Report 2023](#)
[2022 Comp and Review Committee](#)

10. Action Items (9:15 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.)

Letter in Support of CB-32-2023-Better Bag Bill

[HCC-320-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council submit testimony in support of Prince George's County's Better

Bag Bill CB-32-2023, which emphasizes the importance reducing plastic waste and incentivizing reusable bag use through a minimum charge for non-plastic bags at the point of sale.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Haba, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan

Abstain: Strab, and Peabody

**10.a. Zoning Variance Request V-76-22 - 6117 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville
(RECONSIDERATION)**

[HCC-308-FY23](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the Board of Zoning Appeals stating the City's opposition to V-76-22 for the subject property at 6117 42nd Avenue, Hyattsville, and request that the Board deny this application, specifically stating its strong opposition to an 18% variance for net lot coverage.

The correspondence shall also include language to Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPPE) requesting a reasonable degree of remediation to restore permeable surface to the subject property.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - V-76-22 FINAL](#)

[V-76-22 binder](#)

[City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy Statement & Variance
Process ENGLISH](#)

[City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy Statement & Variance
Process SPANISH](#)

City Planner Holly Simmons provided an update on the Zoning Variance Request.

Council Vice-President Schaible asked if the rear of the property is currently paved. Ms. Simmons stated that the area is currently gravel and the applicant is looking to pave that area.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan

10.b. Household Emergency Relief Program Contract Increase and Extension[HCC-299-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to amend the contract with the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation to increase the program administration allocation to an amount not to exceed \$156,000 for program administration, and to maintain the budgeted \$47,000 for outreach activities related to the Household Emergency Relief Program through April 15, 2023. The contract amendment is subject to City Attorney review and approval for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Contract renewal request memo](#)
[Allocation increase request memo](#)

ARPA Fund Manager Patrick Paschall provided background on the request for the additional allocation.

Council President Solomon moved to amend the end date to April 21, 2023. The amendment was seconded by Councilmember Denes and approved unanimously.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan

10.c. Purchase of New City-Wide Security System[HCC-310-FY23](#)

This item was tabled at the Council Meeting of March 6, 2023, and a motion to remove the item from the table must be voted on prior to moving forward with the item.

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Johnson Controls for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, to provide the design and installation of a new city-wide camera-video management system, upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Contract and Quote](#)
[Johnson Controls Proposal](#)

Solomon moved to remove the motion from the table. Councilmember Waszczak seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Councilmember Waszczak asked why the City needs to spend one million dollars on a camera system and what departments would have access to the video feed. Chief of Police Jarod Towers stated the police department and dispatch would monitor the video feed for the cameras. Other departments in the city could use the cameras as a resource when needed. Councilmember Waszczak asked for clarification on the difference between the proposed cameras and tag reader cameras. Chief Towers explained the camera system is not connected to any database which would provide information on the ownership of a vehicle. The cameras will have the capability to read the numbers and letters on a tag, and a search can be done based on this information.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan

Abstain: Haba

11. Council Dialogue (10:15 p.m. - 10:25 p.m.)**12. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:08pm

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that the meeting be Adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: McClellan