

# City of Hyattsville

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NDVI2QPNQeybd8Beq-ce3A](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NDVI2QPNQeybd8Beq-ce3A)**

**Virtual**

## **City Council**

**Robert S. Croslin, Mayor**  
**Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5**  
**Joanne Waszczak, Council Vice President, Ward 1**  
**Sam Denes, Ward 1**  
**Danny Schaible, Ward 2**  
**Emily Strab, Ward 2**  
**Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3**  
**Kareem Redmond, Ward 3**  
**Edouard Haba, Ward 4**  
**Michelle Lee, Ward 4**  
**Rommel Sandino, Ward 5**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator**

**~~Laura Reams, City Clerk, 301-985-5009, [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings) or via email to [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org) no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. Submitted electronic statements will be sent to Councilmembers prior to the meeting and will be included in the official meeting record. Electronically submitted statements will not be read aloud. All participants shall remain respectful in their contributions and associated functions of the virtual meeting interface are not intended for public dialogue or discussion.

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

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**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, September 18, 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](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

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](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings) or via email to [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org) no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. Submitted electronic statements will be sent to Councilmembers prior to the meeting and included in the official meeting record. Electronically submitted statements will not be read aloud. All participants shall remain respectful in their contributions and associated functions of the virtual meeting interface are not intended for public dialogue or discussion.

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\\_NDVI2QPNQeybd8Beq-ce3A](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NDVI2QPNQeybd8Beq-ce3A)

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

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

**Also Present:**

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Chief of Police-Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Services-Jay Joyner

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development-Holly Simmons

Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk

Deputy Director of Public Works-Hal Metzler

Deputy Chief of Police-Laura Lanham

<b>Present:</b>	Council President Joseph Solomon
	Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak
	Councilmember Sam Denes
	Councilmember Danny Schaible
	Councilmember Emily Strab
	Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
	Councilmember Kareem Redmond
	Councilmember Michelle Lee
	Councilmember Edouard Haba
	Councilmember Rommel Sandino
<b>Absent:</b>	Mayor Robert Croslin

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the Agenda be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

**Absent:** Croslin

**4. Approval of the Minutes****4.a. Approval of the Minutes**[HCC-055-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022, March 30, 2022, April 4, 2022, April 18, 2022, May 16, 2022, June 6, 2022, March 20, 2023, March 29, 2023, April 3, 2023, and the June 5, 2023 City Council Meetings.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes CM Jan 18 2022](#)  
[Minutes March 30 2022](#)  
[Minutes April 4 2022](#)  
[MeetingMinutes April 18 2022](#)  
[MeetingMinutes May 16 2022](#)  
[Minutes June 6 2022](#)  
[Minutes March 20 2023](#)  
[Minutes Mar 29 2023](#)  
[Minutes Apr 3 2023](#)  
[Minutes June 5 2023 noon](#)  
[Minutes June 5 2023 7pm](#)

A motion was made by Councilmember Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

**Absent:** Croslin

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

Nathaniel Tombes stated he lives in Ward 2 and is a CPA and experienced auditor. He stated his concerns regarding the City's auditing process. He stated the City has a governance problem regarding the City's auditing process. It has been recently stated in writing to the Mayor and City Council that "significant difficulties were experienced during the audit". He feels the public should have the ability to listen to the auditors give a public presentation of their findings.

Daniel Broder stated his support for the Hyattsville Bodily Autonomy Act. He said that the act would ensure our police department could not provide information related to anyone receiving an abortion.

Lauren Buschba stated she is uncomfortable with the Hyattsville Bodily Autonomy Act and is concerned about some of the legal ramifications of this act.

Caitlin Timmerman stated at this time the Bodily Autonomy Act does not have any real-world applicability since it is noted these practices are legal in Maryland. She stated it is not appropriate for Councilmembers to use their position to pass legislation based on personal opinions.

Marsha Gatling thanked the Councilmembers for approving the grant for her boutique and for the Mayor's visit. She still has not heard back regarding bringing traffic to her area of Baltimore Avenue.

Marie Meszaros has lived in Hyattsville for 5 years. She stated she is disappointed with the Hyattsville Bodily Autonomy Act and opposes it.

Marissa Eckelka stated her opposition to the Bodily Autonomy Act.

Mr. Marshall asked if the Bodily Autonomy Act is needed and the possible effect on police officers. Secondly, he expressed his displeasure about the new public comment format and not being able to use the Q&A function.

Francis Dezelski asked the Council to focus on practical issues instead of the Bodily Autonomy Act.

**6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:45 p.m.)**

City Clerk Laura Reams provided an update on City news and events.

**7. Presentations (7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)**

**7.a. King Park Remediation and Renovation Presentation**[HCC-065-FY24](#)

For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [King Park Presentation Final 20230912](#)

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle and Emily Clifton from Low Impact Development Center provided an update on the Robert J. King Memorial Park.

Councilmember Strab stated the plan looks great and does a good job of incorporating the resident's request. She asked what will be under the playground equipment. Ms. Clifton stated it would be rubberized mulch.

Councilmember Redmond asked to give an explanation as to why the park has been closed for so long. Director Riddle stated there was a school there at one time along with an underground oil tank. The City was unsure if the tank had been remediated properly. This project did take some time to complete after undergoing that process, but she believe the park can be opened by late spring after Council approval of contracts.

Councilmember Waszczak asked which age group best fits this park. Director Riddle stated that based on the information from residents, a playground for children in the two to five year old range was a priority as well as maintaining green space.

**7.b. Rent Stabilization Policy Analysis - Enterprise Community Partners Presentation**[HCC-066-FY24](#)

For Presentation and Discussion

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Final Hyattsville Rent Stabilization Study Report](#)  
[Hyattsville Rent Stabilization Study Presentation](#)

Holly Simmons, Acting Director Community & Economic Development introduced Bithia Ratnasamy Palmer, Jerah Smith, Melissa Bondi, and Erika Foster from Enterprise Community Partners to present their recommendations on rent stabilization in the City of Hyattsville.

Council Vice President Waszczak asked if there is a way to address loopholes regarding fee increases and about the determination of the rent increase limit. Ms. Bondi stated the Federal Government is working on addressing the fee loophole. Ms. Foster added that rent increase limits are often tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), but that it is not always perfect, so it may vary in different jurisdictions.

Councilmember Haba asked if there was any overlapping in the categories of types of rental properties. Ms. Foster replied that there currently there is no overlapping but in the future some properties may overlap into more than one category.

Councilmember Schaible asked about the exemptions for Section 8 housing and the other exemptions proposed by Enterprise in relation to landlords finding ways to increase the rent outside of the allowable rate because of the exemption. He further asked what the rationale is for these types of properties to be exempted. Ms. Bondi responded that the rental rates for such properties are set by HUD and not subject to local regulations.

Councilman Redmond asked if the consultants have ever experienced developers, landlords, or property owners not moving forward with projects due to rent stabilization regulations in a particular area. Ms. Bondi replied that it is recommended to provide a grace period before new developments are subject to rent stabilization regulations.

Council President Solomon asked for clarification on rent banking. Ms. Ratnasamy Palmer clarified that adjustments to rent that utilize rent banking could only occur with a change of tenancy in rental unit.

Acting Director Simmons presented considerations for the Council regarding work at the county level as well as budgetary and capacity impacts related to implementing rent stabilization in the City.

Councilmember Lee asked if the proposed ordinance would be retroactive and give money back to people who had experienced rent increases in the past. Council President Solomon responded it would not be retroactive.

Councilmember Redmond asked about the timing in relation to the proposed County action on rent stabilization. Ms. Simmons replied that there is intention for rent stabilization to be addressed in the County Council's spring session. Councilmember Redmond asked if income level of a renter is a consideration when applying this policy. Ms. Simmons and Ms. Ratnasamy Palmer stated that rent stabilization measures are typically associated with the unit or dwelling rather than the individual(s) that rent them.

Councilmember Strab asked if it makes sense to focus stabilization on units that are at or below a certain price point instead of all rental units throughout the City, specifically luxury apartments. Ms. Ratnasamy Palmer replied that it is not a common practice to exempt higher rent units.

Councilmember Schaible asked what the timeline needs to be to ensure a program can be stood up by April 2024. Ms. Simmons stated that if the goal is to have a policy in place by April 2024, the earlier the attorney can begin drafting an ordinance, the better. She further outlined the specifics needed to get a program in place. Council President Solomon gave an overview of the anticipated schedule of the proposed ordinance to come back to Council. He added that he does not believe the City Council should rely solely on the County Council to address rent stabilization at this point.

## **8. Proclamations**

Both proclamation were adopted in a single vote.

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the proclamations be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

**Absent:** Croslin

### **8.a. Proclamation Declaring September 15, 2023 through October 15, 2023 to be Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville** [HCC-062-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to declare September, 15 2023 through October 15, 2023, to be Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville to honor the contributions of Hispanic and Latino workers, innovators, and leaders.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM0918 Hispanic Heritage Month 2023](#)

**8.b. Proclamation Declaring September 2023 to be National Preparedness Month** [HCC-063-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation declaring September 2023 to be National Preparedness Month.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM0918 National Preparedness Month 2023](#)

**9. Appointments**

All appointments were approved in a single vote.

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the Appointments be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

**Absent:** Croslin

**9.a. Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee** [HCC-057-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Lena Bradley (Ward 2) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on September 30, 2025.

Sponsors: McClellan and Redmond

Attachments: [Lena Bradley Apr 27,23 redac](#)

**9.b. Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee** [HCC-058-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Nicole Betschman (Ward 3) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on September 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Lee

Attachments: [Nicole Betschman W3 Aug2,23 redac](#)

**9.c. Appointment to the Ethics Commission** [HCC-068-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor, with Council approval, reappoint David Sip (Ward 1) to the Ethics Commission for a term of three (3) years to end on September 30, 2026.

Sponsors: Croslin

Attachments: [David Sip Redacted](#)

**10. Consent Items (9:00 p.m. - 9:05 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 Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Haba, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

**Absent:** Croslin

**10.a. Lower Ward 1 Resiliency Projects Design**[\*\*HCC-039-FY24\*\*](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize expenditures not to exceed \$49,000 to Toole Design Group, \$72,000 to Pennoni Associates, and \$62,000 to SMC for the design of Lower Ward 1 Resiliency projects utilizing their existing contracts with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [combined proposals 07172023nw \(1\)](#)

**10.b. CapWIN Membership Annual Cost Update Request**[\*\*HCC-047-FY24\*\*](#)

I move that Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to approve the CapWIN membership annual cost of \$11,370.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2022.05.03 - CapWIN Agreement](#)  
[2022.07.19 - Original CapWIN Membership \(w cost\)](#)  
[2022.08.14 - Requested CapWIN Membership Update \(w cost\)](#)

**10.c. KEYper Systems Upgrade Purchase Request**[\*\*HCC-048-FY24\*\*](#)

I move that Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure in the amount of \$13,722.50 for the Police Department's purchase of the 5-panel upgrade for the current MXi KEYper System.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2023.08.17 - PD KEYper System Key Management Purchase Approval Request](#)

**10.d. FY24 Budget Appropriation: MNCPPC Grant for Recreation Activities**[\*\*HCC-049-FY24\*\*](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the FY23 Special Revenues Funds Budget to accept and appropriate the grant award in the amount of \$19,000 from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and authorize the City Administrator to sign the contract, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney, for legal sufficiency

Sponsors: City Administrator

**10.e. Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)** [HCC-050-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for access to ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) data, pending review and approval by the City Attorney.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [NESS MOU Fillable v4](#)

**10.f. Hyattsville Resolution 2024-04: Enhanced Mobility Grant Program** [HCC-051-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2024-04, a Resolution of the City Council of Hyattsville, Maryland, whereby the City authorizes the submission of a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility Program (INTRODUCTION & ADOPTION)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Resolution 2023-04 EM Application Authorization 8.5.23](#)

**10.g. ARPA Approved Project: Project Title Name Change** [HCC-053-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize a change in the title of the previously approved motion #HCC-376-FY23 "City Building 2nd Floor Renovations" to "Municipal Building Renovations" with no change in ARPA funding amount of \$800K to cover repairs and upgrades required in the municipal building including the 2nd floor.

Sponsors: City Administrator

**10.h. Memorandum of Understanding: Heritage Garden at McClanahan Park** [HCC-054-FY24](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Anacostia Watershed Society, Master Naturalist Program for the use and administration of a 'Heritage Garden' at McClanahan Park, pending review and approval of the City Attorney.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Heritage Garden at McClanahan Park](#)  
[Draft MOU McClanahan Heritage Garden](#)

**10.i. Disbursement of Ward 3 Discretionary Funds**[\*\*HCC-056-FY24\*\*](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the disbursement of \$134.77 of Ward 3 FY24 discretionary funds to Councilmember McClellan as reimbursement for the purchase of refreshments for the September 9, 2023, Ward 3 Check-in.

Sponsors: Redmond and McClellan

Attachments: [IMG 5994 redac](#)

**10.j. ARPA: Hyattsville Crossing Business Improvement District (BID) - Phase 4**[\*\*HCC-060-FY24\*\*](#)

I move the Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a work order in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 with HR&A Advisors, 925 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, for the purpose of providing consulting services related to the formation of the Hyattsville Crossing Business Improvement District (BID). The cost of this project is being funded through ARPA Funds.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo-Hyattsville Crossing Bid](#)  
[Hyattsville Crossing BID Phase 4 Proposal](#)

**10.k. Canvas Apartments Change of Address Request**[\*\*HCC-061-FY24\*\*](#)

I move that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission acknowledging and approving the request to change the address of the main residential building from 5334 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville, to 5300 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - Canvas Apartments Change of Address Request](#)

**10.l. Purchase of Playground Engineered Wood Fiber Mulch**[\*\*HCC-064-FY24\*\*](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Playground Specialist for purchase and installation of Engineered Wood Fiber Mulch at various playgrounds in the City of Hyattsville for an expenditure not to exceed \$18,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [PROPOSAL #28179A](#)  
[PROPOSAL #28180A](#)  
[PROPOSAL #28181A](#)  
[PROPOSAL #28182A](#)

**10.m. Purchase of a Dual-Purpose Patrol Dog for the City of Hyattsville Police Department's Canine Unit**[HCC-070-FY24](#)

I move that Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to purchase one dual purpose patrol canine from High Drive K-9, Inc for a cost not to exceed \$11,529.41.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2023.09.11 - PD Canine Purchase FY24](#)

**11. Action Items (9:05 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.)****11.a. Letter of Support: Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity & Reliability Study (Expanded Metro Rail, Service)**[HCC-067-FY24](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the WMATA Board of Directors expressing the City's general support for expanded rail transit in and around the City of Hyattsville and specific support for Alternatives 3 and 5 as WMATA identifies a Locally-Preferred Alternative (LPA) to inform the NEPA process for the Blue/Orange/Silver Study. The correspondence shall also express the City's interest in proactively engaging and collaborating with Metro as the project progresses.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - Blue, Orange, Silver Capacity & Reliability Study](#)  
[Alternatives - Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity & Reliability](#)

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development Holly Simmons provided information regarding the proposed letter to WMATA regarding the proposals for expanded rail transit in the region.

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

**Absent:** Croslin

**11.b. Letter of Support: “The Walkable Urban Streets Act”, CB-069-2023, and the accompanying Council Resolutions CB-067-2023 and CB-068-2023** [HCC-069-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City to send a letter to the Prince George’s County Council in support of CB-069-2023, and the accompanying Council Resolutions CB-067-2023 and CB-068-2023.

Furthermore, we request that an amendment to CB-069-2023 be considered to strike or revise the broad exceptions provided in lines 6-9 of the Bill, which is holdover language from current law (i.e., strike "except when costs shall be demonstrated to be disproportionate to the projected need, or when such facilities would be inappropriate due to the nature of the project, including the context and character of the surrounding built and natural environment of the surrounding neighborhood or area").

Sponsors: Schaible, Solomon, Waszczak and Denes

Councilmember Schaible provided details on the request for the letter of support.

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

**Aye:** Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, McClellan, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

**Absent:** Croslin

**12. Discussion Items (9:25 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)**

**12.a. Hyattsville Bodily Autonomy Act**[HCC-052-FY24](#)

FOR DISCUSSION, SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE BELOW:

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Attorney to draft an ordinance establishing Hyattsville as a City which protects bodily autonomy for women seeking abortions and other reproductive health care and health care providers providing abortions and women's health care services, as well as individuals receiving gender affirming care and people providing gender affirming care and other gender affirming care services: establishing the right to seek and provide reproductive and gender affirming care as a protected non-discrimination class and prohibit law enforcement employed and managed by the City of Hyattsville from sharing information about women's health care and health care procedures and people giving and receiving gender affirming care with other local, state and national law enforcement bodies.

Sponsors: Denes, Waszczak, Schaible, Solomon and McClellan

Attachments: [Hyattsville Bodily Autonomy Act Draft Definitions Language](#)  
[Hyattsville Bodily Autonomy Act Draft Ordinance Language](#)

Councilmember Denes provided an overview of the act. He added that the act seeks to clarify the City's position so that City Employees are not responsible for interpreting the law.

Councilmember Redmond asked if there a population within Hyattsville who is calling for this or is there a group of people who have been harmed? He asked if the City does not act with this legislation what will happen? Councilmember Denes stated he is not aware of any action request from outside agencies, but that there have been a number of constituents who have requested the Council address this subject.

Chief Towers stated the Police Department has not received any request from outside agencies requesting assistance. Deputy Chief Laura Lanham referenced that the document was dense and was unable to fully understand it. She expressed that she has not seen the need for this, and is concerned that this might hinder the police's ability to investigate certain crimes. She expressed that while the proposed ordinance is well intentioned, she has concerns about it.

Council President Solomon provided further clarity on the intent, noting that the proposed ordinance was cumbersome to read.

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner stated that Maryland Governor Moore has already put protections in place for the entire state. Councilmember Denes stated that those protections occur at the court level while this ordinance acts at the police level to prevent further trauma to individuals.

Councilmember Strab started by expressing her concerns with the way the language is written, and its impact on mandatory reporters and that the language suggest reporting certain crimes would be illegal. She also stated that she fears her ability to express her personal beliefs regarding abortion would be curtailed.

Councilmember Waszczak stated she is a co-sponsor of this ordinance because she sees the value in protecting people's rights. She relayed a personal experience illustrating the need for this ordinance.

Councilmember Haba thanked the motion makers, and stated his recognition of this as a sensitive topic. He stated he would like to send this request to the City Attorney to draft an ordinance which is clearer to read, noting that he has concerns in regard to the language as it currently reads.

Councilmember Lee stated she was confused by the draft and breaking it down would be helpful. She referenced the public comments residents who oppose this legislation and that Governor Moore has already designated Maryland as a safe haven. She questioned why Hyattsville must take on the heavy lifting of this legislation since it is already in place with State Laws.

Councilmember Sandino referenced the fall of Roe v Wade in regards to the need for this legislation, and he thanked his colleagues for moving forward with this ordinance.

**13. Council Dialogue (9:45 p.m. - 9:55 p.m.)**

**14. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 p.m.