

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2022

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BSIP9n_hS6iJkk4KRiOENg

Virtual

City Council

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

Present: Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Ben Simasek
Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent: Councilmember Joanne Waszczak

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:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022 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_BSIP9n_hS6iJJK4KRIOENg

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator Douglas

Assistant City Administrator & Director of Community and Economic Development Chandler

Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Towers

Director of Public Works Riddle

Deputy Director of Public Works Metzler

City Clerk Reams

ARPA Program Manager Paschall

Present: Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Ben Simasek
Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent: Councilmember Joanne Waszczak

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

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

Melissa Schweisguth addressed the Council in support of using the lower tax rate as opposed to a timely and potentially labor-intensive process for receiving tax credits.

David Marshall said he was concerned about items on the agenda for ARPA which did not have previous Council discussion. He also spoke in support of a lower tax rate and suggested \$0.60 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

5. Community Notices and Meetings

This agenda item was Read into the Record.

5.a. Main City Calendar: April 19 - May 2, 2022[HCC-337-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City Calendar Apr 18 - May 2 2022](#)

6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:35 p.m.)

City Administrator Douglas provided an update on several items and upcoming events. She recognized National Volunteer week and National Public Safety Telecommunications Week and noted the ongoing Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance update. Ms. Douglas also highlighted recent City events including the Egg Hunt, senior events, and the recent youth college tour of Old Dominion University. Upcoming events included the Anniversary Festival, HY-Swap, and Arbor Day. Administrator Douglas also provided a brief update on the upcoming Special Mayoral Election stating that ballots will be mailed to all voters in early May.

Councilmember Haba inquired about the communications tools on the consent agenda for approval.

Communications Manager Zork provided a brief description of the tools which included an improved email and text communication tool, a citizen engagement website, and an AI communications platform for surveying and providing information to residents via a QR code. Ms. Zork provided information on how the tools would be utilized for ARPA outreach and noted that there was potential for the Citizen Lab platform to integrate with the Hello Lampost tool. Communications Director Reams noted that the platforms were complementary to each other and part of a multi-pronged approach to share and receive information from residents.

7. Presentations (7:35 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

7.a. Presentation of the 2022 Special Mayoral Election Candidates[HCC-330-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Clerk Reams introduced Board of Supervisors of Elections Chair Zachary Peters. Mr. Peters announced the certified candidates for the Special Mayoral Elections as Vish Bhatt, Danny Schaible, and Robert Croslin. Mr. Peters provided information on the ways in which voters could participate in the election on June 7 and opportunities to learn more about the candidates.

7.b. Environmental Depot Concept[HCC-296-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Enviro Depot Presentation 041822](#)

Director of Public Works Riddle introduced Emily Clifton and Blair Daniels from the Low Impact Development Center to present the conceptual design for an Environmental Depot. The needs identified for the depot included oil, antifreeze, and household paint recycling drop off, electric charging stations, and general recycling for general recyclables, food scraps and electronics. As conceptualized the depot would be open to all City residents and located in a building just outside of the existing DPW facility. Ms. Clifton cited the desire for the building to be multifunctional and be able to serve as a place to hold City events, and potentially include an outdoor classroom meeting space. Ms. Clifton presented the conceptual design, highlighting various key functionalities throughout the design.

Councilmember Haba expressed his support for the project and said he looked forward to seeing it come to fruition.

Councilmember Denes asked if the facility could support bulk trash recycling including the disposal of mattresses. Director Riddle noted that a great deal of bulk trash pickups was for mattresses and said the City was looking for a firm to assist in the recycling of mattresses.

Council Vice President Schaible noted the current long lead time for bulk trash pickup and said the depot could be a good resource for residents. He also suggested that the facility be able to support the recycling of florescent tube lights and batteries and said a facility that could support a large variety of recycling needs would be a great asset to the community.

City Administrator Douglas said the City planned to pursue grants to support the development of the Environmental Depot.

7.c. Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) Introduction & Overview[HCC-334-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

City Administrator Douglas introduced the presentation stating that the intent was to provide information to the Council and residents on the operations and needs of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department.

Emergency Operations Manager Reggie Bagley presented an overview of the Fire Department operations and their history and their funding sources. He stated that the Fire Department operated as its own independent corporate entity and relied in part on fundraisers to support operations. Mr. Bagley reviewed the operational needs of the department and stated that a large financial deficit existed between the County provided funding and the funding requirement to support the operations of the Fire Department. He said the County paid station utilities and a stipend for operations and apparatus maintenance. He noted that Fire Chief Ryan Pidgeon was present at the meeting and available to answer questions from Council.

City Administrator Douglas said the City provided \$50,000 in funding annually and had provided vehicle loans in the past. She noted that that City has a very good relationship with the Fire Department, and they had provided training for City employees. Ms. Douglas said the Fire Department would present to the Council at an upcoming meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the department's vehicle needs and maintenance of those vehicles.

Councilmember Simasek asked if the City had assisted with the purchase of a vehicle for the Fire Department in recent years and if the funds were part of the annual \$50,000 allocated to the Department.

Mr. Bagley said the City had made a loan for the vehicle purchase and the loan had been repaid.

Council Vice President Schaible asked if the Fire Department received revenue from ambulance transportation.

Mr. Bagley and Fire Chief Pidgeon responded that the department did receive revenue from ambulance billing, but it was not a guaranteed source of income.

Council Vice President Schaible spoke in favor of transparent accounting for the Fire Department operations should there be an ask of greater financial support from the City.

Councilmember Solomon asked how the City's funding support compared to other communities. Mr. Bagley spoke to his experience in the Town of Brentwood and said the town was limited in the amount of financial support they could offer. Councilmember Solomon asked what other funding options the Fire Department had available. Mr. Bagley said additional funding came from various fundraisers and from asking for financial support from the communities served by the department.

8. Proclamations (8:15 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)**8.a. Arbor Day Proclamation**[HCC-327-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0418 Arbor Day 2022](#)

This agenda item was Adopted.

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

Absent: Waszczak

9. Appointments (8:15 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)**9.a. Appointments to the Hyattsville Environment Committee**[HCC-333-FY22](#)

Sponsors: Haba and Simasek

Attachments: [Daisy Bett_HEC_redacted](#)
[Melissa Schweisguth_HEC_redacted](#)

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

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

Absent: Waszczak

9.b. Appointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee[HCC-336-FY22](#)

Sponsors: Sandino

Attachments: [PPSCAC Julio Gomez_redacted](#)

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

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

Absent: Waszczak

10. Consent Items (8:20 p.m. - 8:25 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 Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Peabody, that the consent agenda items be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Waszczak

- 10.a.** MOU Between the City of Hyattsville, Town of Brentwood, and the City of Mt. Rainier Concerning Hyattsville's Joint Crisis Response Program [HCC-315-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [MOU Cit Final](#)

- 10.b.** Change Order to the On-call Transportation and Stormwater/Environmental Design and Engineering Contracts [HCC-321-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

- 10.c.** Decommissioning and Surplus of Public Works Equipment [HCC-326-FY22](#)

Sponsors: Douglas

Attachments: [220408 - memo - surplus items](#)

- 10.d.** Reschedule Public Hearing for Traffic Calming Petition - Lancer Drive, Longfellow Street and 41st Place [HCC-328-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Lancer Drive Petition](#)
[3500 block Longfellow Street Traffic Calming Petition_map_redacted](#)
[41St Place Between Decatur & Emerson St Petition_Redacted_with map](#)
[Traffic Calming Flowchart](#)
[114-8 Traffic Calming Devices](#)

- 10.e.** Selection of GovDelivery as the City's new e-mail and text notice provider [HCC-331-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville, MD_govDelivery](#)

- 10.f.** Selection of Hello Lampost as a new Community Engagement Tool [HCC-332-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hello Hyattsville! Proposal](#)
[Hello Hyattsville! service agreement 4.11](#)
[Sole Source Justification .docx](#)

10.g. Selection of CitizenLab as the City's Online Engagement Platform[HCC-335-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CitizenLab Proposal - Hyattsville, MD](#)
[CitizenLab Demo Slides - Hyattsville, MD](#)

11. Action Items (8:25 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)**11.a.** Awarding of the Contract for the 3505 Hamilton Street Public Safety Building Adaptive Reuse Project[HCC-317-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [220329 - memo - 3505 contractor selection](#)
[Whiting-Turner Submission City of Hyattsville March 11, 2022 - council motion](#)
[220131 - RFP - DPW21-005 - Public Safety Building Adaptive Reuse](#)

Council Vice President Schaible requested staff provide an overview of the purpose and need of the Public Safety facility and the increase in cost for the project.

City Administrator Douglas and Director Riddle provided background information. She noted that the project began approximately eight (8) years ago with recognition of deficiencies in the existing police department regarding lack of space and security concerns. Ms. Douglas highlighted specific needs including additional office space, a sally port, training, and fitness facilities. She also noted that the City owned the vacant building at 3505 Hamilton Street and annually incurred costs to maintain the vacant property. The location of the building was also advantageous for the location of a public safety building due to its proximity to arterial roads of the City. Director Riddle and Deputy Director Metzler provided additional information on the proposed facility and the needs of the department, stating that the new Public Safety building would accommodate the needs of the Police Department in the near term but also allow for long term growth.

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

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

Absent: Waszczak

- 11.b.** 3505 Hamilton Street Construction Administration, Construction Management, Third Party Inspection, and Commissioning [HCC-320-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [TO 01E CM Services](#)
[TO 01G Commissioning Services \(1\)](#)
[TO 01F - CA Services](#)
[TO 01H Third Party Inspectors](#)

Councilmember Solomon thanked City staff for their work said the community was thankful for the project and anxious to see it get started.

This agenda item was Approved.

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

Absent: Waszczak

- 12. Discussion Items (8:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)**

12.a. Individual Emergency Relief Programs - ARPA[HCC-322-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

ARPA Program Manager Paschall provided an overview of the four (4) programs on the Council's discussion agenda. He noted that some programs discussion previously such as public wifi and affordable housing support were not included in the programs on the agenda that evening but would be revisited at a later time in the ARPA process. He also noted that the Council would soon see additional ARPA allocations related to the renovation of Council Chambers and the installation of the Portland Loos. He opened the floor for questions on the proposed programs.

Councilmember Denes asked for additional information on the medical bill relief program and if the intention was not to require the residents to demonstrate need to receive the payment assistance. Manager Paschall confirmed that medical bill assistance was allowable and he would be working with the City's ARPA advisor to make sure the program structure adhered to requirements of ARPA funding. He said the program as proposed would serve up to 20 individuals and if needed exceeded that amount, staff would request additional funding from Council.

Councilmember Haba requested details on eligibility. Manager Paschall responded that the City would work with its ARPA advisor to ensure the criteria met the legal definition for individuals who experienced negative impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilmember Haba requested a list of the eligibility criteria when it was developed. Councilmember Haba also inquired about auditing requirements and documentation.

There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed structure of the medical reimbursement program.

12.b. Food Assistance Relief Program - ARPA[HCC-325-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Councilmember Haba asked how many food assistance programs were currently operating in the City. ARPA Manager Paschall responded that the City was aware of four programs and provided details regarding program eligibility.

12.c. Business Emergency Relief - ARPA[HCC-323-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

ARPA Manager Paschall provided an overview of the proposed business relief program stating that the award would be up to \$25,000 to those business which could show they suffered harm during the pandemic. Councilmember Simasek asked how franchise business would be treated under the relief program. Mr. Paschall responded that if the business is located in the City, it would be eligible for relief but the goal was to focus on locally owned businesses. Councilmember Solomon asked several questions regarding how the relief fund would handle 1099 employees. Mr. Paschall provided information on the program parameters noting that businesses applying for relief must be licensed and in good standing with the City.

12.d. Non-Profit Emergency Relief - ARPA[HCC-324-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

ARPA Manager Paschall provided an overview of the non-profit relief fund. Councilmember Simasek asked if child care businesses would be eligible under the non-profit fund to which Mr. Paschall responded in the affirmative. Councilmember Haba inquired about the differences between the non-profit relief fund and the food assistance relief fund and noted that it was not desirable to have overlap between the two programs.

At the close of the discussion, Interim Mayor Croslin asked if the Council wanted to move the programs to action that evening. Council stated a preference for bringing the items back at the next meeting for a vote.

12.e. Open FY23 Budget Discussion - Real Property Tax Rate[HCC-329-FY22](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY23 Real Property Tax Rate Slide](#)

City Treasurer Brooks provided an overview of the proposed real property tax rate for Fiscal Year 2023, noting the rate was proposed at \$0.63 cents per \$100 of assessed value. He reviewed a spreadsheet showing differences in the revenue generated from different rates and information regarding the process for setting the tax rate.

Councilmember Haba stated a preference for the City to utilize the constant yield rate for FY23 of \$0.59 cents or at rate of \$0.60 cents, citing the difficult economic times.

Councilmember Denes stated his preference for maintaining the \$0.63 cents rate noting that the individuals who would see the largest benefit from a reduction in property taxes were those whose houses were of the highest value. He advocated for targeted property tax relief programs for individuals. Councilmember Simasek agreed with Councilmember Denes, adding that the biggest benefit of cutting property tax would be owners of commercial properties that were likely not City residents.

Councilmember Schaible also advocated for the City to review its homeowner tax relief programs as a priority in the next year.

Councilmember Solomon stated his agreement with reviewing available programs but also advocated for lowering the rate.

City Treasurer Brooks stated that the City planned to hire a consultant to review the available tax relief programs.

13. Council Dialogue (10:00 p.m. - 10:10 p.m.)**14. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Waszczak