

City of Hyattsville

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



Summary Regular Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2jy9bxkvTPOGYUoIGL_Rrw

Monday, March 3, 2025

7:00 PM

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
Kareem Redmond, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Michelle Lee, Ward 4
Rommel Sandino, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator
Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk, 301-985-5001, 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 via email to 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 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

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 3, 2025, 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_2jy9bxkvTPOGYUoIGL_Rrw

1. **Call to Order and Council Roll Call** **Call to Order at 7:02 PM**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Approval of Agenda** **Approved, Unanimous**
4. **Public Comment (7:10 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.)** Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker
5. **City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:40 p.m.)**
Electronically submitted public comments can be found at the end of this summary.
6. **Proclamations** **Approved, Unanimous**

- 6.a. **Proclamation Celebrating March 19, 2025, as Women in Public Office Day in the City of Hyattsville** [HCC-255-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation celebrating March 19, 2025, as Women in Public Office Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

- 6.b.** Proclamation Celebrating March 2025 as Women's History Month in the City of Hyattsville [HCC-256-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim March 2025 to be Women's History Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [CM 0303 Women's History Month 2025.pdf](#)

7. Appointments Approved, Unanimous

- 7.a. Appointment to the Educational Facilities Task Force** [HCC-265-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Marya Burks (Ward 1) to the Educational Facilities Task Force for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 3, 2027.

Sponsors: Waszczak

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [Maraya Burks W1 Jan 2025 redac](#)

- 7.b. Appointments to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee** [HCC-266-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Michael Bonds (Ward 3) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 3, 2027.

Sponsors: Redmond

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [Michael Bonds W3 Jan 2025 redac](#)

8. Consent Items (7:40 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.) Approved, Unanimous

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.

8.a. Zoning Variance Request V-93-24 - 6006 Queens Chapel Rd Hyattsville [HCC-249-FY25](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support to the Board of Zoning Appeals for the subject property at 6006 Queens Chapel Rd, Hyattsville application #V-93-24; granting relief from Prince Georges County Zoning Code section 27-10003(a) Decks, Porches, and Balconies, for a rear lot line setback of 6.33' ft to validate a non-conforming rear deck where decks may extend up to 5ft into any required yard.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community & Economic Development

Attachments: [2025-02-07 Memo-V-93-24 .ju](#)
[V-93-24 Binder](#)
[City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy Statement & Variance Process ENGLISH](#)

8.b. Disbursement of Ward 1 Discretionary Funds [HCC-254-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council approve the disbursement of \$500 of Ward 1 discretionary funds to the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (HyCDC) to support Trolley Trail Day engagement activities.

Sponsors: Denes and Waszczak

Department: Legislative

8.c. Council Meeting Schedule Update [HCC-264-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council approve the following update to the schedule of Council Meetings:

-The introduction of the budget scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025 will now be held on Monday, March 24, 2025.

-The in-person budget work session scheduled for February 24, 2025 will now be held on Monday, March 31, 2025.

-The in-person budget work session scheduled for February 26, 2025 will now be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

8.d. FY25 Budget Appropriation: MNCPPC Project Grant for Recreation Activities [HCC-257-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the FY25 Special Revenues Funds Budget to accept and appropriate the grant award in the amount of \$200,000 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

Department: Community Services

Attachments: [City of Hyattsville - FY25 Project Charge Contract](#)

8.e. Purchase of Replacement Vehicles for Police Department [HCC-263-FY25](#)

I move Mayor and Council authorize the purchase two (2) Ford Explorers from Koons Baltimore Ford, in the amount not to exceed \$112,046.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Police Department

Attachments: [Ford Explorer Request Memo - Koons Baltimore Ford](#)

9. Action Items (7:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)**9.a. Amend City Code Chapter 108: Homeowner's and Homestead Property Tax Credit Programs** [HCC-261-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 108-2 and 108-3 as follows:

Section 108-2: Homestead Property Tax Credit Program

- Amend the effective date to July 1, 2025
- Reduce the taxable assessment cap down from 110% to 106%.

Section 108-3: Local supplement to the state homeowners property tax credit

- Assessed Value Limit - increase to \$415,000.
- Combined Net Worth Limit - increase to \$400,000.
- Combine Gross Income Limit - increase to \$90,000.

The proposed updates must be provided to the State Department of Assessment and Taxation before or on March 25, 2025, to take effect this property tax billing cycle.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Finance

Motion to amend the taxable assessment cap reduction of the Homestead Property Tax Credit Program to 105% from 110% made by CM Schaible and seconded by CM Haba.

Yes: 4/No: 5/Absent: 1 The motion did not pass.

Motion to amend the assessed value limit of the state homeowners property tax credit to \$500,000 made by Council President Solomon and seconded by CM Haba.

Yes: 7/No: 2/Absent: 1 The motion passed.

Motion to pass the amended motion made by Council President Solomon and seconded by CM Denes.
Approved, Unanimous.

10. Discussion Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)

10.a. FY26 Budget Discussion - Real Property Tax Rate and Constant Yield Tax Rate [HCC-258-FY25](#)

The City Treasurer will provide an overview of the current Real Property Tax Rate and the recommended SDAT Constant Yield Tax Rate as well as revenue projections. The City Council can use this information to discuss and make a recommendation on setting the FY26 General Operating Budget Real Property Tax Rate. The information is being provided in advance of the proposed budget presentation scheduled for March 24, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Finance

Attachments:

11. Council Dialogue (8:45 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)

12. Motion to Adjourn **Approved, Unanimous
The meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.**

Attest: March 4, 2025



Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk

Council meeting on March 03, 2025 - Feedback on the FY26 Budget and Opportunities for Savings

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 3/3/2025 12:49 PM
To [REDACTED]
Cc [REDACTED]

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council Members,

It was a pleasure meeting you during the Council Meeting on February 18. Managing a city of 20,000 residents with a budget of approximately \$27 million, is no small task, and I appreciate your dedication and hard work.

During the Council Dialogue on February 18, several council members encouraged residents to provide input on the FY26 budget. During the meeting, six residents expressed the importance of crafting a FY26 budget without deficits. Given the increased spending in FY24 and FY25, I recognize that this will be a difficult challenge.

To assist in this effort, I conducted an analysis of the FY25 budget report to identify potential areas for savings. The analysis does not include the potential savings of reducing 170 approved positions to the number that is more conservative – which is 100-150 employees for the city of our size. Council may look into this separately.

Spending Trends

Over the past two years, expenditures increased by 27%, while revenue grew by only 7%. The tables at the end of the message highlights individual expenditure categories, with percentage increases between FY23 and FY25. Increases above 20% are shown in red. The second column shows the dollar amount of these increases, which may help identify areas where savings could be found.

High Fringe Costs

The “% Fringe / Salary” column in the table provides the ratio of fringe benefits to salaries. Yellow highlights indicate results exceeding industry standards.

Industry standards suggest fringe benefits typically range between 22% and 32%, and between 20% and 40% for police departments. However, in our case, most fringe rates exceed these ranges, with Human Resources fringes reaching 158% of salaries.

In FY25, salaries account for approximately \$14 million, while fringes total around \$7 million — a ratio of 53%. Reducing this to around 30% could save the city around \$3 million.

High Consulting Fees

Consulting fees are also notably high. It would be useful for the city to maintain and share a comprehensive summary of all consulting expenditures. If such a summary does not exist, I am happy to calculate these figures from the FY25 report ahead of the next meeting. Considering the current climate

of layoffs and economic uncertainty, it may be possible to renegotiate contracts or open new competitive bids, which could lower these costs.

Budget Reconciliation

It is unfortunate that the city, despite its greater expertise in budgeting, is not required to reconcile its expenditures to fit the city revenue. I hope my analysis, based on the FY25 budget report, will assist with the reconciliation efforts that the Council must undertake. I would also encourage the Council to request an official reconciliation directly from the city to ensure accuracy and alignment.

Thank you for your attention, and I offer my best wishes for your continued efforts on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,
Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic

Expenditures	Fund	%Change 23 to 25	\$Change 23 to 25	% Fringe/Salary
City Council		17.37	41,118	21.62
City Clerk	#101	-0.43	-1,562	44.23
Mayor		32.75	7,872	21.62
Elections	#130	-19.99	-30,749	
Legislative			15,869	
City Treasurer Finance	#140	13.85	124,276	39.48
Legal		58.54	64,619	0.00
Human Resources	#160	33.46	287,628	158.96
City Administrator	#180	-12.82	-113,158	31.68
Volunteer Serv.	#187	-13.46	-21,598	49.51
Age Friendly Services	#455	75.66	159,192	42.50
Information Technology	#101	9.31	63,366	22.87
Communications	#182	25.14	113,169	33.69
Cable TV	#185	2.65	5,789	50.72
GIS	#195	47.68	52,666	29.79
Comm. Services Admin	#183	130.51	297,848	28.61
General Gov.			1,032,779	
Police OTC	#200	-24.95	-455,833	52.10
Police Special Serv.	#201	125.46	1,279,452	70.68
Patrol	#202	-8.16	-457,599	65.22
Police Support Services	#204	13.87	242,343	40.34
Admin. Services - New	#205		681,544	47.24
General Ops (gas, maintenance)	#209		820,120	
Redlight Camera Program			295,000	

Expenditures	Fund	%Change 23 to 25	\$Change 23 to 25	% Fringe/Salary
Police Dept.			2,405,007	
Fire Vol	#211		0	
Code Compliance	#231	39.57	245,020	57.17
Public Works Administration	#300	87.55	849,806	47.71
Highway/Street Operations	#311	25.53	246,466	56.89
Sanitation Operations	#351	10.48	202,370	51.97
Bldg./Ground Maintenance #381		39.51	309,773	47.56
Vehicle Maintenance #382		-15.61	-83,318	45.74
Parks Operations	#601	14.22	144,252	54.96
Public Works			1,649,409	
Call-A-Bus	#450	70.46	89,114	42.94
Recreation/Teen Center	#611	15.41	107,801	38.34
Recreation and Arts			250,355	
Community Development	#799	52.40	370,042	33.31
Other finance Uses - Transfers			1,764,541	
Proposed COLA			452,000	
Total Expenditures & Transfers		33.58	8,131,582	53.27