

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 18, 2021

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_98mLVU1fTbGTMB74ySzMSA

Virtual

City Council

Kevin Ward, Mayor

Robert Croslin, Council President, Ward 2

Danny Schaible, Council Vice President, Ward 2

Sam Denes, Ward 1

Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1

Ben Simasek, Ward 3

Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3

Daniel Peabody, Ward 4

Edouard Haba, Ward 4

Joseph Solomon, Ward 5

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:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, October 18, 2021 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:

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.

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_98mLVU1fTbGTMB74ySzMSA

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Also Present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

City Clerk-Laura Reams

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

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

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

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

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

-Mr. Marshall: I have a few items I would like to comment on from tonight's agenda. I am supportive of tonight's staff recognition, and this has been a long time coming. Secondly regarding item HCC-113-FY22, when you get to this can someone, please explain what an environmental depot is and how it will serve the city? Additionally, I am opposed to the Ward 2 discretionary funds that are being proposed to be used for the refugees. Lastly, HCC-125-FY22 - Gas leaf Blower proposal. I think this is a terrible use of city funds. It should not be the Council's position to invest tax dollars in this program.

-Mr. Greg Smith: I sent an email earlier today summarizing the Countywide mapping services. We have raised concerns about the rollout of this map, and we are asking for a second hearing after reviewing the records.

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

City Administrator Tracey Douglas updated the Mayor and Council on City related news and events.

6. Recognition of Excellence in Service: Kate Powers, Lieutenant Colonel Scott Dunklee, and Cheri Everhart (7:35 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)

City Clerk Laura Reams read the certificates of appreciation for Cheri Everhart and Lt. Colonel Scott Dunklee.

7. Presentations (7:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

7.a) Healthy Trees Hyattsville[HCC-117-FY22](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Healthy Trees Hyattsville Presentation \(1\) Final](#)

Hyattsville Manager of Environmental Programs Dawn Taft, presented on Healthy Trees Hyattsville. This program will assist residents with Tree Care for the pruning and removal of trees. Other areas of the project will contain Stormwater Management/Education for tree care on private and City property including leaf programs, raincheck rebates, rain barrels, master watershed steward sponsorship, and mosquito control program.

Councilmember Danny Schaible asked about citizen assistance with tree removal. Ms. Taft replied that the City is seeking grant funding for pruning, tree care, etc.

Councilmember Solomon asked about the implementation timeline. Ms. Taft responded that the City is looking to fund the next few years with the budget until grant funding becomes available. There will be a need to bring the program back for Council approval and request funding in the FY23 budget.

Councilmember Ben Simasek asked what the plan for the outreach to the community is as a lot of folks may not be aware of the tree removal process. He also inquired if there is a plan for proactive tree removal and care. Ms. Taft replied that the intention is to work with City Clerk Reams to get the information out to the public.

7.b) Hyattsville Watershed Implementation Plan[HCC-118-FY22](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville's Watershed Implementation Plan Draft 10-11-21 \(1\)](#)

Hyattsville Manager of Environmental Programs Dawn Taft explained how she worked with the University of Maryland to develop the Watershed Implementation Plan. Hyattsville is the second city in Maryland to have its own watershed plan. This plan will engage the public regarding what the City currently does and will do in the future to mitigate stormwater.

7.c) Riverfront at West Hyattsville Multifamily Buildings - Detailed Site Plan[HCC-120-FY22](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Presentation Memo - West HVL MF - DSP](#)
[Council Materials 10.18.21 - West Hyattsville Multifamily Phase 1](#)

Mr. Bobby Gilbane with Gilbane Development presented the 1st phase design which will include 299 housing units with a little less than 3000 square foot commercial space. This project is adjacent to the metro and accessible to downtown stores.

Councilmember Sandino expressed concern with the flow of traffic on Lancer and Little Branch Run and asked if part of this plan would include a traffic flow study. Mr. Gilbane responded that a preliminary plan was just completed to include a traffic study for the Planning Board. He added that the roadway is designed to run along the roadway of these properties. The design of the road is to accommodate this development.

Councilmember Denes asked the developer to consider electric vehicle charging stations for parking garages. He mentioned there were around 300 parking spots and 34 bicycle parking spots, and feels the bicycle parking will be insufficient since it is located next to the biking trail. He would like to see some additional bike parking. His last concern is that there are only 13 storage units for the apartments. Mr. Gilbane responded that additional bike parking could be accommodated. He added that there are ongoing conversations with Amazon regarding affordable housing in the area.

Councilmember Solomon continued the conversation with parking. Residents are expressing concern with subleasing of rooms in the adjacent community, and it has created a parking issue. He also brought up the issue of individuals driving to the metro and parking in the neighborhood. He asked if there is a precedent to introduce parking zones such as residential with this project. Mr. Gilbane spoke about working with the City to alleviate parking concerns.

Councilmember Simasek expressed his concerns about the wetlands area, the culvert on the project will take on runoff from nearby properties. He would like to know if there is a process that will drain the culvert quickly, to prevent standing water. Mr. Gilbane expressed that he shares the same concern and will be working with permitting to make sure it is done correctly.

Council Vice-President Schaible is excited about this project and the possibility of affordable housing with this project. He is concerned about the parking and the sub-letting in the adjacent neighborhood. He is concerned there is 1 parking space per unit. Mr. Gilbane responded by saying that they have used data and research from other Metro locations to determine the appropriate amount of parking. He stated that there will be a second phase of this project where additional parking could be discussed.

Councilmember Waszczak requested to know the percentage of affordable housing this project will cover. Mr. Gilbane expressed willingness to incorporate affordable housing if feasible.

Council President Croslin asked if the City of Hyattsville will own and maintain the streets in this

project? Mr. Gilbane responded that the City will own 90% of the roads when the project is completed.

Councilmember Solomon asked about the addition of a traffic signal at Lancer and Ager. Mr. Tom Haller replied that a study was done on that intersection and it was determined that no signal was needed. Councilmember Solomon asked for more outreach to the existing community that has concerns about the development. Mr. Gilbane said that a meeting in November is being scheduled with residents.

8. Consent Items (8:30 p.m. - 8:35 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 Croslin, seconded by Councilmember Solomon, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Haba

8.a) Acceptance of the 2021 Tree ReLeaf Grant

[HCC-105-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the 2021 Prince George's County Tree ReLeaf Grant in the amount of \$9,600. The City Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments to accept and disburse the funding according to the grant requirements.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2021 Hyattsville Tree Releaf Grant Package](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the 2021 Prince George's County Tree ReLeaf Grant in the amount of \$9,600. The City Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary budget adjustments to accept and disburse the funding according to the grant requirements.

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

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

Absent: Haba

8.b) FY22 Budget Appropriation: Impaired, Distracted, and Aggressive Driving Grant Awards [HCC-112-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council amend and increase the FY22 Special Revenues Fund Budget to accept and appropriate the FY22 Aggressive Driving (\$2,000), Impaired Driving (\$5,000), and Distracted Driving (\$2,000) grant award in the amount totaling \$9,000 from the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) for the purpose of providing overtime funding for the enforcement of motor vehicles.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Distracted Driving](#)
[Impaired Driving](#)
[Aggressive Driving](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council amend and increase the FY22 Special Revenues Fund Budget to accept and appropriate the FY22 Aggressive Driving (\$2,000), Impaired Driving (\$5,000), and Distracted Driving (\$2,000) grant award in the amount totaling \$9,000 from the Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) for the purpose of providing overtime funding for the enforcement of motor vehicles.

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

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

Absent: Haba

8.c) Acceptance of the Low Impact Design Center Proposal for the Concept Design of an Environmental Depot [HCC-113-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$30,000 to the Low Impact Design Center for the concept design of an environmental depot in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Enviro Depot Proposal letter LIDC 081021 FINAL updated 83021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$30,000 to the Low Impact Design Center for the concept design of an environmental depot in the City of Hyattsville.

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

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

Absent: Haba

8.d) Award of the City Leaf Grinding Contract[HCC-114-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to accept the proposal from Denchfield for leaf grinding at an annual rate not to exceed \$6000 per year for the life of the contract, pending review by the City Attorney. In addition, an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 is authorized for the first year of the contract.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Denchfield RFP Response](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to accept the proposal from Denchfield for leaf grinding at an annual rate not to exceed \$6000 per year for the life of the contract, pending review by the City Attorney. In addition, an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 is authorized for the first year of the contract.

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

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

Absent: Haba

8.e) Commercial Façade Improvement Program: 2021 Grant Awards[HCC-119-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve 2021 Commercial Façade Improvement Grant awards for façade improvement projects the following commercial properties:

- 3501 Hamilton Street: \$5,000
- 3004 and 3110 Hamilton Street, 5400 Queens Chapel Road: \$22,500
- 4744 Baltimore Avenue: \$37,000

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - CFI Award Recommendations - 10.18.2021](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve 2021 Commercial Façade Improvement Grant awards for façade improvement projects the following commercial properties:

- 3501 Hamilton Street: \$5,000
- 3004 and 3110 Hamilton Street, 5400 Queens Chapel Road: \$22,500
- 4744 Baltimore Avenue: \$37,000

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

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

Absent: Haba

8.f) Awarding of Tree Plantings[HCC-122-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$24,000 to Casey Trees for the planting of trees throughout the City as proposed and awarded in the PEPCO Sustainable Communities and the Prince George's County Tree ReLeaf grants.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2021 Hyattsville Tree Releaf Grant Package](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$24,000 to Casey Trees for the planting of trees throughout the City as proposed and awarded in the PEPCO Sustainable Communities and the Prince George's County Tree ReLeaf grants.

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

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

Absent: Haba

8.g) Corridor Investment Grant: 2021 Program Awards[HCC-123-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the recommendations of City Staff and approve Corridor Investment Program grant funding awards for the following entities:

- Garcia Investments: \$5,000
- Green Owl: \$5,000
- Independent Order of Oddfellows: \$2,500
- Just Rock (Business development): \$3,670
- Just Rock (Program): \$1,425
- 5132 Baltimore Avenue: \$1995.20
- Gingko Group: \$1,990.40
- SoHy Co-op: \$2,000
- Hyattsville Aging in Place: \$1,500
- Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center: \$2,500

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - CIP Award Recommendations - 10.18.2021 - Final](#)

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

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

Absent: Haba

8.h) Ward 2 Discretionary Funds: SoHy Afghan Refugee Relief Fund[HCC-126-FY22](#)

I move that the Council approve the donation of \$400 from the Ward 2 discretionary funds to the SoHy Afghan Refugee Relief fund.

Sponsors: Croslin and Schaible

Attachments: [Croslin Motion for Afghan Relief](#)

I move that the Council approve the donation of \$400 from the Ward 2 discretionary funds to the SoHy Afghan Refugee Relief fund.

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

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

Absent: Haba

9. Action Items (8:35 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)**9.a) Jefferson Street Traffic Calming**[HCC-115-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to approve an expenditure with Traffic Lines, Inc. for installation of traffic calming devices on Jefferson Street cost no to exceed \$120,000.00.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Jefferson Street \(1\)](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to approve an expenditure with Traffic Lines, Inc. for installation of traffic calming devices on Jefferson Street cost no to exceed \$120,000.00.

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

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

Absent: Haba

9.b) HVAC Replacement 4310 Gallatin Street[HCC-116-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to approve an expenditure with Magnolia Plumbing to replace the existing HVAC units at 4310 Gallatin Street, cost not to exceed \$125,000.00.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [4310 HVAC Magnolia](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to approve an expenditure with Magnolia Plumbing to replace the existing HVAC units at 4310 Gallatin Street, cost not to exceed \$125,000.00.

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

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

Absent: Haba

10. Discussion Items (9:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.)

10.a) Phased-in Municipal Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban[HCC-125-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to phase-in a ban of gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) as follows:

- Effective January 1, 2022 - the use of GPLBs by the City will cease entirely, including City staff and City contracts.
- Effective July 1, 2022 - the use of GPLBs will be prohibited on Sundays.
- Effective January 1, 2023 - the use of GPLBs will be prohibited on weekends and federal holidays.
- Effective July 1, 2023 - the use of GPLBs will be prohibited permanently.

In addition, I move that the Mayor and Council implement a City-run rebate program where Hyattsville residents and contractors would be eligible to trade in used GPLBs for a rebate towards the purchase of an electric leaf blower (ELB).

I further move the Council amend the FY22 budget in the amount of \$18,500 (\$17,000 for the GPLB trade-in program, \$1,500 to replace City GPLBs).

Sponsors: Schaible

Attachments: [Phased-in Municipal Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban Motion](#)
[Recommendation to Address Noise and other Impacts from Gas, for](#)
[Review by HEC](#)
[Leaf Blower Cost Comparisons](#)

Council Vice-President Schaible gave an overview of the proposed ban on the gas-powered leaf blowers. This ban models the District of Columbia ban of gas-powered leaf blowers. Mr. Schaible has updated the schedule of implementation and included information regarding the rebate and enforcement.

Councilmember Denes asked if this could be enforced against other organizations or government agencies operating inside Hyattsville, such as schools. Council VP Schaible believes it can be, but would defer to the City Attorney.

Council President Croslin asked about enforcement. Council VP Schaible said that initial focus will be on contractors and he is open to considering including the rebate to businesses that service a percentage of Hyattsville residents.

Councilmember Peabody asked why not ban all gas powered engines used for landscaping. Council VP Schaible replied that gas powered leaf blowers have been a major focus of regional implementation as a start.

Councilmember Sandino asked about the overall cost to the City and the number of anticipated households that will be affected. Council VP Schaible replied that the estimate is 1 in 20 households.

Councilmember Waszczak expressed concern about the equity impact of the proposal and how this might be paired with other City initiatives.

Councilmember Solomon expressed support for aggressive public information and a more drawn out timeline or phases for the rebate.

Council VP Schaible mentioned that University Park just passed their motion and their ban would go into effect January 1, 2023. He agreed with having a robust communications plan.

Councilmember Denes suggested robust outreach and an intentional rollout.

11. Council Dialogue (9:15 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.)

12. Community Notices and Meetings

12.a) Main City Calendar: October 19 - November 1, 2021

[HCC-124-FY22](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Main City Calendar October 19 - November 1, 2021 FINAL](#)

13. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Haba