



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

Present: Candace Hollingsworth, Mayor
Edouard Haba, W4 (Council Pres.)
Kevin Ward, W1 (Council VP)
Bart Lawrence, W1
Robert Croslin, W2
Shani Warner, W2
Thomas Wright, W3
Carrianna Suiter, W3
Erica Spell, W5
Joseph A Solomon, W5

Absent: None

Also present were the following City staff members:

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator
Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator
Ron Brooks, City Treasurer
Chief Amal Awad, City of Hyattsville Police Department
Jake Rollow, Director of Community Services (departed at 8:40 p.m.)
Laura Reams, City Clerk
Ellarose Preston, Staff Liaison to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee

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

Mayor Candace Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

3) **Approval of Agenda**

Amendment

MOVE consent item 7.e) Disbursement of Ward 1 Discretionary Funds to action; request to amend to include a match from Ward 2.

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Haba
SECONDER:	Ward
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon,
ABSENT:	None



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

4) Approval of the Minutes

4.a) Approval of the Minutes

HCC-349-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

[Minutes_Apr 18 2018 FINAL.pdf](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2018.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Haba
SECONDER:	Croslin
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon
ABSENT:	None

5) Public Comment (8:10 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.) Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Ward 2 resident, Jim Groves, addressed the Mayor and Council in support of Community Yoga stating his appreciation for Council's funding of the initiative and his gratitude in having the opportunity for the free service.

Ward 1 resident, Greg Smith, addressed the Mayor and Council requesting that the City integrate a zero-waste program and suggested the extension of the City's composting program.

Mayor Hollingsworth registered a public comment relaying that there was impending correspondence transmitted to the Treasurer reporting that the City has received an excess in returns regarding property tax and would be obligated to return \$9M to the state. It was determined that this statement was made in jest in observance of April 1st; April Fool's Day.

6) Presentations (8:20 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)

6.a) City Administrator Update (5 minutes)

HCC-338-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on the Residential Parking Zone (RPZ), Sanctuary City, and Healthy Eating and Lifestyle (HEAL) programs reporting that the RPZ program was in its initial stages and there had been a 15% reduction in signage. Ms. Douglas stated that the City would take a non-intervention position regarding federal immigration matters and that there have been no reports from residents with relation to immigration. She noted that the Police



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

Department did not inquire into national citizenship status. She introduced Wellness Coordinator Ellarose Preston reporting that Hyattsville had become the first platinum HEAL city in 2016 and provided updates regarding the continued actions in the fifth year including brown bag lunches, a farmer's market, Movin' with the Mayor exercise classes, noted honors, and the annual employee wellness fair. Ms. Preston presented Council with details regarding the wellness programs that had been instituted, plans moving forward, and emphasized the benefits that HEAL could provide.

Mayor Hollingsworth thanked Ms. Preston for her commitment and efforts and endorsed the annual wellness fair stating that it was well conducted and provided many benefits to the community.

Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon requested an update on the emergency alert system NIXLE that was used by the City to communicate information to residents in times of heightened caution to which Director of Community Services, Jake Rollow, answered that staff had experienced challenges with NIXLE and were reviewing other vendors that may better suit their needs while being cost-effective. Mr. Rollow stated that they were close to choosing and entering an agreement with a new vendor and procurement should be finalized at the end of the fiscal year.

Councilmember Solomon asked how residents should proceed when experiencing connectivity issues with NIXLE to which Ms. Douglas recalled the measures implemented to address the issues and testing thereafter. Mr. Rollow stated that after the issues were apparently resolved, no resident should have continued challenges and be informed of the adjustments.

6.b) Presentation of the 2019 Election Candidates (5 minutes)

HCC-339-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

[Certification of Election Candidates.pdf](#) 

Greta Mosher, Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections, addressed the Mayor and Council with a presentation of the list of certified 2019 election candidates. Ms. Mosher extended best wishes to all candidates and provided a schedule of voting related events including early voting, pop-up polling, and voter registration.

6.c) AARP Recognition for Age-Friendly Action Plan (10 minutes)

HCC-346-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

Director of Community Services, Jake Rollow, introduced the presentation for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Age-Friendly Communities stating that Hyattsville was recognized as the first city in the State of Maryland to be a member. Mr. Rollow introduced AARP



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

State President, Jim Campbell; Maryland State Director, Hank Greenberg; Prince George's County Executive Council, Dr. Gabriela Blakes; and Montgomery County Executive Council, Betty Romera.

Mr. Greenberg addressed the Mayor and Council with congratulations on behalf of AARP for joining the Network of Age-Friendly Communities and completing the three-year action plan. He expressed the importance for the program provided details regarding the actions of the network, its benefits and future. Mr. Greenberg and Dr. Blakes presented the Mayor and staff with a certificate honoring the partnership.

6.d) Census 2020 (15 minutes)

HCC-347-FY19

Lead Sponsor: Hollingsworth

Co-Sponsor(s): Croslin, Ward

[Cover Page](#) 

Presentation by Daniel Jones, Partnerships Specialist, US Census Bureau.

Daniel Jones, Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, explained that the United States Census was a year away stating that the Bureau was equipped and ready for the data collection. Mr. Jones described the general preparedness strategy for the Census stating that on March 12, 2020 a letter would be sent out to 95% of households in the U.S. and stressed the importance of participation especially in "hard-to-count" areas such as children, rural areas, immigrant populations, and individuals with limited English. He relayed that the Bureau asks that counties and municipalities create a Complete Count Committee comprised of diverse members to help identify "hard-to-count" areas and conduct outreach and communication to encourage as much participation as possible.

Council President Edouard Haba noted that not all residents were identified and asked if the names of those not participating could be provided to the Complete Count Committee so they could perform outreach to which Mr. Jones replied that they are unable to do that due to law and the protection of privacy, but highlighted the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) that was used to provide details on livable addresses.

7) **Consent Items (8:55 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)**

7.a) Landscape Maintenance Contract

HCC-328-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the award of a one (1) year contract, renewable by the City Administrator for up to three (3) additional years to Level Green Landscaping LLC for landscape maintenance at various locations in the City at an annual cost not to exceed \$70,000, upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

7.b) Surplus of City Fleet Maintenance Vehicle

HCC-329-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the sale of Fleet Maintenance Vehicle FMV003 from the Department of Public Works at public auction, all proceeds from the sale will be posted to General Fund Revenues.


7.c) Purchase of Pedestrian Safety Cross Walk System

HCC-330-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

[pedestrian-crossing-safety-system-presentation.pdf](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of FY19 Capital Improvement Funds, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, for the purpose of purchasing pedestrian crosswalk safety systems from Howard Industries, this is a sole source purchase.

7.d) Surplus Police Vehicles

HCC-336-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council declare the following vehicles surplus due to age, mileage, and condition:

Vehicle # 1: 2005, Chevrolet Impala, VIN # 2G1WF55K759141329
Vehicle # 4: 2005, Chevrolet Impala, VIN # 2G1WF55K859140836
Vehicle # 24: 2004, Chevrolet S10 Blazer, VIN # 1GN1T13X14K156122
Vehicle # 25: 2005, Chevrolet S10 Blazer, VIN # 1GN1T13X25K100871
Vehicle # 29: 2008, Dodge Charger, VIN # 2B3KA43G18H134286
Vehicle # 32: 2008, Dodge Charger, VIN # 2B3KA43GX8H134285
Vehicle # 34: 2008, Dodge Charger, VIN # 2B3KA43G08H134280
Vehicle # 35: 2008, Dodge Charger, VIN # 2B3KA43G38H236012



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

7.f) Proclamation in honor of National Volunteer Week

HCC-343-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#)

[National Volunteer Week 2019.docx](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim April 7 - 13, 2019 as National Volunteer Week in the City of Hyattsville.

7.g) Purchase of Police Vehicles and Upfitting

HCC-345-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Police Department to purchase (8) vehicles from Hertricht Fleet Services and up fitting equipment from Global Equipment together in the amount not to exceed \$378,000.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Haba
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon
ABSENT:	None

8) [Action Items \(9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.\)](#)

7.e) Disbursement of Ward 1 Discretionary Funds

HCC-341-FY19

Lead Sponsor: Ward

Co-Sponsor(s): Lawrence

[Cover Page](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the disbursement of ~~\$250~~ \$900 total from the ~~Ward~~ 1 discretionary funds Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 5 at \$250 each and Ward 3 at \$150 to support equipment purchases for Hyattsville Community Yoga.

Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin and **Councilmember Solomon** moved to amend the item to include \$250 each from Ward 2 and Ward 5 and **Ward 3 Councilmember Thomas Wright** moved to amend the item to include \$150 on behalf of Ward 3. The motion was moved by **Councilmember Wright**, seconded by **Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell**, and approved unanimously.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

RESULT:	APPROVED, AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Haba
SECONDER:	Lawrence
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon
ABSENT:	None

8.a) Establishing a Complete Count Committee for Census 2020 (10 minutes)

HCC-315-FY19

Lead Sponsor: Hollingsworth

Co-Sponsor(s): Croslin, Ward

[Cover Page](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council establish a Complete Count Committee for the purposes of increasing participation in the 2020 Census. The committee will identify opportunities to effectively engage residents, particularly in areas of the city identified as “Hard to Count” as indicated in the Hard to Count 2020 map. Members of the committee (up to 15) will be appointed by the Mayor and Council and shall be responsible for organizing all efforts related to this goal with support, as necessary, of City staff. The Mayor shall be an ex-officio member of the Complete Count Committee and will serve as a liaison to City staff via the City Administrator.

I further move that the Mayor and Council allocate \$10,000 in the FY20 budget to support expenses (communications, events, recruitment, etc.) related to this effort.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Haba
SECONDER:	Solomon
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon
ABSENT:	None

8.b) FY20 Budget Amendment: Summer Literacy Program (10 minutes)

HCC-342-FY19

Lead Sponsor: Ward

Co-Sponsor(s): Hollingsworth, Lawrence

[Cover Page](#) 

[Summer Literacy Program - Background.docx](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council appropriate \$3,500 from the carry forth fund balance in the FY20 budget to support the Summer Literacy Program, an initiative of the City of Hyattsville Education Advisory Committee, faculty and students from University of Maryland – College Park, and the Rosa Parks Elementary School PTA.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Haba
SECONDER:	Lawrence
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon
ABSENT:	None

8.c) Community Sustainability Fund (10 minutes)

HCC-41-FY18

Lead Sponsor: Hollingsworth

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council direct the City Treasurer to establish a Community Sustainability Fund to support projects that advance the goals of the City of Hyattsville's adopted Community Sustainability Plan. Funds shall be deposited into the fund annually based on the following formula:

$0.6 * 0.7 * (\# \text{ of Units Developed} \times \text{Per Unit Impact Fee Realized})$

Funds deposited into this fund should be allocated according to the following schedule:

40% 35% Affordable Housing

40% 35% Schools and Public Education

20% Transportation

10% Public Health

The Mayor and Council shall authorize all expenses from the fund.

Council President Haba suggested amending the motion to add a fourth category for public health and redistributing the percentages at 30% for affordable housing, 30% for schools, 30% for transportation, and 10% for public health. He cited a recommendation from **Councilmember Wright** that would reflect 35%, 35%, 20%, and 10% respectively for which he expressed his support and stated that adding a public health category will have a positive impact on residents.

Councilmember Solomon agreed with the distribution amounts of his colleagues and stated that he would like to include "green space acquisition" to the "public health" category.

Councilmember Wright recalled earlier conversations regarding the motion and detailed how he had arrived at his decision.

Council President Haba referenced green space acquisition and sought clarity about whether it should be added to which City Administrator Douglas responded that it would be her recommendation that the addition to the category be omitted as there were not any related programs, but recognized that the decision would be left to the discretion of the Council.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

Councilmember Croslin questioned how the category would be applied regarding developers' integration of green space in construction to which **Councilmember Solomon** responded that it was unrelated to contracted developers and the intention was to provide a foundation for the inclusion in the category for future Councilmembers.

Ward 3 Councilmember Carrianna Suiter stated that all the aforementioned categories should provide a public benefit to which **Council President Haba** interjected that there were two different levels of intervention and it should not be considered if a developer planned green space as part of their development plan. He stated that it should be focused on realized impact fees diverted from the public.

Ward 2 Councilmember Shani Warner inquired as to what would happen if an attractive project was introduced that would require a larger percentage of the funds to which **Mayor Hollingsworth** stated that the percentages put weight on the contributions of each item for the growth of the City and explained that future Council could make amendments as they saw fit.

Council President Haba moved to amend the distributions to 35%, 35%, 20%, and 10% respectively which was seconded by **Councilmember Spell** and approved unanimously.

Mayor Hollingsworth stated that with the additional category the overall percentage should be changed from 60% to 70%. A motion to amend the language accordingly was made by **Ward 1 Councilmember Bart Lawrence**, seconded by **Councilmember Wright** and approved unanimously.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Haba
SECONDER:	Lawrence
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon
ABSENT:	None

9) Discussion Items (9:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)

9.a) Revitalization Tax Credit – Modification (15 minutes)

HCC-42-FY18

Lead Sponsor: Hollingsworth

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

I move that the Mayor and Council direct the City Attorney to draft, in consultation with the appropriate staff, an ordinance amending §108-4 of the Hyattsville Charter and Code (Revitalization Tax Credit) to add “production of affordable housing for individuals and families at 60% AMI” and allow for certain exceptions in tax credit limitations pursuant to the production of affordable units. The tax credit may provide for the following:



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

- Up to 100% tax credit on total assessed value for no more than 10 years for projects (new construction and rehabilitation of 13+ units) with net new affordable unit production of greater than 15%;
- Up to 100% tax credit on total assessed value for no more than 15 years for projects (new construction and rehabilitation of 20+ units) with net new affordable unit production of greater than 20%; and
- Up to 50% tax credit for rehabilitation projects that maintain the existing inventory of affordable units (by project) for no more than 10 years.

Projects receiving waivers of public safety or school facility surcharges shall be ineligible. Designated affordable units shall remain affordable for 30 years.

I further move that the City Administrator (or her designee) acquire professional services for independent financial review of applications submitted under this credit.

I further move that the City Administrator (or her designee) be authorized to establish partnerships necessary to provide property owners with a contact (or similar) to identify Prince George's County residents that meet income qualifications and are awaiting affordable units.

I further move that the City Administrator (or her designee) establish/modify administrative procedures and applications associated with this amendment and publish--not less than annually projects receiving benefits under this agreement effective July 1, 2019.

Mayor Hollingsworth Introduced the item and noted that modifications had been made since its last introduction one year prior. She explained that the language was intended to modify the revitalization tax credit to include an item that would allow transparency for the development community and be used as a tool to convey their ability and willingness to provide affordable housing.

Councilmember Wright stated that the item could have millions of dollars in deferment and cautioned not to proceed lightly. He expressed concern about costs to the City but expressed general support for the item.

Councilmember Lawrence asked what would constitute "rehabilitation" to which **Mayor Hollingsworth** responded that it was very similar to the Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) and City Administrator Douglas added that the City Attorney would address questions during the drafting process.

Council Vice President Kevin Ward questioned whether the item would be applied during discussions of affordable housing to which **Mayor Hollingsworth** replied that it was the preferred result and the discussion that evening was to determine whether to move the measure to action and ask the City Attorney to draft an ordinance.

Councilmember Wright expressed the importance of receiving the City Treasurer's assessment of financial impact.



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD

April 1, 2019

Councilmember Solomon supported addressing it as an action item in the future and inquired as to what the financial outlook was for the city, whether there were examples of municipalities of a similar size who had passed similar legislation, and noted that Hyattsville offered a great deal of opportunity for development stressing that the legislation should be considered meticulously.

Councilmember Croslin expressed concern that it should not have been the only justification for development and that it would be the only criterion for a tax credit to which **Councilmember Solomon** stated that if housing was to be developed it should include affordable units as well as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) implementation and green space development.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler addressed the body explaining that there were not many existing stipulations and the credit was based on the net or the delta between the current value and the value received. He continued that it would reach its limit at 10 years and could not exceed the total value of the property.

Council President Haba expressed his preference that the units remained affordable at the 60% mutual interest (AMI) for the full term.

Mayor Hollingsworth announced that the item would return to Council on the action agenda.

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

11) Community Notices and Meetings

11.a) City Calendar

HCC-348-FY19

Lead Sponsor: At the Request of the City Administrator

Co-Sponsor(s): N/A

[Cover Page](#) 

[Main City Calendar_Apr 2-15 2019.pdf](#) 

12) Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Croslin
SECONDER:	Ward
AYES:	Hollingsworth, Haba, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Warner, Wright, Suiter, Spell, Solomon
ABSENT:	None

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

March 18, 2020



REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD
April 1, 2019

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Reams", is written above a horizontal line.

Laura Reams, City Clerk