

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PXAWboQERrq-NCLwf-ZzjA

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, December 2, 2024, 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_PXAWboQERrq-NCLwf-ZzjA

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:04 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler

Interim Director of Community Business and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Services Coordinator Reginald Bagley

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council President Joseph Solomon

Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Danny Schaible

Councilmember Emily Strab

Councilmember Kareem Redmond

Councilmember Michelle Lee

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 Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Absent: Haba

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

Sarah Benderitis (Nicholson St) requested access to the raw data that is tied to their speed bump petition. She also inquired about the status of the new teen center project.

Daniel Broder (Ward 2-Madison St) stated that he is in favor of audit committee and the code changes proposed by the elections committee, but would like to see more green space in the Driskell Park redesign.

Matthew Crooks (4000 block Nicholson St) stated that he's spoken to City staff and Council about traffic calming measures on his block and remains concerned about process to evaluate the efficiency of calming measures and data collection.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) advised that she thinks the redesign for Driskell Park is over-designed and she would like to see more green space but she has concerns about the costs of the project. She also asked for more cohesive and comprehensive traffic calming measures to be installed throughout the City.

Greg Smith would like to see more green space in the Driskell Park redesign. He also expressed concerns about the timeliness of the flood plain information used to create the redesign, and asked the City to consider acquiring the lower parcels of land at the park.

Kurt Britzenhofe (Ward 5) inquired if the Driskell Park redesign is cost effective. He also stated that he is in favor of proposed audit committee, but has concerns about the limits of the authority of the committee.

Rachell Cain (Nicholson St) requested access to the raw data that is tied to their speed bump petition and expressed concerns about children on that block and potential danger of an automobile accident.

Lee Cain (Nicholson Street) stated they are in favor of speed humps and asked about the status of the teen center project.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) stated he is opposed to any speed humps being installed, and the acquisition of the lower parcels of land at Driskell park. He also spoke about the proposed audit committee and stated that the problems with audit filings predated the current staff, who is working to rectify the issues.

5. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:40 p.m.)

Senator Augustine discussed the upcoming legislative session and advised that the State of Maryland will have a \$2.7 billion deficit. He advised that he is looking for guidance on priorities in the City of Hyattsville to assess ways to meet those needs. Lastly, he discussed the budget shortfall WMATA will be facing the upcoming fiscal year.

City Administrator Douglas provided updates on City events and programming.

The Council and staff discussed the timeline for the placement of the Park Mobile parking decals, an expected end date for the teen center project, free street side parking during the holiday season, and costs for the fitness equipment at the new Hyattsville Police Department.

6. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**6.a. Driskell Park Phase 2A Concept Design Presentation**[HCC-169-FY25](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2024-11-18--David C. Driskell City Council Presentation](#)

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle introduced Allie O'Neill (formerly of Neighborhood Design Center) and staff members of Bradley Site Design who provided a visual presentation of the Driskell Park renovation, including a recap of the previous work done on the project.

Members of the Council, staff, and Bradley Site Design discussed creating designated areas for rest, biking, and dog walking, mitigating potential flooding, and protecting/highlighting natural elements of the park such as the stream and tree canopy. Bi-lingual signage for non-English speakers, art installations, solar energy displays, and formalized land acknowledgements were also discussed. Director Riddle advised that the City will be seeking funding sources for the completion of park redesign.

7. Appointments

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Absent: Haba

7.a. Appointment to the Education Advisory Committee[HCC-173-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Jacqueline Smith (Ward 1) to the Education Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years ending on December 31, 2026.

Sponsors: Strab

Attachments: [Jacquelyn Smith W1 Mar 8 2024 appl redac](#)

8. Consent Items (8:10 p.m. - 8:15 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 Solomon, seconded by Council Vice-President Waszczak, that the Consent Agenda was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Absent: Haba

8.a. Purchase of Fitness Equipment - 3505 Hamilton Street[HCC-165-FY25](#)

I move that Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a purchase order to Fitness Showrooms and authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$68,287.00 for fitness equipment at 3505 Hamilton Street.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2024.11.05 Fitness Center Packet](#)

8.b. Purchase of Upfitting for Two EV Chevrolet Blazers[HCC-166-FY25](#)

I move Mayor and Council to authorize the purchase of vehicle upfitting from Frontline Mobile Tech in an amount not to exceed \$60,860.00.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Frontline Quote - 11.13.24](#)

8.c. 2025 Council Regular and Budget Meeting Calendar[HCC-168-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule and the FY-2026 Budget Meeting Schedule.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2025 Council Meeting Calendar Draft.pdf](#)

9. Action Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)

9.a. Traffic Calming Petition Recommendations for 6000 block 43rd Street and 4000 block Nicholson Street [HCC-170-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the staff recommendation to install a yield street at the petition location(s) on the 6000 block of 43rd Street and the 4000 block of Nicholson Street.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Traffic Calming Petitions Staff Recommendation UPDATE 20241126](#)
[Traffic Calming Petition PPT 20241007 FINAL](#)
[230908 - Final - Hyattsville Multimodal Toolkit - Yield Street p47-48](#)

Deputy Director Hal Metzler provided some background into why a yield street is preferred over speed bumps at this location. Councilmembers inquired about community engagement throughout this process and the need for comprehensive traffic calming measures.

The motion was tabled in order to give the Department of Public Works staff more time for residential outreach on 43rd Street and Nicholson Street.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Absent: Haba

9.b. Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-05: Revisions to City Code Chapter 8, Elections (Introduction and First Reading) [HCC-172-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-05, an ordinance whereby the City Council amends City Code, Chapter 8, Elections to change the requirements related to early voting day hours and election related mailings and update the language regarding the processing of mail-in ballots.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-05 - Election Code Revisions_FOR PACKET.pdf](#)
[Election Code Changes](#)

The Council discussed determinants of elections being vote by mail, the changes in notifications mailed to residents and households per election cycle, and ballot verification guidelines in the City Code.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Absent: Haba

10. Discussion Items (8:55 p.m. - 9:55 p.m.)

10.a. Resolution for the Dedication of Parcel V, a Recreational Facility of Landy Property, to the City of Hyattsville for Public Use.[HCC-171-FY25](#)

For discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2024-11-20 Draft RESOLUTION](#)
[Exhibit 1 Special Warranty Deed](#)
[Plat Nine, Landy Property](#)
[DSP-18003 Gateway West signed inspection Report 04.23.2024](#)
[DRD Recreation Facilities Certification Form - SIGNED CPSI](#)

Interim Director Ulysse provided an overview of the resolution to acquire Parcel V with the Gateway West development project (Toledo Road and Belcrest Road). Phase 1 is complete and the developers initiated contact with the City.

The Council and Staff discussed required inspections to take over the property, site compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the improved fencing needed on the premises. Creation of a natural pathway for students, park maintenance costs, and ongoing issues of loitering were also discussed.

CM Denes urged the Council to consider the impact of the City taking over this parcel of land.

Council Vice President Waszczak asked that the Youth Advisory Council be consulted.

10.b. Creation of an Audit Committee[HCC-167-FY25](#)

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Strab, Croslin, Schaible and Redmond

Attachments: [Audit Committee Worksheet Proposal - FINAL_101424_Clean Copy](#)

CM Strab gave an overview of the City's commitment to transparency and financial health while discussing the initiative to create an audit committee.

The Councilmembers discussed the qualifiers for committee members including residency requirements, financial competencies, and roles and responsibilities of committee members.

11. Council Dialogue (9:55 p.m. - 10:05 p.m.)**12. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Absent: Haba