

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 16, 2022

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ir1d5FtlQ5ast04S60MdYQ

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
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, May 16, 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:

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_ir1d5FtIQ5ast04S60MdYQ

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Also Present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Present:

Interim Mayor Robert Croslin
Councilmember Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Ben Simasek
Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent:

Councilmember Edouard Haba

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

City Clerk Laura Reams read the motion to remove item 10.f Suffrage Point Development - Land Dedication for Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-21052 from the agenda. Councilmember Schaible seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

Absent: Haba

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

Sarah Weber spoke in support of the Council's letter addressing the Prince George's County Public School's Boundary Initiative.

Greg Smith spoke in support of the Council sending a letter to the County Planning Board reiterating its position in regards to the Suffrage Point Development.

Claire Panak spoke about her concern regarding the amount of money that families with children receive from the ARPA individual relief program.

David Marshall provided a written comment in opposition to the City tax rate and in opposition to the funds used for police mobile support trailers. He raised a question about the amount of members proposed for the redistricting commission.

Chuck Perry provided a written comment in opposition to the proclamation regarding mental health awareness, the police mobile support trailers, and renewal of the contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc.

5. Community Notices and Meetings

5.a. Main City Calendar: May 17 - June 6, 2022

[HCC-378-FY22](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City Calendar May 17, 2022 - June 6, 2022](#)

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

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided an update on City related news and events.

7. Treasurer Update (7:35 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)

City Treasurer Ron Brooks provided an update on the City's year to date financial position and the status of the FY20 and FY21 audits.

American Rescue Plan Program Manager Patrick Paschall gave an update on ARPA funds and timelines for related City programs.

8. Proclamations (7:45 p.m.)

- 8.a.** Proclamation Celebrating May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville [HCC-377-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0516 Mental Health Month 2022](#)

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

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

Absent: Haba

9. Consent Items (7:45 p.m. - 7:50 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 Denes, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Absent: Haba

- 9.a. Annual Service Agreement with Motorola for Radio Communications Dispatch System, Portable and Mobile Radios.** [HCC-362-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of \$34,861.31 for the one year renewal of the Annual Motorola Service Agreement for maintenance on our dispatch console, portable and mobile radios.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville SA FY22-23](#)

- 9.b. Driskell Park Tennis and Pickleball Court Resurfacing** [HCC-364-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to accept the proposal from American Paving and Striping LLC for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Driskell Park, and authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$30,000, pending legal review.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Estimate_386_from_American_Paving_and_Striping_LLC\(002\)](#)

9.c. Landscape Maintenance Contract Change Order [HCC-365-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to issue a change order to Professional Lawn Maintenance Services existing contract to provide landscaping services to change the maximum contract value from \$320,000 to \$500,000 over the four year term of the contract.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [210326 - contract DPW21-002 - PLMS landscape maintenance - plms signed](#)

9.d. Purchase of a Key Management System [HCC-366-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$40,000 to Keyper Systems for the purchase, installation, and setup of a digital key management system, pending legal review.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2022.03.21 - KeyPER System Quote](#)

9.e. Mobile Police Support Trailers [HCC-370-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the purchase of two Police Department Mobile Support Trailers and upgrades to existing mobile support trailers at a cost not to exceed \$175,000 using American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Mobile Police Trailer Features Brochure 1](#)
[Quote - Mobile Police Trailers 2 Upgrades](#)
[Quote - Mobile Police Trailers 2 New](#)
[Mobile Police Trailer Features Brochure 2](#)

10. Action Items (7:50 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)**10.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2022-01: Fiscal Year 2023 Budget (Introduction)** [HCC-371-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2022-01, an ordinance adopting an annual budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, for the general purpose, fixing the tax rates for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022; authorizing collection of taxes herein levied, and appropriating funds for the fiscal year (INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [HO 2022-01 Fiscal Year 2023 Budget](#)

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, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, and Peabody

Nay: Sandino

Absent: Haba

10.b. Hyattsville Resolution 2022-03: Establishing a Redistricting Commission

[HCC-376-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2022-03, a resolution whereby the City Council establishes a seven (7) person Redistricting Commission to make recommendations on the reapportionment of the City's five (5) wards based on population data from the 2020 U.S. Census (INTRODUCTION & ADOPTION)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Resolution 2022-03- Redistricting Commission](#)

Councilmember Solomon expressed his desire to see the number of members allowed to serve on the Redistricting Committee be increased.

Councilmember Simasek expressed his support for the committee to anticipate future development when determining boundaries.

Councilmember Denes expressed his concern about the committee's ability to reach a quorum in the summer months if the number of committee members were to be increased.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if there was precedent for setting a range of committee members rather than a finite number.

City Clerk Laura Reams stated the City Staff's support for the increase in number of members to serve on the Redistricting Committee.

Councilmember Solomon motioned to amend the number of members on the Redistricting Committee from seven to nine. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Denes. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if there is any reason that a person may be ineligible to serve on the Redistricting Committee.

Ms. Reams replied that the Council has the discretion to create stricter requirements than what is already stated in the resolution.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if there was a general set of criteria that City staff is already using to determine membership of the committee.

Ms. Reams listed the general considerations that will be evaluated when assessing potential members.

Council Vice-President Schaible expressed his preference to set the final number of members in the beginning of the process rather than try to add more later.

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

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

Absent: Haba

10.c. Renewal of Axon Enterprise, Inc. Contract and Upgrade of Axon Program

[HCC-349-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council to authorize the City Administrator to execute a renewal contract for a period of 5 years, at a cost not to exceed \$138,729.72 in FY22 with Axon Enterprise and approve an upgrade of the Police Department's taser program with Axon, upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Axon Enterprise Contract Renewal](#)

Lieutenant Zach Nemser of the Hyattsville Police Department provided information about the improvements to body camera activation and taser functionality as a result of the technology provided through this contract.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about the amperage control of the taser in relation to the new technology.

Lt. Nemser replied that the new technology allows the taser to reduce amperage based on quality of contact.

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

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

Absent: Haba

10.d. Individual Emergency Relief Program - ARPA[HCC-368-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council allocate and authorize expenditure of \$1,200,000 during FY22-FY23 for the establishment of an individual emergency relief program to support Hyattsville residents who have experienced pandemic-related negative economic consequences, with amounts designated for the following purposes:

- \$1,000,000 for individual relief payments, which consist of \$2,500 per adult individual and \$750 per child (up to a cap of \$5,000 per household) upon showing that the individual is a resident of the City of Hyattsville and experienced pandemic-related negative economic consequences eligible for relief under the American Rescue Plan Act.
- An amount NTE \$100,000 for program administration through a local-serving non-profit organization selected through a public Request for Proposals outlining the criteria needed for implementation.
- An amount NTE \$100,000 for outreach and application assistance programs to ensure relief programs are accessible for all communities within the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Councilmember Simasek asked how about the application process and supporting documentation that would be required.

American Rescue Plan Program Manager Patrick Paschall provided details regarding required documents and security of sensitive information contained in provided documents.

Mr. Paschall shared information about the administration of the Individual Emergency Relief Program.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about the structure of family payments and the plan for supporting small businesses.

Mr. Paschall responded that Council has the authority to change the amount of family payments.

Councilmember Sandino proposed the definition of household be changed to account for multiple families living at the same address.

Councilmember Solomon expressed his support for altering the definition of household.

Mr. Paschall responded that the definition change of household can be an administrative change made after the motion passes.

Council Vice-President Schaible made a motion to amend the motion to raise the child benefit from \$750 to \$1,250. Councilmember Peabody seconded the amendment to the motion. The amendment to the motion to passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that this

agenda item be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Haba

10.e. Emergency Food Assistance Relief Programs - ARPA

[HCC-369-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council allocate \$200,000 to establish a non-profit food assistance programs serving Hyattsville residents, and authorizing expenses in the form of grants up to \$25,000 per food assistance provider for the purpose of providing free meal programs to Hyattsville residents in need.

Sponsors: City Administrator

American Rescue Plan Program Manager Patrick Paschall provided the Council with information about the Emergency Food Assistance Relief Program.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about the requirement to be in good standing with the Maryland State of Assessment and Taxation.

Mr. Paschall replied that this requirement is not related to taxes but rather in regards to verifying the legitimacy of a business in the State of Maryland.

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, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Peabody, and Sandino

Absent: Haba

10.f. Suffrage Point Development - Land Dedication for Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-21052

[HCC-375-FY22](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Mayor to provide correspondence to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission regarding land dedication for Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-21052. The correspondence shall include the following language as conditions for approval:

1. The applicant shall dedicate a portion of Parcel B2 to the City of Hyattsville as conditions adopted by the Planning Board. The land area shall be donated at no cost to the City and deed to be recorded in the Prince George's County land records.
2. No portion of this dedication land shall include compensatory storage.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - PPS 4-21052 - Suffrage Point - 05.11.2022 Final](#)
[PPS-4-21052- possible donation area - hm markup with traffic circle](#)

This agenda item was Withdrawn.

11. Discussion Items (9:45 p.m. - 10:20 p.m.)

11.a. PGCPs School Boundary Initiative Recommendations[HCC-344-FY22](#)

I move that the Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to PGCPs CEO, Dr. Goldson, and Board of Education Members on behalf of the City Council to request the consideration of school boundary recommendations that prioritizes keeping our Hyattsville PGCPs communities intact and with minimum disruptions.

Sponsors: Sandino, Croslin, Schaible and Solomon

Attachments: [PGCPs School Boundary Initiative Recommendations](#)

Councilmember Sandino provided the Council with information regarding the Prince George's County Public School District school boundary initiative and a draft of the letter he proposes sending to PGCPs outlining the City's position.

Councilmember Denes expressed his concern that the letter opposes and supports aspects of each proposed boundary shift, rather than selecting which plan the City prefers.

Councilmember Waszczak expressed her support for the letter and advocated for more Ward 1 residents to be placed in the Hyattsville Elementary School boundary. She asked Councilmember Sandino to clarify the community outreach that has been done on this issue.

Councilmember Sandino explained the efforts of other community groups to address the boundary initiative.

Councilmember Denes reiterated his concern that the City is not providing a reasonable alternative through this letter.

Councilmember Simasek expressed his support for the letter.

Councilmember Solomon clarified that the motion is to authorize a letter and that the current version of the letter is a draft that could be changed.

Council Vice-President Schaible expressed his support for Hyattsville residents to stay in Hyattsville Schools.

The motion was moved to action and approved.

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

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

Absent: Haba

Abstain: Denes

11.b. Hyattsville Ordinance 2022-02: Municipal Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban[HCC-356-FY22](#)

FOR DISCUSSION

Sponsors: Schaible, McClellan, Simasek and Solomon

Attachments: [Amended Chapter 79 - Leaf Blower - 5.11.2022](#)
[Recommendation to Address Noise and other Impacts from GPLB](#)

Councilmember Denes asked for clarity around the projected cost to administer the rebate program.

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle replied that the City will have to go through the RFP process to determine the final cost.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about feedback from landscape companies regarding this proposed change.

Ms. Riddle responded that many in the industry are beginning to change in favor of electric run equipment due to municipalities enacting similar restrictions on gas-powered tools.

Councilmember Schaible added that he has received mixed reaction from landscape contractors about the proposed change.

Councilmember Solomon asked if gas-powered leaf blowers will only be prohibited on residential property but allowed to be used on commercial property.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler commented that the City did not add in language to include use restrictions on commercial property. He added the City did add language to clarify the hour restrictions related to noise.

Council Vice-President Schaible moved to place the discussion item on action for a vote.

City Clerk Laura Reams reminded the Council of the need to give public notice prior to the first reading of a new City ordinance, therefore the first action vote on this item should be held at the next Council Meeting.

12. Council Dialogue (10:20 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.)**14. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Peabody, that the motion to adjourn be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Haba