

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_irBOtFK2S_KznEs4wNZljQ

Monday, April 1, 2024

7:00 PM

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
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Kareem Redmond, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4 **Absent**
Michelle Lee, Ward 4
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. 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, April 1, 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_iRBOtFK2S_KznEs4wNZljQ

1. **Call to Order and Council Roll Call** **The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.**
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**
Electronically submitted public comments can be found at the end of the summary.
5. **City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:40 p.m.)**
6. **Proclamations** **Approved, Unanimous**

6.a. Proclamation Celebrating World Autism Acceptance Day and Autism Acceptance Month. [HCC-251-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation celebrating April 2, 2024 as World Autism Acceptance Day and April as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [CM 0401 Autism Acceptance Month and World Autism Awareness Day April 2024](#)

6.b. Proclamation Celebrating April 2024 as Arab American Heritage Month [HCC-252-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing April 2024 as Arab American Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [CM 0401 Arab American History Month 2024](#)

6.c. Proclamation in Honor of National Public Health Week [HCC-253-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim April 1 - 7, 2024 as National Public Health Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [CM 0403 Public Health Week 2023](#)

7. Appointments Approved, Unanimous

7.a. Appointments to the Hyattsville Flag Redesign Committee [HCC-247-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Jamila Hinds (Ward 1), Sam Jackson (Ward 1), Paul Hrusa (Ward 2), Katie Burk (Ward 2), Domonique Gibson (Ward 3), Michael Fischer (Ward 3), and Monica Gorman (Ward 5) to the Hyattsville Flag Redesign Committee.

Sponsors: McClellan, Croslin and Waszczak

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [Fischer Redac](#)
[Gibson Redac](#)
[Gorman Redac](#)
[Hinds Redac](#)
[Hrusa Redac](#)
[Jackson Redac](#)
[Burk Redac](#)

7.b. Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee [HCC-248-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Susan Zahran (Ward 1) and Thoa Hoang (Ward 4) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2026.

Sponsors: McClellan and Redmond

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [Thoa Hoang, W4, Sep 23 redac](#)
[Susan Zahran, W1 Aug 17, 203 redac](#)

7.c. Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee [HCC-249-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2026.

Sponsors: Haba and Schaible

Attachments: [Melissa Schweisguth re-appointment April 2024 redac](#)

7.d. Appointment to the Shade Tree Board [HCC-250-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor, with Council approval, the reappointment of Gloria Felix-Thompson to the Shade Tree Board for a term of 3 years to expire on April 30, 2027.

Sponsors: Croslin

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [Gloria Felix Thompson reappointment April 2024 redac](#)

7.e. Appointment to the Education Advisory Committee [HCC-259-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Vallorie Watson (Ward 1) to the Education Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years ending on April 30, 2026.

Sponsors: Strab

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [Vallorie Watson redac](#)

7.f. Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee [HCC-261-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Peter Stockus (Ward 4) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2026.

Sponsors: Denes and Lee

Attachments: [Peter Stockus Re-appointment April 2024 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. 43rd Avenue Traffic Study[HCC-256-FY24](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$60,000 to Toole Design Group to perform a traffic study on 43rd Ave between Oglethorpe Street and Jefferson Street under their existing contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Public Works

Attachments: [2023-10-02 43rd-Ave Jefferson-to-Oglethorpe Scope-Fee](#)

9. Action Items (7:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)**9.a. Renovation of Council Chambers - Phase 1 (ARPA)**[HCC-207-FY24](#)**Approved, Unanimous**

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement, pending legal review, with the following companies for the renovation of the Council Chambers to facilitate hybrid meetings and create a multi-function space.

- Moore Construction for the general contracting work to include carpentry, painting, electrical, and other related trades in an amount not to exceed \$25,000
- Empire Today for the replacement of the carpet in an amount not to exceed \$15,000
- CL Hibbard for the plumbing modifications in an amount not to exceed \$7,500
- Budget Blinds for the installation of blinds in an amount not to exceed \$5,600
- Douron for the furnishing and installation of new furniture in an amount not to exceed \$45,000

This work is funded using ARPA funds as previously authorized. The Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary budget amendments to facilitate these expenditures.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Public Works

Attachments: [Council Chambers Tables and Chairs 030824](#)
[Budget Blinds OPP 1960 - 4554-1960](#)
[City Council Chambers - Flooring Proposal](#)
[CityofHyattsvilleDeptofPublicW WO2549 Quoteq1187 2024020220122 144](#)
[Moore Construction Proposal 6](#)

9.b. Throne Public Bathrooms - Contract Extension[HCC-226-FY24](#)**Motion to remove from the table: Approved,
Unanimous****Motion HCC-226-FY24: Approved, Yes:7/No:2**

** This item was tabled at the Council Meeting of March 18, 2024. A motion to remove this item from the table must be voted on prior to Council consideration of this motion. **

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the renewal of Throne Labs rental services for five public restrooms for 1-year under their existing contract with the City. This expenditure, not to exceed \$230,000, will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as part of the Public Restrooms and Shower Facility project pre-approved by the Council during the April 17th, 2023, meeting. The Treasurer is authorized to make the necessary adjustments to the budget to facilitate this expenditure.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Public Works

Attachments: [Throne Labs Proposal Hyattsville 022024](#)
[Throne Usage Analysis 2023 Aug thru 2024 Feb](#)
[Equity Considerations for Throne Public Bathrooms Contract Extension - Final](#)
[Future Service](#)
[Throne Access Overview & Hyattsville Usage](#)
[Hyattsville Restroom Cost Comparison Calculator](#)

10. Discussion Items (8:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)**10.a. Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution: 2024-03: Removing the Requirement that Council Meetings Start at 8 PM**[HCC-246-FY24](#)

For discussion. A public hearing will be held at 6 PM on April 1, 2024, to hear input from the community on the proposed amendment to the City's Charter.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [2024-03 Charter Amendment Resolution Meeting Time](#)
[Hyattsville Meeting Time Charter April 2024](#)

- 10.b. **Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution: 2024-02: Amending the Charter to Utilize Gender Neutral Language and Modernize the Charter's Gender Equality Provision** [HCC-245-FY24](#)

For discussion. A public hearing will be held at 6 PM on April 1, 2024, to hear input from the community on the proposed amendment to the City's Charter.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [2024-02 Charter Amendment Resolution Gender Neutral Language and Equal Protection for All Genders](#)
[Hyattsville Gender Neutral Language Charter April 2024](#)

- 10.c. **Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution: 2024-01: Modernizing the City's Procurement Provisions and Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-01: Procurement & Contracting Procedures** [HCC-242-FY24](#)

For discussion. A public hearing will be held at 6 PM on April 1, 2024, to hear input from the community on the proposed amendment to the City's Charter.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: [2024-01 Charter Resolution Procurement](#)
[Hyattsville Ordinance 2024-01 Chapter 6 Procurement FINAL](#)
[Hyattsville PPT Procurement Charter and Code April 2024](#)

- 10.d. **Open FY25 Budget Discussion** [HCC-262-FY24](#)

Open discussion to provide time for follow-up items pertaining to the FY25 Budget.

Sponsors: City Administrator

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

12. **Motion to Adjourn** **The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.**
Approved, Unanimous

Attest: April 2, 2024



Laura Reams, City Clerk

Electronically Submitted Public Comments

OPPOSE HCC 226-2024 unless amended for reduced number and duration, and mobile shower

Melissa Schweisguth [REDACTED]

Mon 4/1/2024 11:41 AM

1 attachments (845 KB)

ARPA Proposal Detail Summary 04.14.pdf;



Dear Mayor and Councilors.

I hope your week is starting out well!

I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE HCC 226-2024 as written and pass only if amended as outlined below (three Thrones max, two for only six months, and reallocate funds to mobile shower).

As a resident who spoke in favor of ARPA funds for public showers - which is the original line item request where the Throne funds were "pre-approved," I do not believe the proposed expenditure for Thrones aligns with the council's intent in approving the funds (see detail below) nor are they truly "public" bathrooms (must have phone/card and be willing to be tracked). Additionally, I do not feel that five thrones are justified by the usage data or equity analysis, nor is there justification to have Thrones at every site for 12 months. (I am not 100% clear what staff are proposing in terms of sites and quantities as are several discrepancies across the materials and information in the Agenda Packet, including references to five or six Thrones, and the Spot as a location, though the City tested a Throne at the Spot in 2023 and pulled it due to low usage. SO, it is not clear if the Spot is a proposed site.)

PLEASE AMEND as follows:

1. Reduce the number of bathrooms to three, at Hyatt, Heurich, and 38th Avenue OR the Spot only. This means eliminating the throne at Driskel and not having a second one at 38th ave (if 38th Ave is chosen as the third site). Driskell Park already has multiple stall restrooms (which the equity analysis seems to ignore), making the Throne an expensive convenience for periodic non City events such as sports practices/matches and the bike race, for which organizers should pay for a portable toilet if desired. At 38th Ave park, usage data do not support the need for two, nor do my own observations as one who passes the park multiple times daily: lines are rare and never long, maybe five people in line on summer/fall evenings when the BBall players are there along with parents and kids at the playground.
2. Reduce the duration of the Thrones for Heurich and Hyatt to six months, as the details for the motion state that Portland Loos will be installed there in FY25, which ends in six months.
3. Specify that the remaining funds will be allocated to a mobile shower, which is what the council actually "pre approved" \$300k for in 20203.

4. Require an increase number of tap cards, which the City promised as an equity measure, such as 100 to start. Throne took a YEAR to get these to the City, and City staff said they had only about 15. That would not even serve one third of the number of unhoused individuals interviewed in the h3 survey alone, who are only a segment of the unhoused population, not to mention the number of residents like me who just don't want to allow Throne to track us via our phones (or don't take them everywhere).

Regarding the council's intent for the funds in question/what the council approved and when:

It is my understanding that the council "pre approved" \$300k for a portable shower, to complement two public bathrooms specifically Portland Loos to be paid for with other funds NOT five or six bathrooms at four or five sites (nor bathrooms that require some means of user tracking to use SMS, card, app). I spoke in favor of the portable shower, as it will fill a critical gap for unhouse individuals, who face difficulties getting jobs due to lack of access to a shower that enable them to present positively in job interviews. (I would have spoken against Throne of proposed because they are not truly public bathrooms accessible by those without a phone or card, or a willingness to be tracked).

The City's [online agenda details for HCC 226 2024](#) say that the council pre approved the expenditure that is allocated to Throne on April 17, 2023: "*This expenditure, not to exceed \$230,000, will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as part of the Public Restrooms and Shower Facility project pre approved by the Council during the April 17th, 2023, meeting.*"

However, the April 17, 2023 [meeting](#) has only a discussion of ARPA proposals, no vote. The discussion included \$300k specifically for a SHOWER, not bathrooms, as the ARPA item listing notes the City received other funds for TWO bathrooms. See attached. There was a vote on the ARPA items at the 5/1/23 [meeting](#), including the \$300k for "Public Restroom and Shower Facilities in City Owned Parks."

It seems to me that date of the referenced "pre approval" should be 5/1/23 and that the council "pre approved" \$300k for a shower and not bathrooms. ***Can the City staff change plans after the fact and spend amounts upwards of \$300,000 on something else, like bathrooms, and increase the number of public restrooms proposed? If so, what is the point of residents like me commenting, or the council voting?***

Please amend the Throne proposal to support a maximum of THREE sites, with two of those for SIX MONTHS only, and allocation of the remaining funds to a MOBILE SHOWER as council and residents intended.

thank you,

Melissa