

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_QUuzLhvLR1y5lt9bGn4yLg

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

7:00 PM

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 **Absent**
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 Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 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 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 included in the official meeting record. Electronically submitted statements 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.

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_QUuzLhvLR1y5lt9bGn4yLg

1. **Call to Order and Council Roll Call** **Call to Order at 7:02 PM.**
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**
Comments submitted electronically can be found at the end of this summary.
5. **Presentations (7:20 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)**
 - 5.a. **FY26 Departmental Budget Presentation** [HCC-288-FY25](#)
For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY 26 BUDGET BOOK FINAL for 04.02.2025.pdf](#)
6. **Council Dialogue (9:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)**

7. Motion to Adjourn

Approved, Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 PM.

Attest: April 4, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nate Groenendyk", is written over a horizontal line.

Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk



2025_04_02 Meeting: Missing information in the Council Discussion Expenditures

From Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic [REDACTED]

Date Wed 4/2/2025 1:11 PM

To [REDACTED]

Cc tatjana.hrubik.vulanovic@gmail.com [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Could the Council begin identifying action items in meeting summaries and ensure follow-up on them in subsequent meetings until they are resolved? This common practice would greatly enhance transparency. I propose that the Council formally adopt this practice.

At least two important action items remain unaddressed:

1. During the March 3 meeting, Mr. Brooks agreed to post the current city debt information online. Although the document exists, it has not been made available yet.
2. On March 3, Mr. Brooks submitted an expenditure of \$122,046 for item 8.e Purchase of Replacement Vehicles for the Police Department without specifying the fund from which it would be paid. When asked, he was unable to identify the fund during the meeting, nor did he provide this information afterward.

These items highlight incomplete financial data being provided to both the Council and the residents.

Incomplete financial information is an especially big problem during FY26 budget discussions. For example, the proposed city deficit of \$1.6 million for FY26 may look much worse when considering that the city has a \$43 million debt to repay over the next 23 years. Additionally, the \$30 million the city received for assuming this debt has not been disclosed in the FY26 budget. What is the fund holding this money, and how much remains in it? Knowing the city's debt and balance for capital improvement fund is essential when discussing the FY26 budget, and this information should be clearly disclosed in the report.

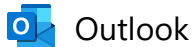
Another issue to address is the employee benefits (fringes).

The FY26 budget proposal, includes \$14 million for salaries and \$7.9 million for benefits, giving a benefits-to-salary ratio of 56.20%. For small businesses, this ratio typically ranges from 15-30%, and for police departments, it is generally between 20-40%. If the city were to pay an average benefits ratio of 28%, this would result in approximately \$3.9 million in benefits, saving about \$4 million in FY26. Some of these savings could be used to increase salaries or address the projected deficit.

Would this information be helpful to the Council and residents? I would appreciate any feedback.

Best regards,

Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic



Outlook

Notice of Code Violation – Unauthorized Use of Gas Blower and Request for Council Record

From Chuck Perry [REDACTED]

Date Wed 4/2/2025 1:48 PM

To [REDACTED]

Cc [REDACTED]

1 attachment (6 MB)

20250402_112100.jpg;

Dear City Council Members and City Clerk,

This is a notice to the City of Hyattsville regarding a clear violation of the City's Code related to prohibited gas-powered blowers, witnessed and documented today, April 2, 2025, at the property.

Summary of Violation: At approximately 11:19 AM today, video and photographic evidence were taken showing persons working on this property using a **gas-powered blower** in direct violation of **Hyattsville City Code Chapter 87-24(D)**. The workers were affiliated with a contractor operating under the company name "SMC" (see attached photo), as identified by two clearly marked work vehicles present on-site. A photo of the contractor vehicles is attached to this email for reference.

City Agency Notifications: In addition to this written notice, the following steps were taken:

1. Code Enforcement and Police Department Notified:

The City of Hyattsville Code Enforcement Division and Police Department (operator #537) were made aware of this violation immediately after it was observed.

2. Hyattsville Patrol Vehicle 'ED11' Notified:

A City of Hyattsville marked patrol vehicle, designated as **ED11**, was stopped in the area and directly informed of the violation. The driver of this patrol vehicle refused to identify himself when asked. This behavior is concerning and reflects a lack of transparency expected from public employees tasked with enforcing city laws.

Request for Council Record: Please include this formal notice and attached evidence as **public comment** in the official record of tonight's City Council Meeting scheduled for **April 2, 2025, at 7:00 PM**. I request that the **City Clerk** ensure this notice is entered into the meeting minutes and made part of the public record.

Further Concerns: I would like to bring to the Council's attention a pattern of **arbitrary and inconsistent responses** to Code Enforcement calls such as this. It is my expectation that this matter will not only be documented but also followed by a direct and transparent review of how Code Enforcement responds to residents' lawful concerns.

I specifically request that the Council address the need for **sanctions and accountability measures** regarding any City staff who fail to properly enforce the City's environmental codes or who refuse to

appropriately identify themselves when approached by residents.

Attachments:

1. Video evidence of gas blower violation (<https://youtube.com/shorts/zwKKF3jCdCM?feature=shared>)
2. Still photo of contractor vehicles (please see attached)

If the City expects residents to comply with its ordinances, then the City must enforce its laws fairly, consistently, and without arbitrary discretion.

Sincerely,
Chuck Perry, Ward 3





Please Preserve Full Funding for the Hyattsville Life & Times

From Greg Smith [REDACTED]

Date Wed 4/2/2025 4:49 PM

To [REDACTED]

April 2, 2025

Request: Please Preserve Full Funding for the Hyattsville Life & Times

Dear Mayor and Council,

I know that you have many priorities and challenges to weigh as you make difficult decisions regarding the FY 2026 budget.

Please do what you can to preserve full funding of the Hyattsville Life & Times contract with the City.

I won't take up your time with pithy points here because I know that you know that, now perhaps more than ever, we need robust, community-based, community-focused media, and more good information and community engagement, not less.

As always, thanks for your time, consideration, and service to the community.

Best regards,

Greg Smith

[REDACTED]