

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QUuzLhvLR1y5lt9bGn4yLg

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.

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Also present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Director of Community Business and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Resources Manager Reginald Bagley

Race and Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre

Communications Manager Cindy Zork

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

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, 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

Lina P. (Ward 2) spoke in opposition of reducing funding for the Hyattsville Life & Times. She also asked for more transparency and prudence in the FY26 budget.

Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic (Ward 5) spoke about reducing the budget through modifying employee benefits.

Mr. Marshall spoke in opposition to removing cost of living adjustments (COLA) for staff. He also asked that the Council consider removal the Thrones public toilets in the City.

5. Presentations (7:20 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

5.a. FY26 Departmental Budget Presentation[HCC-288-FY25](#)

For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY 26 BUDGET BOOK FINAL for 04.02.2025.pdf](#)

The City Administrator and Treasurer opened the budget presentation before allowing each director time to review the budget for their department.

CM Strab inquired about how fund balances are recorded, tracked and carried over into the new fiscal years. She also spoke in support of retaining funding to the Hyattsville Life & Times at current levels and expressed that there is potential to expand the work done with the paper. She also expressed her desire to retain funding for the annual Back to School Drive supply giveaway to residents. Lastly she stated that she would like to review the efficacy of the stipend program to draw residents from wards 3, 4, and 5, and that the Community Services department is working to identify grants and external funding sources for the teen mental health programs.

Council Vice President Joanne Waszczak advised that she would like more information about costs for the varying benefit levels for staff, police, and retirees. She also expressed concerns about the decision to withhold a cost of living adjustment to staff, and the proposal to cut funding to the Hyattsville Life & Times. She spoke in favor of keeping the committee stipend program citing that committee participation has increased in the past 6 months to nearly 90%. Her recommended cuts were glossy paper for City communications and removing Throne toilets, and asked for their utilization rates.

CM Redmond advised that he is in support of providing cost of living adjustments to the staff and that he agrees that the efficacy of the stipend program needs to be examined. Lastly he advised that he is in favor of keeping the Throne toilets in the parks citing that flushable toilets are of great benefit to the residents.

CM Schaible stated his support of cutting funding for the Throne toilets in the park citing the costs for keeping them. He also stated support for giving staff a cost of living adjustment, keeping the committee stipend program and continuing support of the Hyattsville Life & Times at the current rate. He also inquired about the balance of the capital improvement fund and where those monies are derived and how they are recorded. He stated the need for a more realistic budget that accounts for projected revenue, expenditures, and staff costs.

Council President Solomon stated that the cuts in the budget are based on the Council requesting a more balanced budget. In addition the Council approved a budget director for FY26 which should improve the budgetary process. He stated that he has concerns about the personal property tax projections and how they may be impacted due to tariffs that are implemented. He also raised concerns about income taxes as many residents with federal jobs are becoming unemployed. Lastly he inquired about funding for capital improvement projects that had funding shifted from ARPA to other funding sources.

6. Council Dialogue (9:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)**7. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Redmond, 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