

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 6, 2023

7:00 PM

Register in advance for the webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AILKHMUVSW-_w2u6zeedAQ

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
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Kareem Redmond, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
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.

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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, November 6, 2023 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. 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_AILKHMUVSW-_w2u6zeedAQ

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development-Holly Simmons

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Chief of Police-Jared Towers

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk

Emergency Services Coordinator-Reggie Bagley

ARPA Funds Manager-Patrick Paschall

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council President Joseph Solomon

Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Danny Schaible

Councilmember Emily Strab

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

Councilmember Kareem Redmond

Councilmember Michelle Lee

Councilmember Edouard Haba

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

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

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that the Agenda be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. Approval of the Minutes**4.a. Approval of the Minutes**[HCC-115-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on May 2, 2022, May 16, 2022, October 17, 2022, December 19, 2022, and the City Council meeting of September 18, 2023.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes Sept 18 2023](#)
[Public Hearing Minutes Dec 19 2022](#)
[Public Hearing Minutes Oct 17 2022](#)
[Minutes PublicHearing May16 2023](#)
[Minutes PublicHearing May2 2023](#)

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

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

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

Marbel Montano spoke about an issue with parking in her neighborhood.

Mayor Croslin asked her to reach out to the City Clerk; Deputy Clerk Groenendyk responded with the proper email address so her concern can be addressed.

- Sarah Harper spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Jorge Benitez Perez spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Norma Wardado spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Blanca Mundrado spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Sonya Hernandez spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Javier Guardado spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Hector Hernandez spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Daniel Broder spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24 and for diplomacy/peace in the Middle East.

Kirk Brintzenhofe spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

Melissa Schweisguth spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24 and has concerns for parking at the Spot.

Judith O'Neal, part of unincorporated Hyattsville, asked about adding her enclave to incorporated Hyattsville.

Ryan Washington spoke in opposition of rent regulation with hopes of amending HCC-108-FY24.

Bob Kantor spoke against expanding the footprint of Deitz Park.

Greg Smith spoke in favor of HCC-108-FY24.

6. City Administrator Update (7:10 p.m - 7:30 p.m.)

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

Councilmember Denes asked if sidewalks would be closed due to the work on Jefferson Street. Director Riddle said that to her knowledge, sidewalks will not be closed.

Councilmember Schaible asked about status of leaf collection. Director Riddle responded that trucks start leaf collection in early October and are already out but would be delayed if there was rain.

Council President Solomon asked when the West Hyattsville Business quarterly meeting would be rescheduled, for the status on the Gilbane MOU for the digital sign, and about the letter to DOE about watershed restoration. Acting Director Simmons said there is no date scheduled for the postponed meeting, and that the MOU with Gilbane is moving forward. Director Riddle responded that the letter to M-NCPPC is in progress.

Councilmember Strab asked that police be involved in traffic flow near Hyattsville Elementary School once road closures are implemented.

Councilmember Haba asked Director Riddle for an update on Nicholson road work. Director Riddle said they expect to start doing work in 4-6 weeks.

7. Presentations (7:30 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.)**7.a. Procurement Code and Charter Amendment**[HCC-126-FY24](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Administrator Douglas introduced Suzie Ludlow, Strategic Advisor and part-time Deputy City Administrator who presented on the proposed changes to the Code and Charter regarding procurement.

Councilmember Strab asked if regular twice a year accounting to Council is the standard in municipalities. Ms. Ludlow said that the information is public and that this new City code would provide more transparency to Council.

7.b. The Spot Redesign Concept Plan[HCC-121-FY24](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [The Spot Redesign Final Concept and Report](#)

Allie O'Neill and Jenny Smeltzer from Neighborhood Design Center presented the concept plan for The Spot.

Councilmember Denes asked about the maturity level of the trees being planted and if they would provide shade right away. Ms. Smeltzer said since this is still a concept plan, final plantings are to be determined.

Councilmember Denes asked if the water features would be included, and their maintenance and life cycle costs. Ms. Smeltzer showed where the water features are planned to be located but did not have information about life cycle costs.

Councilmember Strab asked about safety lighting. Ms. Smeltzer said that safety lighting is included in the Concept Plan.

7.c. Library Apartments/3325 Toledo Road Garage Redevelopment Detailed Site Plan (DSP) 01002-04 [HCC-124-FY24](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Staff Memo - Library Apartments - DSP 01002-04](#)
[2023-10-24 Council Presentation](#)
[Detailed Site Plan \(DSP-01002-04\)](#)
[Statement of Justification](#)
[Architectural drawings](#)
[Stormwater Management Concept Plan approval](#)
[Certificate of Adequacy \(ADQ-2022-055\)](#)
[Planning Board Resolution \(PPS-4-22004\)](#)

Matthew Tedesco of McNamee Hosea Attorney & Advisors presented the site plan for the Library Apartments development.

Councilmember Solomon asked if street safety would be addressed. Mr. Tedesco said there is a bike/pedestrian impact statement and statement of off site improvements.

Councilmember Schaible asked about ownership of the private roads. Mr. Tedesco said that there is shared maintenance by all the property owners. Councilmember Schaible asked that tree canopy be expanded to the extent possible. Mr. Tedesco said there will be an increase in tree plantings.

Councilmember Denes expressed his concern for pedestrian access points.

Councilmember Redmond questioned whether the applicant has any leverage or control on the UTC campus maintenance. Phil Aftuck, representative from the developer, said they are just a single member of the association that has that authority.

8. Proclamations

All proclamations were adopted in a single vote.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that the Proclamations be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Waszczak

8.a. Proclamation Recognizing Native American Heritage Month [HCC-117-FY24](#)

I move that Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to declare November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1106 Native American Heritage Month 2023](#)

8.b. Proclamation Recognizing Municipal Government Works Month [HCC-118-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing November 2023 as Municipal Government Works Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1106 Municipal Government Works Month 2023](#)

8.c. Proclamation Recognizing Veterans Day [HCC-119-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim November 11, 2023, to be Veterans Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1106 Veterans Day Proclamation 2023](#)

8.d. Proclamation Recognizing American Education Week [HCC-120-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation in honor of American Education Week, November 13 - 17, 2023.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1106 American Education Week 2023](#)

9. Appointments

All appointments were approved in a single vote.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that the Appointments be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Waszczak

9.a. Appointment to the Race and Equity Task Force [HCC-122-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Daniel Amador (Ward 5) to the Race and Equity Task Force for a term of two (2) years to expire on November 6, 2025.

Sponsors: Haba

Attachments: [Daniel Amador reappoint Nov 2023 redac](#)

9.b. Appointment to the Planning Committee [HCC-123-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of David Marshall (Ward 4) to the Planning Committee for a term of two (2) years to end on November 6, 2025.

Sponsors: Redmond and Denes

Attachments: [David Marshall re-appoint Nov 23 redac](#)

9.c. Appointment to the Ethics Commission [HCC-127-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor, with Council approval, appoint Katie Siemon (Ward 1) to the Ethics Commission for a term of three (3) years to end on November 6, 2026.

Sponsors: Croslin

Attachments: [Katie Siemon Aug 5 redac](#)

10. Consent Items (7:50 p.m. - 7:55 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 Councilmember Haba, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Waszczak

10.a. Award of Road Improvement Contract[**HCC-111-FY24**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with NZI Construction, Inc. for road and sidewalk improvements throughout the City, utilizing a rider on Prince George's County contract 932A-H(F)D. The agreement will be for the same terms, conditions, costs, and period of performance, including all extensions as issued by Prince George's County, pending legal review.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [PG 932A-H\(F\)D Contract Agreement dated 10-05-20](#)
[932A-H\(F\)D Amendment #1 fully executed](#)

10.b. Purchase of Two 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe Pursuit Vehicles[**HCC-112-FY24**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$93,751.97 to Mall Chevrolet for the purchase of two (2) 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe Pursuit Vehicles.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Chevy Quote](#)
[PD Letter of Intent Mall Chevrolet 12-8-2022](#)
[Vendor Docs Mall Chevrolet Cars Crossovers Class 1-3 Pickup Trucks Chassis Cabs SUVs and Vans ESCNJ 20 21 09 \(1\) \(1\)](#)

10.c. Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Regarding E-Trace Firearm Tracing Application[**HCC-113-FY24**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for access to eTrace, pending review and approval by the City Attorney.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memorandum of Understanding - HYATTSVILLE CITY MD POLICE DEPARTMENT](#)

10.d. FY24 Budget Appropriation: Accept and Appropriate the BJA FY22 Byrne Discretionary Community Funding Grant for Evidence Lab Upgrades[**HCC-114-FY24**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate into the FY24 budget, the Byrne Discretionary Community Funding Grant in the amount of \$100,000 toward evidence lab equipment upgrades.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Award Letter Evidence Grant](#)

10.e FY24 Budget Appropriation: Accept and Appropriate the FY23 Law Enforcement Agency De-Escalation Grant - Community Policing Development Solicitation [HCC-128-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate the De-Escalation Grant Award in the amount of \$109,000 to cover the cost of APEX Officer, a virtual reality training simulator for the Hyattsville Police Department.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Award Package FAW-180772](#)

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

11.a. Hyattsville Rent Stabilization Ordinance[HCC-108-FY24](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance on regulating the annual rate of increase in rental prices in the City Hyattsville. The ordinance shall meet the following rent stabilization goals:

Rental Increase Allowance:

This ordinance shall:

- Authorize and require the City Administrator to set and publish a maximum allowable annual rent increase (MAARI). The MAARI shall be the maximum annual allowable percentage increase in price per unit for non-exempt rental properties within the City of Hyattsville.
- The MAARI shall be equal to the annual percentage increase in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), from November to November of the two most recent calendar years, rounded to the nearest whole number, and shall be effective for a twelve-month period beginning January 1.
- In addition to rent increases, the MAARI shall include and regulate all increases to fees associated with rental properties, including but not limited to fees associated with utilities, parking, amenities, and pets.

Exemptions:

The following classes of rental properties and rental agreements shall be exempt from the limit imposed through the MAARI.

- Rental properties less than 15 years old.
- Buildings with 4 or fewer units.
- Owner-occupied where the tenants share a kitchen or bathroom with the owner.
- Short-term leasing agreements. (Defined as leases for 30 days or less, published via short-term leasing platforms such as Airbnb) Extensions of leases beyond 120 days will make the unit subject to the Rent Allowance clauses prescribed.
- Accessory apartments and dwelling units.
- Units that are subsidized or regulated by federal, state, county, or local guidelines. This exemption does not apply to non-subsidized or non-regulated units that are rented using a housing voucher.

Rental Registry:

- The City shall create and maintain a publicly accessible rental registry containing all legal rental units within the City of Hyattsville and indicate which units are subject to rent stabilization. The rental registry shall be public and posted on the City's website.
- All rental properties must be on the rental registry. Unregistered properties cannot legally raise the rent and are subject to municipal citations.
- Providing false information to the registration is illegal under this ordinance and subject to municipal citation.
- Yearly notice will be sent to the landlords of all rental properties reminding them to register their rental units and pay the occupancy permit fee, and informing them of the allowable MAARI rate increase for rent stabilization eligible properties.

Civil Recourse:

- Any landlord found in violation of the ordinance shall be required to pay any tenant harmed by any such violation no less than the equivalent of three (3) months of rent, plus any attorney fees paid by the City to enforce the ordinance.

- The City may deny a rental license to, and may impose financial penalties on, any landlord who fails to comply with this ordinance.
- Property owners may be sanctioned under this statute if City code finds them in violation: <https://law.justia.com/codes/maryland/2021/real-property/title-8/subtitle-2/section-8-211/>

Staffing and Management:

- Publish the MAARI and distribute it to all property owners.
- Provide an annual report to Hyattsville City Council on the status of the Rent Stabilization Program.

Communications and Outreach

City staff shall:

- Develop and distribute annual rent stabilization notifications in English and Spanish. Notifications must be kept posted in the lobby, mailroom, or other public gathering space of every rent stabilization eligible property.

Voluntary Rent Increase Agreements Related to Capital Improvements

Landlords may propose and be approved for rent increases that exceed the MAARI if the capital improvements/repairs that they will make, and the subsequent rent increases, have the supermajority support (greater than or equal to 60%) of the affected tenants. In such circumstances, the vote will be administered by the City and the votes cast by tenants will be anonymous. Trivial and routine repairs and renovations shall be ineligible for these agreements. Regulations related to voluntary rent increase agreements shall be prepared by the City.

Right to a Fair Return:

- Fair Return Rent Increase. Landlords have a right to petition for a rent increase in order to obtain a fair return. A fair return rent increase is intended to protect tenants from unwarranted rent increases while allowing rent levels that provide landlords with a fair return. Regulations related to the right to a fair return shall be prepared by the City and approved by Council.

Preferential Rent Banking:

- Preferential rent is rent a landlord charges that is lower than the legal regulated rent they could lawfully charge. If a landlord uses preferential rent, once the tenancy ends the landlord may increase rent for the new tenant up to the full amount permitted by the MAARI over the full duration of the previous tenancy. This option is available only when there is a change of tenants (as opposed to a lease renewal with the same tenant), and can only span the time between two different tenants (i.e. once a new lease agreement is reached with a new tenant, any past preferential rent usage will become fixed).

CITY POLICY (not codified)

In support of the ordinance the City shall implement the following policies and procedures:

Rental Registry

- At a minimum, the rental registry must include for each unit 1) the year built, 2) the number of bedrooms, 3) the address of the property, 4) the unit number, 5) the date the current lease began, 6) the rent as of January 1 for each year, 7) any associated rental fees (utilities, parking, pet etc.) as of January 1 for each year, 8) the name of the multifamily property; 9) the name, mailing address, phone number, and email address of each owner and manager of a registered property; 10) if the property is rent stabilized.

Administrative Support:

- The cost of implementing this ordinance shall be paid for with revenue generated from the rental registry fee. It is estimated that two full-time employees will be required to implement and administer this program, including maintaining the required registry of rental units, publishing and disseminating the MAARI, answering questions from landlords and tenants, hosting workshops for tenants and landlords, publishing annual reports on program outcomes, and enforcing the requirements imposed on landlords by the ordinance. Fluency in English and Spanish will be essential for this program.
- Increase occupancy permit fee by \$50 per unit to assist in covering City administrative expenses associated with the rental registry and rent stabilization.

Staffing and Management:

- Authorize the creation of a staff level Housing Affordability role responsible for implementing this ordinance and other housing affordability initiatives.
- Adjudicate landlord/tenant rental disputes.
- Advise Hyattsville City Council on modifications required to the rent stabilization ordinance and additional solutions/recommendations to address affordability.
- Maintain rental unit registry.
- Additional responsibilities as enumerated in the 2023 Hyattsville Rent Stabilization Study.

Communications and Outreach

The dedicated staff persons hired to administer the ordinance shall:

- Conduct public outreach such as development of brochures, ad campaigns, webpage, host public workshops etc.
- Develop an online calculator to compute allowable rent increases.

Sponsors: Schaible, Croslin, Solomon, Denes, Waszczak, McClellan, Redmond, Haba and Sandino

Attachments: [Takoma Park, Rent Stabilization Ordinance](#)
[Final Hyattsville Rent Stabilization Study \(004\) \(2\)](#)

Council President Solomon gave an overview of the history and intent of the proposed motion. Councilmember Schaible gave a brief presentation on the proposed legislation.

Councilmember McClellan asked about the reasoning behind exempting apartments that are at least 15 years old. Council President Solomon replied that the time frame is tied to the financing obligations of the developer, which are often set out over a course of 15 years or greater. He stated that this exemption is aimed to keep projects already in the pipeline on course and not discourage future developments.

Councilmember Redmond asked about what the true cost to the City will be with this program. City Administrator Douglas stated that after talks with Takoma Park, the cost looks to be between \$300,000 and \$600,000. Director Simmons added that there will likely be a lot of hidden costs and that there may be additional staff needed to implement the program. Council President Solomon added that the increase in fee is expected to offset the additional cost.

Councilmember Haba asked that buildings with more than four units regardless if the owner shares a kitchen and/or bathroom not be exempt from rent stabilization.

Councilmember Strab expressed her concern about the cost of the program. Councilmember Schaible

clarified that there would be an increase to the rental fee to offset costs. Councilmember Strab said she was apprehensive about implementing a new fee in such a short period of time without more notice to landlords. She also expressed her concern about how this may impact the housing stock and the possibility of losing available housing in the City.

Councilmember Schaible said that he would be happy for the County to enact their own ordinance but does not want to rely on the County given that it might not happen.

Councilmember Denes suggested that the September CPI be used to determine each year's allowable increase to give landlords and tenants enough time to adjust to rent increase allowances. He expressed his concern about the workload put on staff to conduct elections. He added that he would be happy to let the County take the lead on this, but wants to be prepared if the County does not act.

Council Vice-President Waszczak asked if there was any discussion in using CPI plus 1% or some other percentage. Council President Solomon responded that there has been no information given to determine an additional percent to CPI. Councilmember Schaible expressed his view that CPI or even lower would be the fairest.

11.b. ARPA Spending Plan Discussion[HCC-125-FY24](#)

For discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [ARPA Spending Plan Update Discussion November 2023](#)

ARPA Fund Manager Patrick Paschall gave an overview of current status of ARPA Spending Plan.

Councilmember Redmond asked for clarification on the delay of the fire department ambulance item. Mr. Paschall explained the process of vetting projects and its impact on the timeline for project to be brought forward.

Councilmember Denes questioned current billing for ambulance service in the county. Chief Pidgeon explained the system involving career and volunteer staff and billing systems. Councilmember Denes expressed his concern that the City would pay for an ambulance but that City residence would be billed for emergency ambulance trips.

Councilmember Strab read a letter from the Police and Public Safety Committee endorsing the purchase of the ambulance.

Councilmember Schaible asked for an update of all approved programs that have not been obligated yet. City Treasurer Brooks said that the information could be provided within the week.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if the supply chain issues with ambulance components impacted the timing of the request for the ambulance. Chief Pidgeon said he'd brought the item to Council some time ago.

Councilmember Waszczak asked for clarification on the total expense for the police IT/communications systems. Chief Towers said that at this point it is an estimate of \$1.5-2 million and there are aggressive efforts at locating grants to cover some of that expense.

Councilmember Waszczak asked Director Riddle about the public comment related to a slide at Dietz Park. Director Riddle said that the intention is to put the slide within the existing footprint.

12. Council Dialogue (9:10 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.)**13. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Redmond, that the meeting be Adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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