

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2023

7:00 PM

Register in advance for the webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UZAPt5zaS2yga-NAFz dj5g

City Council

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor
Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5
Danny Schaible, Council Vice President, Ward 2
Sam Denes, Ward 1
Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1
Emily Strab, Ward 2
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Ben Simasek, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Daniel Peabody, 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. 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 17, 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:

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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_UZAPt5zaS2yga-NAFzdj5g

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

Deputy City Administrator-Consuela Barbour

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Chief of Police-Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Human Resources-Jay Joyner

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

City Clerk-Laura Reams

ARPA Fund Manager-Patrick Pashall

Present: Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
Councilmember Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Ben Simasek
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent: Mayor Robert Croslin

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Waszczak motioned to add the motion below to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Denes and approved unanimously.

I move the Council authorize the Mayor and Staff to communicate to the Prince George's County District Council a request to postpone and reschedule the oral arguments for Suffrage Point DSP-21001 and extend the deadline for written comments. In its request, the City may cite an incomplete record, including the absence of the transcript from the Planning Board hearing held on January 12, 2023.

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

Aye: Solomon, Schaible, Waszczak, Simasek, Denes, Peabody, and Haba

Absent: Croslin, Strab, McClellan, and Sandino

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

Mr. Perry provided written comment proposing offsetting additional police costs.

Ms. Fitzpatrick provided written comment in favor of using ARPA funds to create the Spot.

Ms. Cabe provided written comment in favor of retaining the present proposed real tax rate.

Mr. Tomes provided written comment in favor of consent items.

Mr. Ventura provided written comment in favor of the Spot.

Ms. Martin provided written comment in favor of the Spot.

Ms. Wood provided written comment in favor of the Spot.

Ms. McKenna provided written comment to support ARPA funds for the Spot planning and more parking options.

Mr. Malclav provided written comment to support ARPA funds for the Spot.

Ms. Hillstrom provided written comment to support ARPA funds for the Spot.

Mr. Dengel provided written comment to support ARPA funds for the Spot.

Mr. Hillstrom provided written comment to support the Spot funding.

Ms. Horentz provided written comment to support Spot funding.

Ms. Roberts provided written comment to support ARPA funds for the Spot.

Mr. Etz provided written comment to support ARPA funds for the Spot.

Mr. King provided written comment to support ARPA funds for the Spot.

Mr. Himlett provided written comment to oppose using ARPA funds for the Spot.

Ms. Hadid provided written comment in favor of the Spot.

5. Community Notices and Meetings

5.a. Main City Calendar: April 18, 2022 - May 1, 2022[HCC-354-FY23](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City AdministratorAttachments: [City Calendar April 18, 2023 - May 1, 2023](#)**6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)**

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on City-related news and events. This included an update from Police Chief Jarrod Towers on crime statistics.

Councilmember Waszczak asked Chief Towers how modernized security cameras will assist police. Chief Towers said investigators will have access to analytical data for tracking and increasing case closures.

Councilmember Haba asked the status of facilities and signage. Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle said the Portland Loos are still in permitting. Council President Solomon said he will follow up with Councilmember Haba and update Director Riddle.

7. Presentations (7:45 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

7.a. M-NCPPC Multi-Generational Center Project[HCC-359-FY23](#)

Presentation Only.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [M-NCPPC Multi-Gen Center - Hyattsville Presentation](#)

Sonja Ewing, Assistant Division Chief of Parks, Planning and Development for Prince George's County Dept of Planning and Recreation presented an overview of the Multi-Generational Center.

Councilmember Waszczak asked how this center is unique. Ms. Ewing said the size of this facility is 3-4 times larger.

Councilmember Waszczak asked where residents can find updates. Ms. Ewing responded that M-NCPPC is updating their website and that is where the updates will be located.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about replacing the wooded area that will be cleared. Ms. Ewing responded that they will be replacing trees 2 for 1 in the same watershed.

Councilmember Simasek shared a resident concern about the cost of the property. Ms. Ewing said that the cost to M-NCPPC is near \$4 million.

Councilmember Simasek asked about property access during the construction process. Ms. Ewing confirmed that the sidewalk should remain open for community members.

Council President Solomon asked about opportunities for additional community feedback. Ms. Ewing responded that M-NCPPC sees all of Hyattsville as partners in the process.

8. Proclamations**8.a. Arbor Day Proclamation**[HCC-329-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council proclaim April 24, 2023 as Arbor Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0417 Arbor Day 2023](#)

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

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

Absent: Croslin

9. Appointments

All Appointments were approved by a single vote.

It was noted that the ward be corrected in the appointment of James Wigley to Ward 2 and the appointment of Mai Abdul Rahman to Ward 1.

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that these Appointment be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Croslin

9.a. Reappointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee [HCC-341-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Gloria Felix-Thompson (Ward 1) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on April 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Sandino and McClellan

Attachments: [Gloria Felix Thompson re-appointment April 2021 redac](#)

9.b. Reappointments to the Education Advisory Committee [HCC-342-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Mai Abdul Rahman (Ward 1) to the Education Advisory Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on April 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Strab and Peabody

Attachments: [Mia Abdul Rahman W2](#)

9.c. Reappointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee [HCC-343-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council reappoint Don Burger (Ward 1) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on April 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Waszczak

Attachments: [Don Burger, W1 redac](#)

9.d. Reappointment to the Planning Committee [HCC-344-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council reappoint Gregory Barnes (Ward 1), William Seath (Ward 2), and Yohannes Bennehoff (Ward 4) to the Planning Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on April 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Simasek

Attachments: [Gregory Barnes, W1, redac](#)
[William Seath, W2 redac](#)
[Yohannes Bennehoff W4 redac](#)

9.e. Reappointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee [HCC-345-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council reappoint Taylor Wilder (Ward 2) and Mai Abdul Rahman (Ward 2) to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on April 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Schaible and Sandino

Attachments: [Taylor Wilder, W2 redac](#)
[Mai Abdul Rahman, W2 redac](#)

9.f. Reappointment to the Educational Facilities Task Force [HCC-346-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council reappoint Kat Schooley (Ward 1) and Daniel Broder (Ward 2) to the Educational Facilities Task Force for a term of 2 years to expire on April 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Peabody

Attachments: [Daniel Broder, W2, redac](#)
[Kat Schooly W1 redac](#)

9.g. Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee [HCC-358-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of James Wigley (Ward 2) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire April 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Simasek and Haba

Attachments: [James Wigley W2 redac](#)

10. Consent Items (8:10 p.m. - 8:15 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 Sandino, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Croslin

10.a. ARPA: Purchase of E-Bikes for the Police Department

[HCC-347-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 for the purchase of electric bicycles for the Hyattsville Police Department Officers.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Recon Interceptor 2023](#)
[4455 Quote Hyattsville Police Department](#)

10.b. ARPA: Deputy Director for Infrastructure and Environment Position

[HCC-348-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in an amount not to exceed \$230,000 to cover the salary and benefits for a Deputy Director of Environmental Operations and for consultant and subcontractor fees for evaluation, design, and construction of ARPA funded projects.

Sponsors: City Administrator

10.c. ARPA: Information Technology Technician Position

[HCC-349-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to cover the cost of an IT technician to support staff and council-related IT needs in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville IT Assessment Summary](#)

10.d. ARPA: Grant Writer Position

[HCC-350-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the use of American Rescue Act funds in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 to hire a professional grant writer to assist the City in identifying grants to cover increased project and program spending and offset ARPA legacy costs.

Sponsors: City Administrator

10.e. ARPA: Emergency Trash Truck Purchase

[HCC-360-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems for the purchase of an 8CY trash truck to replace an existing truck that is no longer serviceable, for an expenditure not to exceed \$144,000.00, pending the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency. I further move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for this purchase.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [RSSQ39140](#)

10.f. Opioid Settlement Agreement Authorization[HCC-352-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute and enter the attached Participation and Release form, or a version substantially similar thereto, on behalf of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland. The City Administrator is also authorized to execute and enter into any state subdivision agreement, or version similar thereto, on behalf or the City of Hyattsville, Maryland.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Opioid settlement agreement 2](#)
[Memo Template--opioid funds agreement](#)

10.g. Memorandum of Understanding: Heurich Park Community Garden Association[HCC-355-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Heurich Park Community Garden Association for the use and administration of the community garden space at Heurich Park, pending review and approval by the City Attorney.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Heurich Park Community Garden Association MOU 2023 -council draft](#)
[Heurich Park By-Laws 2023](#)
[Heurich Park Community Garden Rules 2023](#)
[Heurich Park New Garden Plot Application \(1\)](#)

10.h. Change Order to the Neighborhood Design Center Contract[HCC-356-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to issue a change order to the contract with Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) to increase the maximum value of the contract not to exceed \$985,000 to cover projects previously authorized. This is a contractual change only. Any encumbrances related to this Change Order are approved via separate Council motions.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [180328 - Contract - NDC - Magruder Park Community Outreach and Design Concept](#)

10.i. FY23 General Fund Budget Adjustments and Transfer of Appropriations[HCC-357-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Treasurer to amend the FY23 General Fund Budget by adjusting and transferring available budget appropriations in various line-items and between departments to address year-end operational expenditures before June 30, 2023.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Action Items

ACTION AGENDA: Temp Motion HCC-0417-FY23: I move the Council authorize the Mayor and Staff to communicate to the Prince George's County District Council a request to postpone and reschedule the oral arguments for Suffrage Point DSP-21001 and extend the deadline for written comments. In its request, the City may cite an incomplete record, including the absence of the transcript from the Planning Board hearing held on January 12, 2023.

[HCC-361-FY23](#)

Councilmember Peabody asked for further information.

Councilmember Waszczak responded that minutes had not been posted after the District Council Hearing so the public would not be able to adequately comment.

Director of Community and Economic Development Jim Chandler added that the District Council has in the past postponed hearings if there were grounds to do so, and recommended that the City go on the record regarding the concerns.

A motion was made by Councilmember Denes, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Croslin

11. Discussion Items (8:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

11.a. Open FY24 Budget Discussion - Real Property Tax Rate[HCC-340-FY23](#)

Open discussion to provide time for follow-up items pertaining to the FY24 Budget and the Real Property Tax Rate. The rate has been published at .063 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Councilmembers are allotted time to discuss keeping the current tax rate, tax credit program considerations, or options to lower it.

Attached is a slide detailing the proposed FY24 Real Property Tax Rate.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [FY24 Real Property Tax Rate Slide updated 4-11-2023](#)

City Administrator Douglas and City Treasurer Brooks reviewed the proposed FY24 budget. Treasurer Brooks provided a detailed analysis of the City's financial statement for the last three fiscal years and the projected revenues and expenditures for FY24.

Councilmember Simasek asked if the ongoing property tax study would be available by the May 1 Public Hearing on the tax rate. Treasurer Brooks said the study was not anticipated to be completed by that time and the contractors were working on obtaining information from the County Real Property Tax Rate division. Treasurer Brooks said he hoped to have a preliminary draft available prior to adopting the budget along with the 10-year forecast.

Councilmember Waszczak asked that the contractors review tonight's meeting and the upcoming May 1 public hearing. She also asked if the contractor could hold a public meeting. Treasurer Brooks said that City staff would look into the feasibility of a public engagement session. Councilmember Waszczak asked how the council could account for potential losses in revenues if the city were to adopt a tiered tax rate or increased tax cuts for some residents. Treasurer Brooks said it was premature to provide input on this until the study was completed.

Councilmember Denes cautioned his colleagues that if the Council was serious about tax cuts then a closer look at expenditures and cuts to expenditures was necessary.

Treasurer Brooks noted the City's debt capacity and said that he did not think the City could borrow additional funds for at least another 5 years.

Council President Solomon noted that any new amendments to the budget would require three sponsors.

11.b. ARPA Initiatives Discussion[HCC-353-FY23](#)

For discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [ARPA Community Feedback on Proposals v04.14.2023 FINAL](#)
[ARPA Proposal Detail Summary 04.14.2023 FINAL](#)
[ARPA Proposal Community Feedback Comments 04.12.2023 \(2\)](#)
[ARPA Proposal Vote Tallies \(2\)](#)

ARPA Manager Paschall presented the community feedback on the ARPA proposals and prioritized lists from the Council and Staff as well as projects which required additional discussion. He concluded that there was approximately \$2.1M in funds remaining for allocation.

Council President Solomon reminded Council that the items on the current list are within Council's ARPA fund budget and within staff capacity to complete in the required timeline; to think that the items are all extra work for staff.

Councilmember Strab asked that 'Hyattsville Loves the Arts' should come off the list as Director Shepard believes it is not achievable.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if the ARPA funds can be attributed to the City's debt service related to the Public Safety Building. Treasurer Brooks said using ARPA funds toward debt service is specifically prohibited.

Councilmember Simasek asked Chief Towers about the VR training facility. Chief Towers said this, among other programs, will play a role in recruitment efforts; and that other jurisdictions could be charged for training in the VR training facility in Hyattsville. City Administrator Douglas clarified that the space cannot be chargeable, but there can be charges for equipment.

Councilmember Simasek cautioned against starting new programs with legacy costs using ARPA funds, with the exception of the Tree Canopy Study.

Councilmember Denes shared Councilmember Simasek's concern about starting new programs with legacy costs using ARPA funds, as this Council should be good stewards for the City.

Councilmember Denes supports the Public Wi-fi Study goals; however, that does not actually provide services for the City.

Councilmember McClellan addressed the Emergency Preparedness Kits. He asked where the feedback to Councilmembers related to their priorities was provided. City Administrator Douglas responded that this item was not a county priority, but rather they were investing in security.

Councilmember Haba offered that it's important to him that whatever Council enacts be something that is financially supportable going forward. He wants the ARPA fund initiatives to have lasting impacts.

Councilmember Waszczak asked when 'Hello Hyattsville' closed for ARPA and budget questions. Mr. Paschall said it closed so Council had results for this meeting.

Council President Solomon spoke about the proposed studies. The hope is that all of the studies will eventually be completed.

Council President Solomon said that the Grant Writer position may well be funded by other federal programs for the next fiscal year. The City anticipates grant funds to offset some infrastructure spending.

Council President Solomon questioned City Staff thoughts on funding some of the proposed programs. City Administrator Douglas responded that she and the City Treasurer continue to be cautious about City spending. The new positions may eliminate some need for more expensive contracted positions.

City Administrator Douglas said that legacy costs of some programs may be offset but other federal programs for the future; the economic development in the City will help as well.

12. Council Dialogue (9:30 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.)

13. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Denes, seconded by Councilmember Simasek, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Croslin