

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_fOex09j8QX-zJTnkQV94zg

Monday, April 1, 2024

6:00 PM

Virtual

City Council Public Hearing

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 **Absent**
Emily Strab, Ward 2
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Kareem Redmond, Ward 3
Edouard Haba, Ward 4 **Absent**
Michelle Lee, Ward 4 **Absent**
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 a Public Hearing 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 Hearing must register in advance using the link below.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fOex09j8QX-zJTkQV94zg

1. **Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.**

2. **Presentations (6:10 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)**
 - 2.a. **Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution: 2024-01: Modernizing the City's Procurement Provisions** [HCC-241-FY24](#)
Presentation
Sponsors: City Administrator
Department: City Clerk
Attachments: [2024-01 Charter Resolution Procurement](#)
[Hyattsville PPT Procurement Charter April 2024 Public Hearing](#)

- 2.b. **Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution: 2024-02: Amending the Charter to Utilize Gender Neutral Language and Modernize the Charter’s Gender Equality Provision** [HCC-255-FY24](#)

Presentation

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](#)

- 2.c. **Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution: 2024-03: Removing the Requirement that Council Meetings Start at 8 PM** [HCC-244-FY24](#)

Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

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

- 3. **Public Comment (6:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker**
Electronically submitted comments can be found at the end of the summary.
- 4. **Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.
Approved, Unanimous

Attest: April 2, 2024



Laura Reams, City Clerk

Comment on Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2024-02

Mike Bonds

Mon 4/1/2024 3:03 PM

To:cityclerk <cityclerk@hyattsville.org>

Good afternoon,

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendment to the Hyattsville City Charter (Resolution 2024-02) in advance of the public hearing later this evening (April 1). While the move toward gender-neutral language is appreciated, the amendment's proposed revisions as presented to the public for review have a few issues. The revisions are inconsistent with regards to the use of the singular "they;" some employ it to replace gendered pronouns, while others omit pronouns entirely and refer to the correct party by title/role, presumably to eliminate ambiguity. Singular "they" is acceptable in casual speech, but in an official document, where clear language is essential in its usage in conducting City business, all uses of it should be eliminated. The following changes to the proposed revisions would achieve this (page numbers refer to those in the Resolution text):

- page 5, line 1: "their" to "the elected official's"
- page 5, line 8: "their" to "the elected official's"
- page 7, line 7: "their" to "the person's"
- page 7, line 10: "their" to "the person's"
- page 7, line 21: "their" to "the petitioner's"
- page 7, line 22: "their" to "the petitioner's"
- page 8, line 30: "their" to "the person's"
- page 8, line 32: "their" to "the person's"
- page 9, line 2: "their" to "the petitioner's"
- page 9, line 4: "their" to "the petitioner's"
- page 31, line 33: "their" to "the City Administrator's"
- page 35, lines 31-32: "the owner or owner's behalf" to "on behalf of the owner or owners"

In addition, these instances of singular "they" appear to be in the existing charter (not marked as revisions), but could be changed to reduce ambiguity:

- page 6: line 26: "their" to "the proponent's", or remove "their own"
- page 30, line 1: "their" to "the Department Director's"

Finally, the revised charter still uses masculine pronouns where it should not. These should be changed:

- page 14, line 28: change "him" to "the member"
- page 14, line 30: change "him" to "the member"
- page 23, line 9: "his" to "the taxpayer's or the taxpayer's agent's"
- page 23, line 9: "him" to "the taxpayer"

It is my hope that the City considers adopting these changes to the revisions, and in doing so precludes a lengthy process to amend the charter again at a later date to correct revisions done incorrectly the first time.

Sincerely,

Michael Bonds

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<https://tuta.com>

Comment on Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2024-02

Mike Bonds

Mon 4/1/2024 3:17 PM

To:cityclerk <cityclerk@hyattsville.org>

Good afternoon,

In addition to the revisions suggested in my previous comment, the revised charter uses "he" in the following places, which should be changed:

- page 14, line 29: "he" to "the member"
- page 34, line 31: "he" to "the owner"
- page 44, line 13: "he" to "the purchaser or lessee"
- page 44, line 14: "he" to "the purchaser or lessee"

Sincerely,

Michael Bonds

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