

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2024

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rr9DwdHfRkOTtU_UymIxpW

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
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 Monday, October 21, 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 Council meeting must register in advance using the link below.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rr9DwdHfRkOTtU_UymIxPw

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:02 PM

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas
Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams
Treasurer Ron Brooks
Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle
Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler
Deputy Director of Public Works Priyanka Joshi
Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard
Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner
City Clerk Nate Groenendyk
Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor
Emergency Services Coordinator Reggie Bagley
ARP 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 Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Lee, that this item was 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-108-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024, Public Hearing and October 7, 2024, Council Meeting.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes Public Hearing Oct 7 2024](#)
[Minutes Oct 7 2024](#)

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

Daniel Broder (Ward 2) stated that he is in favor of the new flag design. He also urged the Council to rethink signing onto the settlement from CSX as the amount offered does not cover the environmental impact.

Greg Smith (Ward 1) supports the climate action plan and asks that the Council consider implementing additional measures. He agrees with Daniel Broder that the CSX settlement amount is too low.

Melissa Schweisguth stated that she is disappointed in the CSX settlement. She is in favor of the climate action plan and asks that the Council consider equity and inclusion measures that include socio-economic impact on residents.

Mr. Marshall stated that he is not in favor of installing more speed humps in Hyattsville. He also advised that he's seen the street sweeper in his neighborhood, and does not like the new flag design. Lastly he proposed that the City create and implement a prescription drug plan stipend program for retired City employees.

6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:40 p.m.)

Ethan Sweep from Congressman Ivey's Office provided updates on potential grant funding and community awards.

City Administrator Douglas provided an update on upcoming events and City projects, and advised that the final ARPA motion to obligate all remaining funds will be included in the November 4, 2024 meeting. Emergency Manager Reggie Bagley provided feedback about the CSX settlement and ongoing derailment mitigation meetings.

Councilmembers Redmond and Waszczak discussed traffic diversion on Adelphi Road and asked about temporary traffic calming measures. City Administrator Douglas advised that they could speak offline.

7. ARPA Update (7:40 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.)

This item was presented as a part of the City Administrator report.

8. Presentations (7:50 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**8.a. West Hyattsville Green Alley Improvement Project Concept Design Presentation**[HCC-085-FY25](#)

For Presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Deputy Director of Public Works Priyanka Joshi and Jenny Smeltzer (Neighborhood Design Center) provided an overview of the West Hyattsville Green Alley Improvement Project.

9. Proclamations

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

9.a. Proclamation Recognizing Economic Development Week in the City of Hyattsville[HCC-114-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing the week of October 21 - 25, 2024, as Economic Development Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1021 Economic Development Week.pdf](#)

10. Appointments

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Lee, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

10.a. Appointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee [HCC-115-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Michelle Brown (Ward 3) and Adriane Powell (Ward 4) to the Police and Public Safety Citizen's Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on October 31, 2026.

Sponsors: Strab

Attachments: [Adriane Powell W4 Sept 28 2024 redac](#)
[Michelle Brown W3 Sep 5 2024 redac](#)

11. 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 President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the Consent Agenda was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

11.a. Hyattsville Resolution 2024-02: Hyattsville Climate Action Plan Development and Grant Application [HCC-084-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council introduce and adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2024-02, a Resolution of the City Council of Hyattsville, Maryland, whereby the City authorizes the submission of a grant application to the Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities Program to fund the development of a Climate Action Plan for the City of Hyattsville (INTRODUCTION & ADOPTION).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City of Hyattsville Resolution 2024_02.pdf](#)
[PAMC 2023 Program Guidelines](#)
[PAMC CAP Grant Application](#)

11.b. Traffic Calming Time Extension [HCC-105-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council extend the time requirement regarding Council's decision on traffic calming devices for the 6000 block of 43rd Street (Ward 1) and the 4000 block of Nicholson Steet (Ward 2) to December 2, 2024.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Traffic Calming Petition PPT 20241007 FINAL.pdf](#)
[CityCodeTrafficCalming.pdf](#)

11.c. Disbursement of Ward 3 Discretionary Funds[HCC-106-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the disbursement of \$530.90 of Ward 3 FY25 discretionary funds to Councilmember Redmond as reimbursement for the purchase of neighborhood watch signs.

Sponsors: Redmond and McClellan

Attachments: [Receipt.pdf](#)

11.d. Installation of Speed Hump on 31st Avenue[HCC-107-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the installation of a speed hump on the 5600 block of 31st Avenue.

Sponsors: City Administrator

11.e. ARPA Compliance Consultant Contract Extension and Increase[HCC-109-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract extension and increase with Thomas Michael LLC, for a term to extend through December 31, 2026 and the total contract amount not to exceed \$250,000, for consulting services related to compliance with federal requirements related to the American Rescue Plan Act award funds. These funds are included in the Council approved ARPA spending plan, and the contract terms are subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

Sponsors: City Administrator

11.f. Renewal Contract with the United States Department of Treasury[HCC-110-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to approve a one-year renewal contract between the City of Hyattsville and the United States Department of Treasury, pending legal review and approval. The contract will require the Department of Treasury to reimburse the City for HPD officers who will provide additional security around Department of Treasury premises within the City of Hyattsville. The contract term will begin on October 30, 2024, and extend for one-year.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2033H625R00002](#)

11.g. CSX Agreement[HCC-113-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a reimbursement agreement with CSX for expenses incurred as a result of the CSX train derailment in Hyattsville on September 23, 2023.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville.Settlement Agreement.pdf](#)

12. Action Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.)**12.a. Adoption of the New City Flag**[HCC-112-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt the Hyattsville Flag Redesign Committee's recommended "Flower" design as the new Hyattsville flag as presented at the October 7, 2024 Council Meeting.

Sponsors: McClellan, Redmond and Schaible

Attachments: [Recommended Flag.pdf](#)
[Flag Committee Presentation.pdf](#)

CM McClellan thanked the flag committee for their hard work and asked for Council support in adopting the new flag. Councilmembers discussed the overall design and the submission process for residents.

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

13. Discussion Items (8:40 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)**13.a. City of Hyattsville Property Tax Relief Programs: Administrative Recommendations Presentation and Council discussion**[HCC-118-FY25](#)

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [PFMGC Hyattsville Property Tax Relief Study \(2\) 10-16-2024](#)

Treasurer Brooks and Garrett Hincken (PFM Financial Advisors) provided an overview of the proposed changes to the City's Homestead Tax Credit Program and Homeowners Property Tax Credit Program. Treasurer Brooks proposed lowering the current property assessment cap to 6% from the current rate of 10% for the Homestead Tax Credit Program. He also proposed expanding the Homeowner's Tax Credit Program by raising the qualifying property values and lowering income qualifications.

Councilmembers inquired about the following:

- The number of participants in each program
- Potential revenue loss from property tax payments upon implementation
- Potential financial impact of the programs
- Outreach and engagement plans to alert residents to the program changes
- Sliding scale based on household income
- Inclusion of HOA's in the tax credit programs
- Changes in the application process

Treasurer Brooks will follow upon the following requests:

- Request from Council President Solomon to investigate if resident applications are being forwarded to the appropriate offices to receive their tax credits
- Request from CM Denes to investigate if the tax credits given by the state will impact taxes collected by the City

14. Council Dialogue (9:10 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.)

15. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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