

# City of Hyattsville

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, June 5, 2023**

**7:00 PM**

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Kbcz-cokTxumQhApoSX58w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kbcz-cokTxumQhApoSX58w)**

**Virtual**

## **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 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.hyattsville.org/meetings) or via email to [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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, June 5, 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](http://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\\_Kbcz-cokTxumQhApoSX58w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kbcz-cokTxumQhApoSX58w)

**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

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

Chief of Police-Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources-Jay Joyner

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development-Holly Simmons

Deputy Chief of Police-Laura Lanham

Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk

**Present:** Mayor Robert Croslin  
Council President Joseph Solomon  
Councilmember Joanne Waszczak  
Councilmember Sam Denes  
Council Vice-President 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 Council Vice-President Schaible, that the Agenda be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

Marcia Gatling stated her desire for more City support for her small business.

**5. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)**

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on City related news and events.

**6. Presentations (7:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)**

Mayor Croslin paused the meeting to offer a moment of silence in honor of Mary Cummings a longtime Hyattsville resident and active member of Hyattsville Aging in Place.

**6.a.** Hyattsville Crossing Business Improvement District (BID) Phase III[HCC-414-FY23](#)

Presentation Only.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - Hyattsville Crossing BID - Phase 3 Status](#)  
[23.06.05 Hyattsville Crossing BID City Council Presentation](#)

Acting Director of Community and Economic Development Holly Simmons introduced the City's consultant team from HR&A Advisors on the City's initiative to establish a Business Improvement District (BID).

Keiley Gaston, Senior Analyst from HR&A Advisors led the presentation which reviewed the project scope, work to date and next steps for the proposed BID.

Councilmember Denes asked if the \$250,000.00 yearly donation from the City would be recouped based on the tax revenue with the proposed enhancements. Ms. Simmons stated that City services will not decrease, but that it is anticipated the enhancement in this area would increase investment and the City would see a return in additional tax revenue.

Councilmember Redmond asked how the engagement with the businesses is progressing and the level of business buy-in. Ms. Gaston stated back in February they conducted a business breakfast roundtable and received good feedback.

Councilmember Haba asked when the special bond will be retired. City Treasurer Ron Brooks stated the bond was re-financed three years ago and the new maturity date is in 25 years.

Councilmember Waszczak asked why the BID boundary does not include the library, First United Methodist Church, and the Teen Center. She asked if any non-profits stakeholders have been considered. Jared Press from HR&A stated the intent to draw the boundary which made sense for a feasible BID and which properties would contribute plus not drawing a boundary that is too large. Non-profits are non-contributing properties, so they are not considered.

**7. Proclamations**

All proclamations were adopted in a single vote.

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

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

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**7.a. Proclamation Declaring June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day** [HCC-422-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council declare June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0605 National Gun Violence Awareness Day 2023](#)

**7.b. Proclamation in Celebration of June as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month** [HCC-423-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing and honoring June, 2023 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0605 LGBTQIA+ Pride Month 2023](#)

**7.c. Proclamation in Celebration of June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month** [HCC-424-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing and honoring June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0605 Caribbean-American Heritage Month 2023](#)

**7.d. Proclamation in Celebration of Juneteenth** [HCC-425-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt a Proclamation Observing and Celebrating Juneteenth in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0605 Juneteenth 2023](#)

**7.e. Proclamation in Celebration of June as Immigrant Heritage Month** [HCC-428-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing and celebrating June as Immigrant Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0605 Immigrant Heritage Month 2023\\_Final](#)

**7.f. Proclamation Honoring Ben Simasek** [HCC-430-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation honoring Ben Simasek for his years of service and dedication to the City of Hyattsville as a Ward 3 Councilmember.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0605 Honoring Councilmember Ben Simasek](#)

**7.g. Proclamation Honoring Daniel Peabody** [HCC-431-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation honoring Daniel Peabody for his years of service and dedication to the City of Hyattsville as a Ward 4 Councilmember.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0605 Honoring Councilmember Daniel Peabody](#)

**8. Appointments**

All appointments were approved in a single vote.

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

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

**8.a. Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee** [HCC-399-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Stacy Dennery (Ward 2) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on June 30, 2025.

Sponsors: McClellan

Attachments: [Stacy Dennery W2 redac](#)

**8.b. Appointments to the Education Advisory Committee** [HCC-407-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Aliya Yancey (Ward 1) to the Education Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years ending on June 30, 2025.

Sponsors: Strab and Peabody

Attachments: [Aliya Yancey redac](#)

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**8.c. Appointments to the Youth Advisory Committee and Approval of Committee Worksheet** [HCC-420-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the Committee Worksheet for the establishment of the Youth Advisory Committee and appoint Emely Amaya (Grade 11), Diana Alvarez (Grade 12), Ivory Boyce (Grade 10), Christopher Callejas (Grade 9), Andres Espinal (Grade 9), Jorge Guzman (Grade 9), Angel Guzman (Grade 11), Christopher Jimenez (Grade 9), Gabriella Lemus (Grade 11), and Emily Sagastume (Grade 11) to the Committee for a term of one-year to expire June 30, 2023.

Sponsors: Waszczak

**9. Discussion Items (8:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.)**

**9.a. Election of Council Officers and Assignment of Committee Liaisons** [HCC-412-FY23](#)

Discussion Only.

Sponsors: City Administrator

City Clerk Laura Reams stated at the July Council Meeting the election of Council Officers and assignments of Committee Liaisons will take place.

Councilmember Solomon stated an email was sent out to Councilmembers reminding them to review council rules and procedures and provide feedback.

**10. Council Dialogue (9:15 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.)**

**11. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Council President Solomon, that the meeting be Adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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