

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2022

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RDY6JMv2QsGybW1fFw778A

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 1
Ben Simasek, Ward 3
Jimmy McClellan, 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:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, October 3, 2022 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. 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_RDY6JMv2QsGybW1fFw778A

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
Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler
Chief of Police-Jarod Towers
Director of Community Services-Sandra Shepherd
Director of Human Resources-Vivian Snellman
City Clerk-Laura Reams
Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk
City Planner-Taylor Robey
American Rescue Plan Fund Program Manager-Patrick Paschall

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Present: | Mayor Robert Croslin Council President Joseph Solomon Council Vice-President Danny Schaible Councilmember Sam Denes Councilmember Joanne Waszczak Councilmember Ben Simasek Councilmember Jimmy McClellan |
| Absent: | Councilmember Edouard Haba Councilmember Daniel Peabody Councilmember Rommel Sandino |

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Moment of Silence For David C. Harrington

4. Approval of Agenda

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

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

Melissa Schweisguth spoke in support of the Animal Welfare and Community Safety Act with recommendations to clarify the language to better align with County Code.

Chuck Perry provided a written comment expressing his concern regarding ADA accessibility for public meetings.

Michael Goudey provided written comment expressing his concern that the language in the Animal Welfare and Community Safety Ordinance lacks adequate standards and requires clarification.

Chuck Perry provided written comment in agreement to regulating pet noise but also his concern about a neighbor with possible code compliance violation.

Irene Marsh provided written comment in support of the Animal Welfare Act, adding Prince George's County Animal Control often does not respond as quickly as needed.

Camille Edwards Benehoff provided written comment in support of the Animal Welfare Act but is concerned the Act as written would not sufficiently address the needs of the community which requires more enforcement. She advocated for the animal liaison position and expanding the position beyond the current legislation to work in public engagement and outreach.

Ryan Pidgeon, on behalf of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department, spoke to request support from the City to build a new firehouse. He added that the current County plan to provide only a renovation would not be adequate.

6. Community Notices and Meetings

6.a. Main City Calendar: October 3, 2022 - October 17, 2022

[HCC-81-FY23](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City Calendar October 3, 2022 - October 17, 2022](#)

7. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on various City programs and events.

American Rescue Plan Program Manager Patrick Paschall updated the Council on the City's ARPA programs.

Councilmember Waszczak suggested the City work with local property managers to offer emergency response training. She also asked for the City to remind the community about the roll out of the gas-powered leaf blower ban and rebate.

Council Vice-President Schaible spoke about the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower trade-in event on October 22.

Council President Solomon expressed his concern about the rejection rate for ARPA funding via businesses. Mr. Paschall responded that city staff has been working with applicants to review applications and provide them with support to meet the requirements of the program.

Councilmember Simasek inquired about outreach for the childcare assistance portion of the ARPA program, and asked about specific outreach to providers and the mechanisms of subsidized care.

Mr. Paschall replied with an overview of the subsidize care grant process and added that he will be reaching out to the Maryland Department of Education to get a list of licensed childcare providers within the City.

-Police Recruitment and Retention

Chief of Police Jarod Towers shared information regarding recent challenges relating to police office recruitment and retention.

8. Proclamations (8:00 p.m. - 8:05 p.m.)**8.a. Proclamation Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month**[HCC-77-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 2022 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM1004 Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2021](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

8.b. Proclamation Celebrating October 2022 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month [HCC-78-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 2022 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1004 National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

8.c. Proclamation Recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month [HCC-79-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 2022 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1004 Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2021](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

8.d. Proclamation Recognizing October 10, 2022 as Indigenous People's Day [HCC-80-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 10, 2022 as Indigenous People's Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1003 Indigenous Peoples Day Proclamation](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

8.e. Proclamation in Recognition of National Code Compliance Month[HCC-90-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to recognizing October 2022 as National Code Compliance Month

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Proclamation - Code Compliance Month - October 2022](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

9. Appointments (8:05 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

9.a. Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee[HCC-86-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Carole Plato (Ward 2) and the reappointments of Dyann Waugh (Ward 2) and Anita Shelton (Ward 2) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for term of two (2) years to expire on October 31, 2024.

Sponsors: Denes, Waszczak and Solomon

Attachments: [Carole Plato appl May 9 redac](#)
[Anita Shelton Reappoint Oct 3 2022 redac](#)
[Dyann Waugh Reappoint Oct 3, 2022 redac](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

9.b. Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee [HCC-87-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Angel Dubose (Ward 1) and the reappointment of Arniee Flurry (Ward 1) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on October 31, 2024.

Sponsors: McClellan

Attachments: [Angel Dubose Oct 3 2022 redac](#)
[Arniee Flurry reappointment Oct 3 2022 redac](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

9.c. Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee [HCC-88-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Joseph Demarco (Ward 5) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on October 31, 2024.

Sponsors: Simasek

Attachments: [Joseph Demarco Oct 3 2022 redac](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

9.d. Reappointments to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee [HCC-89-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointments of Patricia Page (Ward 5) and Jerome Brown (Ward 5) to the Police and Public Safety Citizen's Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on October 30, 2024.

Sponsors: Solomon and Sandino

Attachments: [Jerome Brown redac reapp Oct 3, 2022](#)
[Patricia Page redac](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

10. Action Items (8:10 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.)

10.a. CB-97-2022 - Amendment to Sec. 27-4204. Transit-Oriented/Activity Center Base Zones [HCC-82-FY23](#)

The City Council authorizes the Mayor to send correspondence to the Prince George's County Council, sitting as the District Council regarding the proposed amendment to the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance, Section 27-4204 - Transit-Oriented/Activity Center Base Zones. The correspondence shall reflect the City of Hyattsville's positions as follows:

- The City of Hyattsville requests the County Council withdraw CB-97-2022, as the proposed revisions to the County Zoning Ordinance in no way furthers the vision of transit-oriented development and undermines the transparency of redevelopment with Local Transit-Oriented zones;
- If the County Council elects to adopt CB-97-2022, the City requests the Council amend CB-97-2022 to explicitly exempt parcels located within the City of Hyattsville.
- If the County Council's intent is to further specific redevelopment within certain land areas within Prince George's County, it is the City's recommendation that the County Council amend CB-97-2022 to limit the CB-97-2022 to those specific parcels or land-areas.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - CB-97-2022 Final](#)
[CB-097-2022 AIS](#)
[B2022097](#)

Council President Solomon expressed his concern about the language of the first bullet point, stating it may be too strongly worded.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler, provided background information on the bill and the underlying existing LTO zoning. He expressed significant concern regarding the potential removal of development standards from the zoning.

Council President Solomon sought to understand the potential benefit of the proposed bill in relation to areas which may be near to the Purple line. He suggested the City try to obtain more information and possible amendments to the bill before it left committee.

After the vote, Councilmember Waszczak asked Mr. Chandler to get more clarity from the County Councilmember sponsor on the reasoning behind the bill and to be updated at a future meeting.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

10.b. West Hyattsville-Queens Chapel Sector Draft Plan and SMA[HCC-84-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize correspondence to the M-NCPPC Planning Board in support of and recommending the incorporation of the revisions as detailed in the staff memo dated September 7, 2022, to the West Hyattsville Queens Chapel Sector Plan and SMA.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - WHQC Sector Plan and SMA 9.26.2022](#)
[WHQC Hyattsville 091922](#)

City Planner Taylor Robey gave an update on the City's response to the West Hyattsville-Queens Chapel Sector Plan.

Council President Solomon noted the disadvantages of the shortened timeline for feedback on the draft plan due to M-NCPPC's timeline. He added that he had prepared his feedback but yielded to Council Vice-President Schaible before proceeding.

Council Vice-President Schaible reiterated his comments about traffic recommendations.

Council President Solomon shared a list of recommendations in a supplemental to be added as an amendment to the motion. The amendment was seconded by Councilmember Denes.

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler responded to the proposed amendment and noted that some of the recommendations were already included in the sector plan.

Councilmember Denes offered commentary on the proposed amendments and emphasized that recommendations for affordable housing should be included in the City's comments.

City Administrator Douglas suggested an amendment to the proposed interior recreation center to a recreational amenity, citing the upcoming multigenerational center. Council President Solomon clarified his intent and advocated for the need for a facility within walking distance for residents in the sector plan.

Council Vice-President Schaible stated his support for retaining a recommendation in support of accessory dwelling units in the plan. Council President Solomon agreed to retain that recommendation and adjust the amendment document accordingly.

The amendment passed unanimously.

Council President Solomon proposed a second amendment to have the Mayor and Council endorse the recommendations from Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), which he provided to Council as a second supplemental. Councilmember Waszczak seconded the amendment.

Councilmember Simasek encouraged WABA to directly submit their testimony stating that he did not have time to thoroughly review the proposed WABA amendments.

Councilmember Waszczak inquired if there were areas identified as priority in the WABA supplemental.

Mr. Chandler stated that support of WABA's items could be discussed at the next meeting and included

in the record for the written comments.

Mayor Croslin suggested to table the amendment.

Council President Solomon withdrew his motion to amend the motion with the WABA supplemental.

Please see the posted Summary of this Council Meeting on the City's website to review the Amended Correspondence.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

10.c. Contract Award: Household Emergency Relief Program Administration and Outreach Assistance

[HCC-85-FY23](#)

I move the Mayor and Council allocate an amount NTE \$100,000 to Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (HCDC) to administer Hyattsville Household Emergency Relief Program including an additional amount NTE \$50,000 to also administer Hyattsville Outreach and Application Assistance Program for a total of \$150,000 to administer both programs and to ensure relief programs are accessible for all communities within the City. The contract with the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation is contingent upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

American Rescue Plan Program Fund Manager Patrick Paschall provided details on the selection of the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (CDC) to assist with outreach and administration of the Household Emergency Program.

Councilmember Waszczak asked how equity played into the selection of the CDC.

Mr. Paschall responded regarding the ability of the CDC to reach diverse populations in the City.

Councilmember Waszczak encouraged the city to continue to consider equity in the process, specifically in terms of engaging other contractors who could assist in the efforts to build future capacity.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino

11. Discussion Items (9:40 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

11.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2022-05: Animal Welfare and Community Safety[HCC-83-FY23](#)

For Council Discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Animal Welfare Ordinance amending Chp. 52 - Draft for Council Discussion 092622](#)

Council Vice-President Schaible noted the intent for this action was to provide residents with better response and resources when dealing with dog attacks and reduce risks to public safety.

Councilmember Waszczak asked about the definition of excessive.

Council Vice-President stated that the term excessive was in the code prior to his proposed changes and that he is open to suggestions.

Council President Solomon suggested the City consult with legal staff to determine the appropriate definitions for terms such as excessive.

Council Vice-President Schaible expressed support for moving forward with the ordinance and noted discussions with City staff had helped to develop the draft before the Council. He added that he supports a review of the public nuisance categories, which may result in combining categories A and B.

12. Council Dialogue (10:00 p.m. - 10:10 p.m.)**13. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Simasek, seconded by Council Vice-President Schaible, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, and McClellan

Absent: Haba, Peabody, and Sandino