

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 17, 2022

6:00 PM

Proposed City Ward Redistricting

Virtual

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pPJgFfKcT4e2kNpnFvAadQ

City Council Public Hearing

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

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator

WELCOME TO THE CITY OF HYATTSVILLE Public Hearing!
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 City of Hyattsville Mayor and Council will conduct a virtual Public Hearing on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. (prior to the City Council Meeting). The Public Hearing will be conducted entirely remotely; there will be no in-person meeting attendance. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow residents to comment on the proposed Ward boundary changes created by the Hyattsville Redistricting Commission.

The Mayor and Council will weigh the recommendations from the Redistricting Commission as well as input from the community prior to voting on changes to the Ward boundaries in November.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually and can be accessed through the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pPJgFfKcT4e2kNpnFvAadQ

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_pPJgFfKcT4e2kNpnFvAadQ

1. Call to Order

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

City Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council President Joseph Solomon

Council Vice-President Danny Schaible

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Ben Simasek

Councilmember Edouard Haba

Councilmember Daniel Peabody

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent: Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

Also Present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shepherd

City Clerk-Laura Reams

Deputy City Clerk-Nate Groenendyk

Communications Manager-Cindy Zork

2. Presentations (6:00 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.)

Redistricting Commission Presentation of Recommended Ward Maps[HCC-97-FY23](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [coh_redistricting_commission_summary_report_2022](#)
[Minimal Adjustments Map](#)
[Growth Conscious Map \(version 2\)](#)
[hyattsville_redistricting_presentation_2022](#)

Communications Manager and staff liaison to the Redistricting Commission Cindy Zork, gave an overview of the anticipated timeline of the redistricting process.

Redistricting Commission Member Carter Ross, presented information about the Commission's process in conjunction with two maps for consideration.

3. Public Comment (6:20 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Will Seath provided a written comment in general support of the Growth Conscious Map that was created by the Redistricting Commission. Specifically, he noted that he would like to see both portions of the Suffrage Point development combined into a single ward, rather than split into separate wards.

David Marshall provided a written comment in opposition to changing his residence to Ward 4. He also expressed his belief that the public hearing will have no bearing on the Council's decision.

Emily Strab spoke in favor of the Council taking the previous comments into account to minimize the potential of needing to make significant changes in future years.

4. Council Comment (6:35 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.)

Councilmember Simasek asked if the current maps are the final choices for Council.

Redistricting Commission Member Carter Ross replied that Council may provide feedback for the Commission to take into consideration as they continue their work.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if ward boundaries can be drawn along alleys or back yard fences so neighbors are in the same ward.

Mr. Ross responded that technical limitations make it impossible to do everywhere because the population numbers must be determined based on census block data which relies on street divisions.

Council President Solomon proposed moving sections of the City into Ward 4 and Ward 5 to align more with the County's West Hyattsville Sector Plan. He expressed his preference for future maps to not rely on Census track data.

Councilmember Haba expressed his support to increase the populations in Ward 2 and Ward 4 because there is no planned expansion for those two wards in the future.

Mr. Ross responded to Councilmember Solomon that there are technical limitation when trying to break apart Census track data and remain in compliance with the law.

Councilmember Waszczak asked when the cutoff for comments was for this presentation.

Mr. Ross replied that the deadline for comments this presentation was October 10th. Ms. Zork added that the Commission will continue to accept public feedback until the final recommendation is made.

Emily Strab provided a written comment that it seems very political for the Commission to redistrict a candidate in a recent close race out of that person's current ward.

Council President Solomon asked for a reply to his request to align wards with sector plans.

Mr. Ross replied that the sector plans extend outside the City and that it is difficult to obtain the needed population numbers when trying to align wards to the sector plans. He added that the Commission will take that into consideration as they move forward in the process.

Ms. Zork, in response to Ms. Strab's comment, explained that the addresses of any individual Council Member or candidate were not provided to the Commission and that information was given no consideration throughout the process.

5. Motion to Adjourn

The hearing adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Peabody, seconded by Council Vice-President Schaible, that the public hearing be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: McClellan