



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, HYATTSVILLE MD MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020 7:00 PM

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Candace Hollingsworth, Mayor  
Kevin Ward, W1 (Council President)  
Carrianna Suiter, W3 (Council Vice President)  
Bart Lawrence, W1  
Robert Croslin, W2  
Danny Schaible, W2  
Ben Simasek, W3  
Daniel Peabody, W4  
Joseph A. Solomon, W5  
Erica Spell Wolf, W5

Absent: Edouard Haba, W4

Also present were the following City staff members:

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator  
Jim Chandler, Assistant City Administrator  
Ron Brooks, City Treasurer  
Chief Amal Awad, City of Hyattsville Police Department  
Lesley Riddle, Director of Public Works  
Laura Reams, City Clerk  
Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk  
Cheri Everhart, Recreation, Programs, and Events Manager  
Hal Metzler, Project Manager, Department of Public Works

### 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 August 10, 2020 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 [hyattsville.org/meetings](http://hyattsville.org/meetings).

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public Comment may be made using the e-comment feature at [hyattsville.org/meetings](http://hyattsville.org/meetings) or emailing [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org). All electronic comments must be submitted by 5 PM on August 10, 2020. Comments received will be read by City staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

### 1. Call to Order

**Mayor Candace Hollingsworth** called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag



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**Mayor Hollingsworth** requested a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Julian Edward Roosevelt Lewis; cousin of Diane Waugh, wife of **Ward 2 Councilmember Robert Croslin**.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ward
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Solomon
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Haba

**Mayor Hollingsworth** offered time for public comment before entering the closed session.

Ward 2 resident, Nkosi Yearwood, addressed the Mayor and Council in support of changing the name of Magruder Park suggesting that the park's name be changed to Driskell Park in honor of Hyattsville resident David C. Driskell who had recently passed from COVID-19. Mr. Yearwood described Mr. Driskell as a longtime resident of the City who was a historian and curator of African American art and listed achievements and accolades.

### 4. Motion to Close (7:10 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.)

#### 4.a) Motion to Close (60 minutes)

##### [HCC-1-FY21](#)

**Lead Sponsor:** At the request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** N/A

I move that the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of August 10, 2020 to consult with staff to discuss confidential commercial or financial information related to a proposed development in the City.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b) (13) to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter - specifically Maryland Code, § 4-335 of the General Provisions Article (protecting from disclosure confidential commercial information).

The reason for closing the meeting under this exception is to protect the City's bargaining position and to maintain legally required confidentiality in regard to commercial and/or financial information.



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<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ward
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Croslin
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Haba

Pursuant to the requirement of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 3-306(C)(2); this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 7:18 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020

In addition to the City Council, the following staff members were present: **City Administrator Tracey E. Douglas, Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler, City Treasurer Ron Brooks, and City Clerk Laura Reams.**

**Ward 4 Councilmember Edouard Haba** was absent.

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(13) to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter - specifically Maryland Code, § 4-335 of the General Provisions Article (protecting from disclosure confidential commercial information).

Topics Discussed: The feasibility of funding and negotiation position for a potential construction development in the City.

Action Taken: None taken.

**Ward 4 Councilmember Daniel Peabody** made a motion to adjourn the closed session, which was seconded by **Ward 5 Councilmember Erica Spell Wolf** and approved unanimously by the Council. The closed session adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

The Body returned to open session at 7:48 p.m.

**Mayor Hollingsworth** requested a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of resident and former City Council member Robert Poisson.

### **5. Public Comment (8:10 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker**

City Clerk Laura Reams read a public comment submitted via email.

Ward 1 resident, Sam Denes, addressed the Mayor and Council in support of any effort to continue to make City streets more pedestrian friendly recalling being hit by a driver, while on a bike, at the intersection of Charles Armentrout Drive and Rhode Island Avenue. Mr. Denes stating



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that he was encouraged by actions taken by the City to improve safety but stated that he was disappointed when some measures proved to be only temporary.

Ward 2 resident, David Marshall, addressed the Mayor and Council in support of changing the name of Magruder Park and stated that he looked forward to the discussion. Mr. Marshall addressed the defunding of police departments and sought clarity regarding how the City would remain safe and have adequate law enforcement if the movement were implemented in Hyattsville.

**Ward 5 Councilmember Joseph Solomon** offered his condolences for the recent passing of former Councilmember Robert Poisson noting his contributions to the City and his positive reputation.

**Councilmember Solomon** addressed concerns regarding the postal service stating that he and fellow **Councilmember Wolf** had received complaints from constituents citing mail delays including delays of more than seven (7) days. He proposed drafting a letter of concern on the behalf of residents to address the substandard postal service stating that residents were having their rights infringed upon and asked Council to investigate ways to address and mitigate the issues as City officials.

**Councilmember Solomon** stated that many liquor stores, bars, and similar establishments had not been complying with standards prohibiting viewable televisions within their businesses as a safety regulation associated with the COVID-19 health emergency and stated that he would like to request clarity from the Liquor Board to understand the specific details regarding what is allowable. He closed his comments by thanking Hyattsville Aging in Place for their work in Ward 5.

### 6. **City Administrator Update (8:20 p.m. - 8:35 p.m.)**

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor, Council, and residents with an update of programs and events in the City stating that the Complete Count Committee were conducting research with a focus on hard-to-reach areas and had reached a City participation count of 57.8% and the County and State at 64.7% and 66.6% respectively.

Ms. Douglas referenced closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras that were purchased the year prior and had since been placed and strategically moved throughout the City to decrease crime and traffic violations. She stated that the CCTV cameras had been effective in mitigating violations in coordination with permanent cameras mounted within the City limits.

City Administrator Douglas cited the continuation of the weekly food drive that provides residents in need with boxes of food and other supplies stating that the allotment to the City had decreased from 600 to 400 boxes but staff were reaching out for partners to accumulate more needed resources for community members.

Ms. Douglas reported that the COVID-19 testing site located in the City was a success serving individuals with over 3000 tests while not requiring appointments or payment. She stated that the testing site had closed and would reopen later in the month, however, the site of reopening



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was still undetermined. Administrator Douglas relayed that data collected showed that there was a 44% risk of spreading the virus among family gatherings, house parties, and outdoor events to which distancing and other precautions were not adhered. She noted the Governor's mandate that required the wearing of masks for those over the age of five (5) and stated that the Hyattsville Police Department would be enforcing the mandate by airing on the side of education providing bilingual informational cards that contained the State and County directives and providing masks to residents.

City Administrator Douglas addressed the COVID-19 pandemic relief fund reporting that \$500K had been allocated to assist small businesses and that the Community and Economic Development Department had awarded over 130 grants totaling over \$320K. She stated that a majority of the funds had gone to minority and women owned businesses and that communications continued to inform the community of other available funds. She reported that the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (CDC) were providing funding for rent and utility relief and had received over 175 applications and distributed over \$100K and that many applications had come from residents outside the incorporated City limits and as a referral from utility companies as it seemed to be the only program in the State of its kind.

Ms. Douglas reported that the teen and toddler youth programming was active and garnering much participation and that staff intended to hold a "Back to School Jam" on August 26<sup>th</sup> to encourage youth and teenage residents to participate in the online tutoring and mentoring and to supply school supplies and masks.

She cited the next bulk trash retrieval that would be offered in the City and provided details as well as the ongoing trash study that was entering the analysis phase stating that a report should be made available to Council in late fall with recommendations for Citywide trash mitigation.

City Administrator Douglas reported that the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee (HWRAC) had been approved for three (3) virtual mental health aid classes in which certification could be attained and described the details therein. Ms. Douglas stated that members of the police and public safety teams had been preparing their own course in coordination with the Asante Group and the Anne Arundel Crisis Center.

Ms. Douglas closed her comments sending her condolences to the Waugh, Croslin, Edwards, and Poisson families.

### **7. Presentations (8:35 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)**

#### **7.a) Community Sustainability Plan: 2020 Progress Report**

**[HCC-39-FY21](#)**

**Sponsor:** At the request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** N/A

[FY2020 Progress Report PPT](#)

[FY2020 CS Plan Progress Report](#)



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Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler addressed the Mayor and Council with a presentation highlighting the progress of the Hyattsville Community Sustainability Plan with which he provided a brief summary and history of the Plan including its conception, goals, status, and next steps.

City Planner Kate Powers addressed the Mayor and Council explaining that the sustainability plan was a strategic document that involved each department of the City and staff used the plan and intermittent reports to develop actions and programs to improve and advance the City. Ms. Powers recalled that the program was developed in 2016 and since has had substantial input from the community who identified “Community”, “Connectivity”, and “Development” as major themes to guide progress. She stated that each theme contained specific goals and action steps with which to move toward accomplishing each goal.

Ms. Powers presented charts that reflected the status of each of the actions steps that made up the implementation strategy showing that 25.4% had been completed, 41.8% were in process or ongoing, and the remainder had yet to begin and provided data that showed what progress had been made over the previous three (3) years.

City Planner Powers showcased some of the previous year’s achievements including the Department of Public Works (DPW) initiative with Casey Trees in which 43 private, residential trees had been planted as well as 150 trees in the City’s right of way; the purchase of 4812 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue which would serve as the location of the Teen and Youth Mentoring Center; and, a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) seminar in which the public and several staff members from various departments participated.

Ms. Powers reported on progress made under the “Connectivity” theme which included the implementation of eight (8) capital bikeshare locations and the identification of areas available exclusively for bike lanes throughout the City. She addressed progress for action items associated with “Development” stating that the amount of development action items completed had doubled since the previous year. Ms. Powers noted development highlights that included establishing Hyattsville’s corridor investment grant program and additional parking and wayfinding signage within the City. She reported that City staff continued efforts for the rebranding of Prince George’s Plaza featuring the renaming of the Prince George’s Plaza metro station to Hyattsville Crossing (HVX).

Assistant City Administrator Jim Chandler reflected on the progress tracking of the previous years and noted some of the more challenging projects that required outside partnerships that had come to fruition and speculated that many more action items would be completed before the project’s completion at the end of 2021 at which time a new sustainability plan would be developed.

### **8. Proclamations (8:45 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.)**

#### **8.a) Hispanic Heritage Month 2020 Proclamation**

**[HCC-375-FY20](#)**

**Sponsor:** At the request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** N/A



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[Hispanic Heritage Month 2020](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation in recognition of September 15 - October 15, 2020 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Hyattsville.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ward
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Spell Wolf
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Haba

**9. Appointments (8:45 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.)**

**9.a) Appointment to the Race and Equity Task Force**

[HCC-31-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** Haba

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Schaible, Solomon

[Monica Sharma Jun 19 2020 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council appoint Monica Sharma (Ward 1) to the Race and Equity Task Force for a term of 2 years to expire on August 3, 2022.

**9.b) Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee**

[HCC-32-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** Haba

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Schaible, Solomon

[Arinee Flurry Jul 13 redac](#)

[Lisa Datcher Jul 15 recac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council appoint Arinee Flurry (Ward 5) and Lisa Datcher (Ward 3) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on August 3, 2022.

**9.c) Appointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee**

[HCC-33-FY21](#)

**Sponsor:** Haba

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Schaible, Solomon, Spell Wolf

[Jerome Brown Jun 20 2020 redac](#)

[Patricia Page June 21 2020 redac](#)

[Maggie Brunner Jul redac](#)

[Cynthia Totten Jul 8 redac](#)

[Bette Dickerson Jul 29 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council appoint Jerome Brown (Ward 3), Patricia Page (Ward 5), Maggie Brunner (Ward 2), Cynthia Totten (Ward 4), and Bette Dickerson (Ward 2) to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on August 3, 2022.



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**9.d) Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee**

**HCC-34-FY21**

**Sponsor:** Haba

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Schaible, Solomon

[Daniel Betancourt Jul 12 redac](#)

[Anita Shelton Jul 16 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council appoint Daniel Betancourt (Ward 3) and Anita Shelton (Ward 2) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on August 3, 2022.

**9.e) Reappointments to the Hyattsville Environment Committee**

**HCC-36-FY21**

**Sponsor:** Schaible

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Simasek

[Re-appoint Theresa Goedeke term ends Sept 11 redac](#)

[Re-appoint Richard Canino ends Sept 11 redac](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council reappoint Theresa Goedeke (Ward 5) and Richard Canino (Ward 2) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of 2 years to expire on August 3, 2022.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ward
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Solomon
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollingsworth, Ward, Suiter, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Haba

**10. Action Items (8:55 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.)**

**Council Vice President Carrianna Suiter** left the meeting at 8:19 p.m. and returned at 8:25 p.m. Vice President Suiter was not present for votes on action items.

**10.a) Revisions to Chapter 108, Revitalization Tax Credit**

**HCC-13-FY21**

**Sponsor:** Hollingsworth

**Co-Sponsor(s):** N/A

[03.09.20.Amending.Revitalization.Tax.Credit](#)

[Revitalization Tax Credit](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council introduce Ordinance 2020-05, an Ordinance whereby the City of Hyattsville amends its taxation provisions to permit the granting of revitalization tax credits to the production of affordable housing for individuals and families and to allow for certain exceptions in tax credit limitations pursuant to the production of affordable housing units (FIRST READING).





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<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ward
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Solomon
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollingsworth, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Suiter, Haba

**10.b) Purchase of Electric Refuse Truck**

**HCC-21-FY21**

**Sponsor:** At the Request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** N/A

[Hyattsville - City - BYD 6R - Proposal \(R2\) 200608](#)

[Copy of City of Hyattsville MD Quantum BYD 5-12-2020](#)

[2019-BYD-6R-Cut-Sheet-180801](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement to purchase an Electric Refuse Truck. The chassis will be purchased from BYD Motors, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$280,000 and the body will be purchased from Curbtender, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$100,000, with a total expenditure not to exceed \$380,000.00 pending legal review.

Director of DPW Lesley Riddle addressed the Mayor and Council stating that the City had received a \$50K grant from the Maryland Energy Association to support the purchase of a completely electric trash truck. Ms. Riddle described that the truck would be smaller than the trucks currently used and would allow for more maneuverability and the potential for \$15K - \$20K in future savings associated with fuel and maintenance and would be integral in the City's sustainability plan.

**Mayor Hollingsworth** relayed a question from the Q&A feature of the virtual meeting software inquiring as to the warranty of the vehicle to which Ms. Riddle replied that she believed there to be a standard five (5) year warranty on the chassis and drive train.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ward
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Solomon
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollingsworth, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Suiter, Haba

**11. Discussion Items (9:45 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.)**

**11.a) Renaming of Magruder Park: Public Engagement Action Plan**

**HCC-29-FY21**

**Sponsor:** At the Request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** N/A



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[Magruder Park Name Change Solomon Motion March 2019](#)  
[Magruder Park Name Change Minutes of March 18 2019](#)

For Discussion

City Administrator Tracey Douglas addressed the Mayor and Council with a recollection of the previous Council action related to Magruder Park and provided a status on the quit claim deed stating that it had been filed to remove the racially restrictive covenants. Ms. Douglas detailed staff suggestions for several outreach approaches and strategies for collecting feedback which would be reviewed by City committees. Ms. Douglas projected that the process would begin in mid-September, feedback would be received and assessed in October and November with an announcement of the new name in January or February of 2021. She announced that a formal outreach strategy would be developed after the meeting and suggested coupling the commencement with a public hearing or “kickoff” meeting and asked that any requirements associated with a name be included in a framework to the committees.

**Councilmember Peabody** inquired as to what impact the measure would have on the budget to which Ms. Douglas responded that staff would use existing advertising to minimize cost and that approximately \$4K - \$5K would be allocated on postage and printing.

**Councilmember Spell Wolf** echoed comments provided by **Councilmember Peabody** in appreciation of the motion expressing support for the motion and recommended a public hearing be held for resident feedback.

**Councilmember Croslin** thanked staff for the initiative and suggested holding Ward check-ins to gauge resident feedback as well as the regular outreach methods.

**Ward 3 Councilmember Ben Simasek** expressed support for the motion and a public hearing and inquired as to the possibility of instituting an online voting process to lessen costs for postage and mailings to which Ms. Douglas was amenable and stated that she could discuss with the communications department.

**Mayor Hollingsworth** acknowledged support for the measure and suggested that the involved committees determine the framework from which to work to which City Administrator Douglas suggested that staff draft a proposal to be discussed by City officials and presented with the intent of establishing further details at a future Council meeting.

**Ward 2 Councilmember Danny Schaible** expressed support for the motion and recognized the timeliness with which it was presented and stated that background information should be abundantly available and suggested creating a structure that donned the history of the park, the related legislative action, and summary of the entire issue including the impending name change. He sought clarity regarding how the naming process would be finalized to which Ms. Douglas responded that three (3) names would be presented to Council in early 2021 at which point the Body would choose the new name for Magruder Park.



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**Councilmember Solomon** expressed support for the motion and thanked staff for their efforts, but noted that many residents were not receptive to some of the outreach methods and suggested that the name change be evident as a referendum included in the ballot for the 2021 election as a non-binding recommendation to the City Council to which Ms. Douglas stated that the voting process would have to be reviewed, but it was ultimately the Council's decision.

**Councilmember Croslin** stated that waiting until the next election would delay the name change and expressed opposition.

**Councilmember Solomon** stressed the importance of as much resident participation as possible stating that he was in support of a longer timeline. He stated that the process should extend to the election if it will compel more participation and expressed his support for a public hearing.

**Mayor Hollingsworth** expressed the importance of demonstrating a sound, productive, process of reciprocation between City Council and City residents that reaches out to the community in many ways as opposed to relying solely on an election ballot. She noted that expediency was a secondary priority when compared to accumulating as much resident feedback as possible.

**Councilmember Solomon** expressed agreement with the suggestions set forth and stated that should the level of engagement be deemed subpar; the referendum could be implemented as a supplemental plan.

### 12. Council Dialogue (10:15 p.m. – 10:25 p.m.)

**Councilmember Spell Wolf** urged everyone to stay safe and be mindful during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Councilmember Solomon** encouraged everyone to take part in the community and engage with City Council regarding any concerns.

**Council Vice President Suiter** commended the efforts of State Delegate Angela Alsobrooks for her assistance provided in the way of childcare funding and noted the opportunities and need for childcare in the City.

**Councilmember Croslin** relayed the importance of voting stating that the upcoming election was one of the most important in the history of our nation and to vote as early as possible.

**Councilmember Schaible** recognized the members of the City committees thanking them and reiterating the importance of Committee members and initiatives. He provided his condolences for Robert Poisson.

**Councilmember Simasek** expressed his condolences for all who were suffering from loss and thanked all those, including residents, staff, and Council, for all of their hard work for the City and its residents.



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**Councilmember Peabody** noted the assistance being provided to Ward 4 residents and provided details as to available resources and expressed the importance of taking care of the City's youth and students.

**Council President Kevin Ward** sent condolences to the Waugh, Croslin, and Poisson families and implored everyone to be safe and take care of each other.

**13. Community Notices and Meetings**

**13.a) Main City Calendar August 11, 2020 - September 21, 2020**

**[HCC-24-FY21](#)**

**Sponsor:** At the request of the City Administrator

**Co-Sponsor(s):** N/A

**[Main City Calendar Aug 11 - Sep 21 - Revised](#)**

**14. Motion to Adjourn**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Croslin
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Suiter
<b>AYES:</b>	Hollingsworth, Ward, Lawrence, Croslin, Schaible, Simasek, Peabody, Solomon, Spell Wolf
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Suiter, Haba

**ATTEST:**  
**September 10, 2020**

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**Laura Reams, City Clerk**

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**Sean Corcoran, Deputy City Clerk**