

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 7, 2024

6:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8l8fr-urSQKsjGGi8nBzCg

Virtual

City Council Public Hearing

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
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 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 Public Hearing on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm 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_8l8fr-urSQKsjGGi8nBzCg

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 6:02 PM

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas
Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams
Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle
Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler
Traffic Manager Taylor Robey
Chief Jarod Towers
City Clerk Nate Groenendyk
Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

2. Presentations (6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

Traffic Calming: 31st Avenue, 43rd Street, and Nicholson Street[HCC-100-FY25](#)

Presentation to Council on proposed traffic calming for the 5600 block of 31st Avenue, the 6000 block of 43rd Street, and the 4000 block of Nicholson Street.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Traffic Calming Flowchart 073119](#)
[Traffic Calming Petition PPT 20241007 FINAL.pdf](#)

Traffic Manager Taylor Robey gave an overview of three petitions for traffic calming measures. The overview included an explanation of the petition process, evaluation guidelines, and installation recommendations.

-6000 Block of 43rd Street requested a speed hump. Traffic Manager Robey indicated that the staff would not be recommending installation of a speed hump and will work with the petitioner to find alternative solutions.

-5600 Block of 31st Avenue requested a speed hump. Traffic Manager Robey indicated that the staff would be recommending installation of a speed hump at this location.

-4000 Block of Nicholson Street requested a speed hump. Traffic Manager Robey indicated that the staff would not be recommending installation of a speed hump and will work with the petitioner to find alternative solutions.

A final determination will be made by the Council at the October 21, 2024 meeting at which time residents will be notified by the City Clerk's office.

3. Public Comment (6:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Christopher Gerakoulis (31st Avenue) thanked the Council for their support and stated that the petitioners on 43rd Street and Nicholson Street could request speed cameras for their streets.

Matt Crooks (Nicholson Street) hopes that the City can implement other traffic calming measures on his street as there are lots of children and they run the risk of being hit. He also raised concerns about the increase in driver's speeding on his street.

Sarah Bendoritis (Nicholson Street) is disappointed that the staff did not recommend the speed hump installation. She also cited streets in the immediate vicinity that have speed humps and urged the Council to consider installing the speed humps on Nicholson Street.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) asks that the staff propose alternative options for traffic controls and take on a strategic approach that does not shift the traffic overflow onto other streets.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) is against the installation of speed humps anywhere in the City as they can cause public safety hazards by negatively impacting ambulances and public safety vehicles.

Rachel Cain (Nicholson Street) stated that this street has lots of children and parking on both sides impairs the line of sight for people trying to cross the street. She also noted that there is an increase in cars speeding.

Sam Steinberg (Ward 2) stated that speed bumps are a great idea for Nicholson Street as there are small children that live in on the street. (This comment was submitted to the Clerk's office via phone call September 16, 2024 at 9:30 AM.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas stated that the petitions for the speed humps were evaluated as provided. If a speed hump petition is denied, the staff will evaluate the site for additional traffic control measures.

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle stated that the City is looking at broader approaches to traffic calming.

CM Denes stated that the final decision for implementing calming measures rests with the City Council. He also expressed concerns about the increase in speeding on those streets and requested to know what the maximum speeds that were detected.

CM Schaible stated that Nicholson Street is in his ward and he acknowledged the benefits of the traffic signal at Queens Chapel Road and Nicholson Street but there have been some consequences to that action. Some of the increased traffic is likely from non-residents using the street as a cut through. There are additional concerns beyond the singular metric of speed. He also inquired about crash data.

CM Strab stated that the speed hump request on Nicholson Street is near Hyattsville Elementary School and lots of children use that street walking to and from school. She also urged the staff to have alternate solutions for residents at the time of the presentation to the Council.

Council Vice President Waszczak asked if Traffic Manager Robey could provide more information about the maximum vehicular speeds on those streets as well as provide the meanings of the terms speed humps, speed tables, and speed cushions. She also asked the City Administrator to detail the process to evaluate streets surrounding the petitioned street. The City Administrator stated that it will require a change to the ordinance. The current process begins with the presentation. If the Council chooses to not proceed with the speed humps, then a study would be the next step, which may require the use of a traffic engineer. There have also been internal conversations about lowering the speed limit throughout the City. Traffic Manager Robey was not able to present the maximum speeds and went on to state that speed humps are the most aggressive of the traffic calming measures and present challenges to emergency vehicles. Speed cushions are less challenging and are often used in groups. Council Vice President Waszczak reiterated to residents that the City Staff would be reaching out to them with alternative solutions.

CM Haba asked where is it written that the speed hump cannot be placed within 200 feet of a stop sign. Traffic Manager Robey stated that it comes from our City Code and that Prince George's County has a similar recommendations. Chief Towers stated that the state has a similar policy.

4. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that this agenda item was Approved. The motion passed unanimously.