

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

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZhRJ_dUNTqqV5Qs-cijylw

Virtual

City Council

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
Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk, 301-985-5001, 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 meeting on Monday, October 7, 2024, 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_ZhRJ_dUNTqqV5Qs-cijylw

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The call to order was at 7:04 PM.

Also present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Interim Director of Community & Business Development Jeff Ulysse

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Emergency Operations Manager Reggie Bagley

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Danny Schaible

Councilmember Emily Strab

Councilmember Jimmy McClellan

Councilmember Kareem Redmond

Councilmember Michelle Lee

Councilmember Edouard Haba

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent:

Council President Joseph Solomon

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**3. Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Croslin asked for a moment of silence for Doug Holland's mother who recently passed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Solomon

4. Approval of the Minutes**4.a. Approval of the Minutes**[HCC-097-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024 and September 16, 2024 City Council Meetings.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes July 15 2024.pdf](#)
[Minutes Sept 16 2024.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that this agenda item be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Solomon

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

Rebecca Lee (Ward 2) was co-director of the 2024 Zombie Run. She gave an overview of the event and thanked everyone for their hard work and support.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) expressed concerns about the City entering into an MOU with the City of Edmonston to use the street sweeper, as many streets in Hyattsville have not been swept in some time.

6. City Administrator Update (7:20 p.m - 7:40 p.m.)

City Administrator Douglas provided an update on upcoming events and City projects. Director of Public Works Riddle responded to an earlier public comment that one of the street sweepers has been down for repairs. City Administrator Douglas advised that she would review the street sweeper schedule for gaps in service.

Treasurer Brooks provided an update on outstanding audits, tax credit programs, and the FY2024 close out report. ARP Program Manager Patrick Paschall provided an overview of the remaining APRA balances that need to be obligated.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**7.a. Flag Redesign Committee Finalist Presentation**[HCC-094-FY25](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Flag Committee Presentation.pptx](#)

Michael Fisher, Chair of the Flag Redesign Committee, gave an overview of the final design recommendations for the City of Hyattsville flag.

Councilmembers thanked the committee and community for their hard work and asked that the Flag Redesign Committee find a way to formally acknowledge those who participated and display the submissions that were not selected.

CM McClellan stated that Council could recommend tweaks to the design before voting on a final flag.

8. Proclamations

A motion was made by Councilmember Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Solomon

8.a. Proclamation Recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month[HCC-088-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1007 Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2024](#)

8.b. Proclamation in Recognition of National Code Compliance Month[HCC-089-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to recognizing October 2024 as National Code Compliance Month.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM1007 National Code Compliance Month Proclamation](#)

8.c. Proclamation Recognizing October 14, 2024, as Indigenous People's Day [HCC-091-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 14, 2024, as Indigenous People's Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM1007 Indigenous Peoples Day Proclamation](#)

8.d. Proclamation Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month [HCC-092-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing October 2024 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1007 Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2024](#)

8.e. Proclamation Celebrating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month [HCC-093-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation celebrating October 2024 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 1007 National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2024](#)

9. Appointments

A motion was made by Councilmember Redmond, seconded by Council Vice-President Waszczak, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Solomon

9.a. Appointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee [HCC-095-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointments of Jerome Brown (Ward 5) and Patricia Page (Ward 5) to the Police and Public Safety Citizen's Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on October 31, 2026.

Sponsors: Strab

Attachments: [Patriciaq Pagie W-5 Oct 2024 re-appoint redac](#)
[Jerome Brown W-5 re-appoint Oct 2024 redac](#)

9.b. Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee [HCC-096-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointments of Dyann Waugh (Ward 2) and Carol Plato (Ward 2) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on October 31, 2026.

Sponsors: Lee and Denes

Attachments: [Carole Plato W2 Sept 4 2024 redac](#)
[Dyann Waugh W2 re-appoint Oct 2024 redact](#)

9.c. Appointment to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee [HCC-099-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Arinee Flurry (Ward 1) to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on October 31, 2026.

Sponsors: McClellan and Redmond

Attachments: [Arinee Flurry redac reappoint Oct 2024](#)

10. Consent Items (8:10 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine in nature, and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the Mayor/Council request specific items be removed from the Consent agenda for separate action.

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Strab, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Solomon

10.a. Purchase of Two Chevrolet Blazer Electric Vehicles [HCC-083-FY25](#)

I move that Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to purchase two Chevrolet Blazer Electric Vehicles from Criswell Auto in an amount not to exceed \$117,362.00.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [sales_proposal - 2024-09-13T154145.329](#)
[EV Police SUV PPV AWD QUOTE](#)
[aa94cc38-502f-4a7c-ba12-c76a90a00406](#)

10.b. Street Sweeper Memorandum of Understanding - Town of Edmonston[HCC-090-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Edmonston for the City of Hyattsville to offer street sweeping services on a requested basis. Daily services will be charged to the Town of Edmonston at \$800 per day, pending legal review.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [MOU STREET SWEEPING-04062024183834.pdf](#)

**10.c. FY25 Budget Appropriation - Acceptance of Donation from County Council
Member Wanika Fisher**[HCC-101-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate \$5,000 from Prince George's County Council Member Wanika Fisher in support of the City's Back to School event to provide backpacks and school supplies to youth in the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

11. Action Items (8:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)

11.a. Health Care, Prescription Drug, and Dental Care Rates for CY25[HCC-102-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the 2025 calendar year health insurance premium rates, as presented at the October 7, 2024, City Council Meeting.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner gave a presentation detailing the request for the City Council to incur additional costs for the health care, drug and dental coverage.

The Council expressed concerns about the lack of clarity in the motion and presentation, as well as the timing of when the presentation was made. A motion was made by Council Vice President Waszczak to table the motion until after Discussion Item 12.a. to allow City staff time to clarify the motion language. The motion to table was seconded by CM Schaible and approved unanimously. CM Denes requested adding a meeting into next year's meeting schedule a week in advance of open enrollment to allow the Council and community time review the new rates and have an informed discussion.

A motion to untable the motion was made by CM Schaible and seconded by Council Vice President Waszczak. It was approved unanimously.

City staff presented new motion language with additional input from the Council. The final amended motion language was created. The following motion was made by Council Vice President Waszczak: I move that the Mayor and Council increase the flat rate contribution within each plan and contribute up to 3% of the 5% average increase to the State of Maryland Benefit Rates for CY2025 health and dental, and contribute 8% of the 10% average prescription premium increase and employees insured through the City will pick up the remainder of the average increase.

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

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

Absent: Solomon

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

12.a. Revisions to City Code Chapter 8, Elections[HCC-098-FY25](#)

For discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Proposed Election Code Changes](#)
[Election Code Revisions by Section 100124](#)

Zach Peters, Chair of the Board of the Supervisors of Elections, provided an overview of the proposed changes to the City's Elections Code. The next steps include drafting an ordinance which will have its first reading on November 18, 2024. Second reading could take place on December 2, 2024 allowing for adoption on December 22, 2024.

CM Schaible asked for clarification of the definition of the term "canvass". Clerk Groenendyk explained that canvassing includes all activities conducted by the board to process, count, and certify votes for individual candidates, and for or against ballot measures to determine who or which position won. CM Schaible asked that the Clerk verify language in the Elections Code that states when votes are counted.

Council Vice President Waszczak asked when the Board of the Supervisors of Elections planned to discuss ranked choice voting with the Council. Mr. Peters advised that last year the Board sat through a presentation on ranked choice voting and there were concerns about implementing it. The board is currently meeting with individual members of the Council to discuss it and is looking to present on this issue to the full Council soon.

CM Denes asked for clarification on voting by mail as it relates to canvassing. Clerk Groenendyk advised that the canvassing processes begins when ballots are received and is not complete until votes are tabulated after the polls close.

13. Council Dialogue (9:15 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.)**14. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that this item was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Solomon