

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 21, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gQi4gipfRmuvX-NpdWuUaQ

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
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) 985-5001. 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, April 21, 2025 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.

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION AND CLOSED CAPTIONING: The City of Hyattsville offers translation and closed captioning in over 50 languages for City Council Meetings via the Wordly platform.

Follow the directions below to access the service:

- Go to: <https://attend.wordly.ai/join/RAVY-6886>
 - Ensure the Session ID RAVY-6886 is displayed.
 - Select Your Choice of Language and click on the "Attend" button.
 - You can now read the captions on your device and/or listen to the translation of the City Council meeting.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact info@hyattsville.org.

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 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 included in the official meeting record. Electronically submitted statements 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.

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_gQi4gipfRmuvX-NpdWuUaQ

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Director of Community Business and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

Housing Manager David Cristeal

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Services Manager Reginald Bagley

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

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

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

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

Daniel Broder (Ward 2) asked that the Council reaffirm its commitment to being a sanctuary city in light of events with Kilmar Abrego Garcia, who is being detained in El Salvador.

Kurt Brintzenhofe (Ward 5) raised concerns about the City granting the development of the Pennrose-Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing a tax deferment, and inquired what the long term impact will be for residents.

LB (name not provided) raised concerns about the press release issued regarding the detaining of Kilmar Abrego Garcia.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) echoed sentiments about Kilmar Abrego Garcia. She also stated concerns about the pilot length for the Pennrose-Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing project, cost of living adjustments for staff, and opposition for funding grants for Streetcar Suburbs.

Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic (Ward 5) asked that the Council scale back employee benefits and consider reducing the municipal tax rate.

Lee Cain stated that the trust among residents has been broken after the detention of Kilmar Abrego Garcia.

Michael Gorman (Ward 5) expressed concerns about the budget amendments and asked the Council to consider financial offsets to prevent increasing the budget further.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) is opposed to the Pennrose-Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing project and funding for "The Spot".

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

The City Administrator provided updates on city events, programming, and new hires. Deputy City Administrator Reams discussed Wordly, a new translation service that is being used by the City.

Councilmembers and the staff discussed the incidents tied to Mr. Kilmar Abrego Garcia and City policies that govern providing government services to immigrants.

6. 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, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

6.a. Arbor Day Proclamation

[HCC-296-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council to proclaim April 25, 2025 as Arbor Day in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0407 Arbor Day 2025](#)

7. Consent Items (7:40 p.m. - 7:45 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 Haba, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

7.a. Trolley Trailhead Park (The Spot) Landscaping[**HCC-290-FY25**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$100,000 to SMC for landscaping for the Trolley Trailhead Park project, "The Spot," under their current contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [SMC DPW19-011B Task 49 The Spot Landscaping rev Ph1 11-01-2024](#)

7.b. PES Contract Award RFP # CED02282025[**HCC-303-FY25**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Partners for Economic Solutions (PES) in an amount not to exceed \$59,000 for consulting services to evaluate and recommend strategies to preserve and/or expand the affordability of 4 rental communities in West Hyattsville. This initiative is funded by the MWCOG Housing Affordability Planning Program Grant. The contract is subject to the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo RFP CED02282025 Award PES April 21 2025](#)
[Draft PES Consultant Contract April 2025](#)

7.c. Change Order - Bry's Lawn Care Tree Planting[**HCC-308-FY25**](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to exercise a change order in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the term of the existing contract with Bry's Lawn Care and Landscaping, expiring April 2026.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Bry's Lawn Care Contract](#)

8. Action Items (7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

8.a. Pennrose - Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing request of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Letter of Intent (LOI) [HCC-304-FY25](#)

I move that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a Letter of Intent (LOI) in support of the proposed Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the Pennrose - Sanctuary at Hyattsville Crossing development project.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Pennrose PILOT support Letter of Intent \(LOI\) Apr 22 2025](#)
[Hyattsville Cover Letter Final](#)
[PILOT Memo Apr 11 2025](#)

Director Ulysse introduced Housing Manager David Cristeal, who gave an overview of the project and the request for deferred tax payments.

Councilmembers discussed the length of the pilot program, the ability to build in inflationary costs of rent throughout the pilot, hidden resident costs of the pilot program and the rate of the tax abatement. Council also inquired about permanent supportive units and the marketing plan for the development once units are ready to be leased.

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, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, and Sandino

Abstain: Haba

8.b. FY25 Capital Improvement Budget Transfer of Grant Funds and Amend Budget Appropriations[HCC-312-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Treasurer to transfer grant funds not to exceed \$681,655 from the general account fund to the FY25 Capital Improvements Revenue account fund and amend the FY25 CIP budget by adjusting appropriations not to exceed \$681,655 to cover cost of sitework at The Spot. The grant funds were previously received from PG County Revenue Authority and awarded by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for project commonly known as "The Spot".

Sponsors: Douglas

Treasurer Brooks gave an overview of the financial component of the project. Director Riddle advised that the groundbreaking for this project will happen soon.

Councilmember Haba reiterated to residents that this is grant funding that the Council is voting to allocate to this project.

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

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

8.c. FY26 Budget: Council Amendments[HCC-310-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council amend the FY26 budget to include the following:

- \$15,000 for a patronage grant to the Hyattsville Life and Times in the City Council budget.

- \$18,000 for the Committee Stipend Program

- \$5,000 for ADA Compliance Software

- \$35,000 for Volunteer Service Support

- \$35,000 for Mental Health Programming in the CS budget. Increase from \$15K

- \$348,158 for a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all City staff.

- \$810,361 for waste/snow removal, street maintenance, winter road treatment, and funding for five staff positions in the Department of Public Works.

Sponsors: Croslin, Solomon and Redmond

Attachments: [UPDATED FY26 Budget Presentation Council Budget Amendments \(1\).pptx](#)

CM Strab made a motion, which was seconded by CM Haba, to increase funding to the Hyattsville Life & Times from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Yes: 4 (Solomon, Strab, Haba, Sandino) No: 6 (Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Redmond, Lee, Croslin)

Abstain: 0 The motion did not pass.

Councilmembers reiterated the justification for the amendments and discussed employee benefits. CM Lee recommended doing quarterly budget check-in's to track the budget more closely.

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

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

8.d. FY26 Budget Amendment: EAC Principals' Luncheon[HCC-311-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council amend the FY26 Budget by adding \$1,000 for a Principal's Luncheon organized by the Hyattsville Education Committee.

Sponsors: Strab, Waszczak and Redmond

CM Strab gave an overview of the request for funding and the Council was advised that this funding was presently in the budget.

CM Strab made an amendment to the motion, that was seconded by CM Denes, to reduce funding for this event to \$1000. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

9. Discussion Items (9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

9.a. HOA Trash Collection and City Engagement

[HCC-309-FY25](#)

For Discussion

Sponsors: City Administrator

Councilmember Denes presented the background of trash collection in HOAs in the City of Hyattsville, and proposed changes to the City Code to provide trash services to residents who live in HOAs. Additionally, he proposed the establishment of an HOA committee to liaise between HOAs and the City.

DPW Lesley Riddle, stated that the City follows the County standard for public roads. Director Jeff Ulysse explained the process by which developers determine the standard to which roads in new developments are constructed. He expressed his desire to streamline the City regulations to be able to better address these situations moving forward.

Councilmembers expressed support for the recommendations and the need for appropriately sized vehicles to travel on narrow road ways. .

10. Council Dialogue (9:30 p.m. - 9:40 p.m.)

11. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 PM.

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

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