

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 17, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_keJomvPoS2Gu1157xZ7bng

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) 985-5009. 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, March 17, 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.

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_keJomvPoS2Gu1157xZ7bng

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Danny Schaible
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Kareem Redmond
Councilmember Michelle Lee
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:00 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Interim Director of Community and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Deputy Chief Laura Lanham

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Services Manager Reggie Bagley

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

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, 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

Peter Daniels spoke in favor of Rent Stabilization and Ranked Choice Voting.

Jim Bathurst spoke in support of the CERT Team.

Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic spoke in favor of a more transparent budget process.

Irene Marsh expressed concerns about the City budget.

Janice Boakye spoke about the living conditions in the Vie Towers. She stated that there was no power and no hot water in the building. She stated that the complex has chronic issues that affect the resident's quality of living.

Jayshawn Robertson also expressed concerns as Janice Boakye. He cited negligent property maintenance and a lack of communication from management.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) thanked the Council for the work they were doing on the tax credits. She also asked the Council to be reasonable and practical with the budget.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) spoke in support of the staff's efforts to present a balanced budget.

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

The City Administrator provided updates on City events and programming. Treasurer Brooks provided insight into reporting the aggregate debt in the upcoming budget.

The staff and Council discussed updates on outstanding audits, parking permit removal, City tax credits, and the staff response to the residents in Vie Towers.

6. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)

6.a. Hyattsville CERT Team

[HCC-271-FY25](#)

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Hyattsville CERT Presentation.pdf](#)

Emergency Services Manager Bagley introduced the CERT Team lead, Hajah Jaward, who gave a short overview and presentation on the CERT Team's mission in the community.

The Council and staff discussed the financial implications of having a CERT Team, and the ways that they supplement the established emergency services.

6.b. Lower Ward 1 Stormwater Grant Update

[HCC-273-FY25](#)

Presentation only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Stormwater Presentation](#)

Hal Metzler and Emily Clifton (Low Impact Development Center) gave an overview of the stormwater grant and advised that the grant application was near the submittal step.

The Council thanked Congressman Ivey for his assistance with the grant and expressed excitement about the grant moving forward, as stormwater issues persist in many areas in the City. CM Schaible expressed concerns about the grant funding being held up by the federal government and the lack of bio-retention design elements in the plan. He was advised by Deputy Director Metzler that bio-retention elements are included but are so miniscule, they are not included in the plans.

7. Proclamations

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

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

7.a. Proclamation Declaring March 31, 2025, as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Hyattsville [HCC-268-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to declare March 31, 2025, as Transgender Day of Visibility the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 03.17 National Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation \(1\)](#)

7.b. Proclamation Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Abundant Life Bible Church and 10 years of Service of Pastor Dr. Melva T. Covington. [HCC-275-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation celebrating the 30th anniversary of Abundant Life Bible Church and the 10 years of pastoral service of Dr. Covington.

Sponsors: Croslin, Waszczak and Solomon

Attachments: [CM 0317 Abundant Bible Church_Pastor Covington.pdf](#)

8. Appointments

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

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

8.a. Appointment to the Educational Facilities Task Force[HCC-277-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the re-appointment of Kat Schooley (Ward 1) and Daniel Broder (Ward 2) to the Educational Facilities Task Force for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 17, 2027.

Sponsors: Waszczak and Sandino

Attachments: [Daniel Broder re-appoint Mar 25 redac](#)
[Kat Schooley re-appoint Mar 25 redac](#)

8.b. Appointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee[HCC-278-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the re-appointment of Taylor Wilder (Ward 2) to the Police and Public Safety Citizen's Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 17, 2027.

Sponsors: Strab

Attachments: [Taylor Wilder re-appoint Mar 25 redac](#)

9. Consent Items (8:20 p.m. - 8:25 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 President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Denes, that the Consent Agenda was Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

9.a. Disbursement of FY25 Education Enrichment Grants[HCC-253-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of \$12,000 to support the grant proposals recommended from the Education Advisory Committee and listed in the attached memo for dissemination of the FY25 Education Enrichment Grants.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Letter to Council 2024-2025 Enrichment Grants \(1\)](#)
[2024-2025 EAC Grant Council Spreadsheet \(1\)](#)

9.b. Disbursement of Ward 1 Discretionary Funds[HCC-269-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council approve the disbursement of \$188 of Ward 1 discretionary funds to Audrey Engdahl to support the Defend Yourself workshop for Hyattsville youth held on March 1, 2025.

Sponsors: Denes and Waszczak

9.c. National Capital Region Mutual Aid Agreement[HCC-274-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into the Washington Council of Governments Mutual Aid Agreement authorizing the Hyattsville Police Departmental to participate across jurisdictional boundaries to improve public safety in the National Capital Region.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [NCR MAA Signatures 20240104.pdf](#)

10. Action Items (8:25 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.)**10.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-01: Revisions to City Code Chapter 108, Taxation (Introduction and First Reading)**[HCC-270-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-01, an ordinance whereby the City Council amends City Code, Chapter 108, Taxation, to revise the Homestead Property Tax Credit program and the local supplement to the state homeowners property tax credit as follows:

Section 108-2: Homestead Property Tax Credit Program

- Amend the effective date to July 1, 2025
- Reduce the taxable assessment cap down from 110% to 106%.

Section 108-3: Local supplement to the state homeowners property tax credit

- Assessed Value Limit - increase to \$500,000.
- Combined Net Worth Limit - increase to \$400,000.
- Combine Gross Income Limit - increase to \$90,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Draft Homestead Tax Credit and Homeowners Supplement Ordinance Amendment 3.10.25 .3 \(002\) .2.docx](#)

Treasurer Brooks provided a recap of the of the revisions to Chapter 108 of the City Code.

CM Haba stated that the Homeowners Tax Credit is means tested and recommended that the Council increase the tax credit provided to residents from 15% to 30%. CM Strab advised that she is in support.

CM Haba made a motion that was seconded by CM Denes to amend the ordinance as follows:
Amend section 108-3 D.2.b to change the percentage from 15% to 30% of the State homeowner's property tax credit granted under Section 9-104.

The motion was approved, unanimously.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab, 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

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

11. Council Dialogue (8:45 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)

12. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 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