

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N79IRkqzSDixQN7R4vQSYg

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

~~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 using the eComment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. 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 6, 2023 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:

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 using the eComment feature at www.hyattsville.org/meetings or via email to cityclerk@hyattsville.org no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the meeting. 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_N79IRkqzSDixQN7R4vQSYg

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas
Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler
Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle
Director of Community Services-Sandra Shepherd
Director of Human Resources-Jay Joyner
City Clerk-Laura Reams
Deputy Director of Public Works-Hal Metzler

Present:	Mayor Robert Croslin
	Council President Joseph Solomon
	Council Vice-President Danny Schaible
	Councilmember Emily Strab
	Councilmember Sam Denes
	Councilmember Joanne Waszczak
	Councilmember Ben Simasek
	Councilmember Jimmy McClellan
	Councilmember Edouard Haba
	Councilmember Daniel Peabody
Absent:	Councilmember Rommel Sandino

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the Agenda be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody

Absent: Sandino

4. Approval of the Minutes

4.a. Approval of the Minutes

[HCC-291-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes_February 06_2023](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody

Absent: Sandino

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

Claire Panak Tombes asked that the City re-publicize its policies regarding background checks of staff that work with vulnerable populations.

Melissa Schweisguth provided a written comment thanking the Mayor and Council for considering the renaming of Magruder Woods.

Chuck Perry provided written comment regarding the City-wide security system and participatory budgeting.

6. Community Notices and Meetings

6.a. Main City Calendar: March 7, 2022 - March 20, 2022

[HCC-290-FY23](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City Calendar March 7, 2023 - March 20, 2023](#)

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

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on City related news and events. City Administrator Tracey Douglas responded to a question about the information required for background checks for staff and Council. She confirmed that the City follows state requirements. Background checks and fingerprinting are required for all employees in the police department, any employees who work with seniors and children, and any employees that have unescorted access to the police department, for other employee's background checks are required. There is no requirement for the Mayor and Council.

8. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)**8.a. Driskell Park Phase II Design Development**[HCC-288-FY23](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [David C Driskell Park Phase 2](#)

Director of Public Works Riddle introduced Neighborhood Design Center to present the phase two plan for Driskell Park. Allie O'Neill, architecture and community planning Director from Neighborhood Design Center presented an overview of the proposal to reimagine Driskell Park. Ms. O'Neill reviewed the project goals, timeline and deliverables which included design drawings for the future park redesign. She said NDC was currently working through an updated park user analysis and would be holding engagement workshops.

9. Proclamations

Both proclamations were adopted in a single vote.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that the Proclamations be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody

Absent: Sandino

9.a. Proclamation Celebrating March 2023 as Women's History Month in the City of Hyattsville[HCC-292-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim March 2022 to be Women's History Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0306 Women's History Month 2023](#)

9.b. Proclamation Celebrating March 19, 2023 as Women in Public Office Day in the City of Hyattsville [HCC-293-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council proclaim March 19, 2023 as Women in Public Office Day in the City of Hyattsville

Sponsors: Douglas

Attachments: [CM 0306 Women in Public Office Day 2023](#)

10. Appointments

10.a. Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee [HCC-287-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Brittney Miller (Ward 5) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on March 6, 2025.

Sponsors: Denes

Attachments: [Brittney Miller W5 redac](#)

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody

Absent: Sandino

11. Consent Items (8:00 p.m. - 8:05 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 Waszczak, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody

Absent: Sandino

11.a. Repair of Solid Waste Truck #64 [HCC-254-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to accept the proposal from Johnson Truck Center in an amount not to exceed \$12,500 for the repair of Solid Waste truck 64.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [230214 - Johnson Truck proposal - SW64](#)

11.b Procurement of IT Consultant Services[HCC-296-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a services contract with Lars DeSalvio to serve as the City's IT consultant for a one-year term, with an additional one-year term option, not to exceed 24-months, at a term cost not to exceed \$78,000 annually, upon legal review and sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

12. Action Items (8:05 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)

12.a. Purchase of New City-Wide Security System[HCC-232-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Johnson Controls for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, to provide the design and installation of a new city-wide camera-video management system, upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Contract and Quote](#)
[Johnson Controls Proposal](#)

Deputy City Administrator Barbour provided an overview of the project to update the security camera system in the city. City Administrator Douglas highlighted the importance of selecting the right contractor and the benefit to selecting a contractor who was local in order to provide expedited service and maintenance. She also noted that the City requested bond bill funding and ARPA funding for this item to offset costs. Additionally, she said the City would seek partnerships from local businesses to potentially offset costs.

Councilmember Waszczak asked what categories the cameras would serve and how the cameras differed from the license plate readers discussed in previous meetings. Deputy Administrator Barbour reviewed the technical specs including a fisheye lens and the ability for the cameras to move and zoom in and out. She said the cameras would be utilized by the Police Department for 24/7 monitoring, she was unsure if other departments would have access to the live view.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if the cameras could be used by Code Compliance or Department of Public Works staff, perhaps to monitor road conditions. Deputy City Administrator Barbour said the cameras could be utilized for live traffic viewing but she said she would need to follow up with the Police Department for additional details. City Administrator Douglas said the cameras were for safety and security and that staff has identified particular areas which required monitoring.

Councilmember Strab said there had been concern about technologies with facial recognition capabilities and asked if this system had facial recognition. Deputy City Administrator Barbour said that the cameras had the ability to see great detail but she was unsure if it could be used for facial recognition and would need to follow up with the police department.

Councilmember Denes asked if there were signs posted in the city to let residents know that the area was under surveillance for both public transparency and as a crime deterrent. Deputy City Administrator Barbour said the City could look into signs. Director Riddle said she believed there was a legal requirement to have a sign where cameras were located and that there was a current sign for Hyatt Park. City Administrator Douglas said staff would look into the legal requirements.

Councilmember Haba said the city was expanding the camera system from 27 to 50 and asked if the staff had reviewed the areas selected for surveillance. City Administrator Douglas said locations were not confirmed. She also noted that the existing company was not able to service the existing 27 camera system. Councilmember Haba reiterated that the City was adding 23 cameras but did not have locations yet. He asked how the City determined that 50 was an appropriate number. City Administrator Douglas said that possible locations were identified during a drive through with potential contractors and said the locations were not locked down. Councilmember Haba asked to have the

locations reviewed by Council when finalized.

Councilmember McClellan was concerned about privacy and asked for information on how long footage from a camera was available and if the footage could be viewable by the public via an MPIA request. Deputy City Administrator Barbour said the footage could be requested via an MPIA request and she was unsure how long the footage would be held.

Councilmember Schaible also asked about facial recognition capabilities and said he was surprised it had not come up in conversations with the contractor.

City Administrator Douglas said that the item could be brought back to Council at a later time at which the subject matter expert would be available to join the Council to speak to these items.

Council President Solomon asked what the urgency was for this item on the action agenda. He stated his preference to have AI/facial recognition to be incorporated in the software to provide expediency in identifying subjects or objects. He asked for more information on the business proposal to have businesses subsidize the cost of the system. He asked Clerk Reams for information on the MPIA process.

Clerk Reams provided generalized information on the MPIA request process noting that there were situations in which footage may be withheld or redacted dependent on the circumstances of the request.

Councilmember Strab spoke to the facial recognition question and said she was in favor of tabling the item.

Councilmember Simasek said he shared concerns about how data may be shared and facial recognition. He moved to table the item. Councilmember Strab seconded the motion.

Councilmember Denes clarified that the motion would be tabled until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Simasek, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that this agenda item be Tabled. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye:	Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody
Absent:	Sandino

13. Discussion Items (8:20 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.)

Council President Solomon provided an overview of the proposed motion to implement participatory budgeting.

Councilmember McClellan asked whether the voting on projects would be considered binding or advisory. Council President Solomon said that we can't bind Council's to previous council decisions so it would likely not be considered binding but would be a clear message to the Council on priorities. He also questioned the number of folks who voted in City elections and if it would be appropriately representative of the city's population. Council President Solomon said that was why he offered ward voting in the motion.

Council Vice President Schaible asked how the motion intersected with the motion from Mayor Hollingsworth on the participatory budgeting committee. Council President Solomon said the motion took the original idea and went further with it to provide guidelines for the process and establishing the participatory budgeting committee rather than having the committee come up with the rules/policies as a body.

Councilmember Simasek asked if the proposal would include a ranking or a yes/no question. Council President Solomon said that determining how it went on the ballot would be a question between the PB committee and the Board of Elections. Also Council President Solomon said that originally he put in the motion to have a rank choice voting. He said that staff feedback said it would be harder to accomplish in the timeframe. Councilmember Simasek said this originally sounded like trying to formalize the council budget priority process but he understood the difference. he also said he supported a city wide option rather than a ward specific option. Council President Solomon said he envisioned the process as being more than ward specific.

Councilmember Denes said he had been looking forward to this motion. He said that more clarity or emphasis on the city wide voting option was needed. he also said he wanted to see more specificity on the council's role in the process and the expectations on the council's engagement in the process. He said he was also unclear on what did not fall in the scope of existing departmental budgets.

Councilmember Denes and Council President Solomon had a discussion around the parameters and intention of the motion and how the process would impact Councilmembers workload and the departmental budgets. Councilmember Denes expressed confusion on the categorization of projects and their relationship to the departmental budgets.

Councilmember Strab asked questions on timing and how the timing of a referendum would tie with the budget process and how the budget initiatives would potentially transfer to a new Council.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if other municipalities were successfully doing participatory budgeting and how we could get young people to engage in the process. Council President Solomon responded in the affirmative to the former question. Regarding youth engagement Council President Solomon said that he thought this was an area for growth for the proposal. Council President Solomon said we may have to change voting requirements for the participatory budgeting items or if there could be funds specifically set aside for youth. He noted that he had looked at other cities such as New York City and their participatory budgeting process. Councilmember Waszczak encouraged the Council to look for and rely on expert advice from cities who had successfully implemented participatory budgeting.

Councilmember Haba said he liked the proposal and was supportive of having a city-wide initiative as well as ward specific projects. He asked Treasurer Brooks how the financial aspect would be handled for the allocation of \$25K. Treasurer Brooks said that a dedicated funding source would be required and often discretionary funds were utilized. He advised the Council to seek advice from the City Attorney to ensure the program was implemented

in compliance with the City Charter, state law, and the procurement policies.

Council Vice President Schaible suggested that the Council consider a maximum amount for the city-wide projects as is proposed for the ward specific projects. He also asked who would be responsible for putting together the referendum questions and provide information on the budget proposals for the voting population.

Council President Solomon experienced technical difficulties and the Council decided to move on to the next agenda item.

13.a. Participatory Budgeting[HCC-294-FY23](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Attorney to prepare a participatory budget (PB) ordinance in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Permitting voting on the priority and spending limits for non-critical City infrastructure projects at council direction
- Permitting the allocation of up to 25K per ward in the City of Hyattsville for implementation of Ward specific community projects.
 - Ward Requirements (for council members):
 - Quarterly Community Meetings
 - Discussion/Introduction of Project within community
 - Projects Cannot:
 - Cover scope of other departments or potential department budgets
- Schedule:
 - Summer - Idea collection meeting(s)
 - Fall - Proposal development
 - Spring - Civic Participation/Voting
- Rules:
 - Each ward will collect project ideas, either through formal meetings, or a public collection process.
 - Any member of a ward in the City can participate in the process for the Ward in which they live.
 - The City will assist by providing a general information meeting to: give process overview, list of funded projects, status of projects, equity goals and objectives.
- Voting
 - Residents can vote for projects in the ward in which they live
 - Eligible Hyattsville voters shall be Eligible PB voters.
- PB Committee
 - Similar to BOE, to study and provide recommendations with each voting cycle
 - PB funds can be used for small-medium sized physical infrastructure projects that benefit the general public and have a lifespan of at least 5 years.

Sponsors: Solomon

Council President Solomon provided an overview of the proposed motion to implement participatory budgeting.

Councilmember McClellan asked whether the voting on projects would be considered binding or advisory. Council President Solomon said that we can't bind Council's to previous council decisions so it would likely not be considered binding but would be a clear message to the Council on priorities. He also questioned the number of folks who voted in City elections and if it would be appropriately representative of the city's population. Council President Solomon said that was why he offered ward voting in the motion.

Council Vice President Schaible asked how the motion intersected with the motion from Mayor Hollingsworth on the participatory budgeting committee. Council President Solomon said the motion took the original idea and went further with it to provide guidelines for the process and establishing the participatory budgeting committee rather than having the committee come up with the rules/policies as a body.

Councilmember Simasek asked if the proposal would include a ranking or a yes/no question. Council President Solomon said that determining how it went on the ballot would be a question between the PB committee and the Board of Elections. Also Council President Solomon said that originally he put in the motion to have a rank choice voting. He said that staff feedback said it would be harder to accomplish in the timeframe. Councilmember Simasek said this originally sounded like trying to formalize the council budget priority process but he understood the difference. he also said he supported a city wide option rather than a ward specific option. Council President Solomon said he envisioned the process as being more than ward specific.

Councilmember Denes said he had been looking forward to this motion. He said that more clarity or emphasis on the city wide voting option was needed. he also said he wanted to see more specificity on the council's role in the process and the expectations on the council's engagement in the process. He said he was also unclear on what did not fall in the scope of existing departmental budgets.

Councilmember Denes and Council President Solomon had a discussion around the parameters and intention of the motion and how the process would impact Councilmembers workload and the departmental budgets. Councilmember Denes expressed confusion on the categorization of projects and their relationship to the departmental budgets.

Councilmember Strab asked questions on timing and how the timing of a referendum would tie with the budget process and how the budget initiatives would potentially transfer to a new Council.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if other municipalities were successfully doing participatory budgeting and how we could get young people to engage in the process. Council President Solomon responded in the affirmative to the former question. Regarding youth engagement Council President Solomon said that he thought this was an area for growth for the proposal. Council President Solomon said we may have to change voting requirements for the participatory budgeting items or if there could be funds specifically set aside for youth. He noted that he had looked at other cities such as New York City and their participatory budgeting process. Councilmember Waszczak encouraged the Council to look for and rely on expert advice from cities who had successfully implemented participatory budgeting.

Councilmember Haba said he liked the proposal and was supportive of having a city-wide initiative as well as ward specific projects. He asked Treasurer Brooks how the financial aspect would be handled for the allocation of \$25K. Treasurer Brooks said that a dedicated funding source would be required and often discretionary funds were utilized. He advised the Council to seek advice from the City Attorney to ensure the program was implemented in compliance with the City Charter, state law, and the procurement policies.

Council Vice President Schaible suggested that the Council consider a maximum amount for the city-wide projects as is proposed for the ward specific projects. He also asked who would be responsible for putting together the referendum questions and provide information on the budget proposals for the voting population.

Council President Solomon experienced technical difficulties and the Council decided to move on to the next agenda item.

13.b. Renaming of Magruder Woods to Nacotchtank Woods[HCC-295-FY23](#)

I move the Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) requesting an official renaming of Magruder Woods to Nacotchtank Woods.

Sponsors: Croslin, Simasek and Waszczak

Mayor Croslin introduced the motion to rename Magruder Woods. Councilmember Waszczak provided additional background information and context to the proposed name change. She also provided suggestions on how the name could be memorialized and displayed in the park. Councilmember Simasek and Director Riddle stated their support for the motion.

Councilmember Haba said he was confused on the fiscal impact of \$30K for sending a letter and asked for explanation. He suggested the budget impact could come as a separate motion.

Councilmember Waszczak asked if Ms. Riddle if removing the dollar amount would require a separate motion. Director Riddle said the \$30k would include signage and trail improvement and that item would need to come back to council anyway. Councilmember Waszczak said she was now comfortable voting.

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

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody

Absent: Sandino

14. Council Dialogue (8:50 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)**15. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Peabody, that the meeting be Adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Denes, Waszczak, Simasek, McClellan, Haba, and Peabody

Absent: Sandino