

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 7, 2022

7:00 PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p0wzf6ewTde1baPguKA2IA

Virtual

City Council

Robert S. Croslin, Interim Mayor
Danny Schaible, Council Vice President, Ward 1
Sam Denes, Ward 1
Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1
Ben Simasek, Ward 3
Jimmy McClellan, Ward 3
Daniel Peabody, Ward 4
Edouard Haba, Ward 4
Joseph Solomon, Ward 5
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:

As we continue to take precautions due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, the Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, February 7, 2022 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.

1. Introduction: Amazing Grace, Performed by Paul Ike**2. Call to Order and Council Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Also present:

City Administrator-Tracey Douglas

Assistant City Administrator-Jim Chandler

City Treasurer-Ron Brooks

City Attorney-Skip Cornbrooks

Chief of Police-Jarod Towers

Director of Public Works-Lesley Riddle

Director of Human Resources-Vivian Snellman

Director of Community Services-Sandra Shephard

City Clerk-Laura Reams

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**4. Moment of Silence in Honor of Mayor Kevin L. Ward**

5. Video Tribute to Mayor Ward, Produced by Jonathan Alexander**6. Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Haba moved to amend the agenda to move item HCC-234-FY22 to the Action Agenda.

A motion was made by Council Vice-President Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Simasek, that the Agenda be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

7. Public Comment (7:15 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.) Complete Speaker Card, Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Gloria Felix-Thompson submitted written comment in support of the special Mayoral election extension.

Camille Bennehoff submitted written comment in support of the roundabout at Driskell Park.

Yohannes Bennehoff submitted written comment in support of the roundabout at Driskell Park.

Cliff Mayo submitted written comment in support of the roundabout at Driskell Park.

Alexi Bodado wrote in opposition to the variance at 3300 Lancer Drive.

Patricia Randazzo submitted written comment to ask for an amendment to item 13.d to reduce light pollution.

Bridget Bickenbottom submitted written comment to support the variance at 3300 Lancer Drive.

Nina Faye submitted written comment in opposition to the roundabout at Driskell Park.

Will Seath spoke in support of the roundabout at Driskell Park.

Melissa Schweisguth spoke in support of the lighting on the Trolley Trail.

Marshall submitted a written comment in opposition to vote-by-mail elections, the scheduling of a public hearing without providing the public with information, and to the proposed traffic circle.

8. Community Notices and Meetings**8.a) Main City Calendar: February 8 - 22, 2022**[HCC-245-FY22](#)

N/A

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [City Calendar Feb 8 - 22 2022](#)

9. City Administrator Update (7:25 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas provided updates on City-related news and events.

10. Proclamations (7:40 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)

All proclamations were adopted in a single vote.

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

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

10.a) Proclamation Honoring Mayor Kevin L. Ward and his Years of Service to the City of Hyattsville [HCC-242-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation in honor of Mayor Kevin Ward and his years of service to the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: Croslin, Denes, Haba, McClellan, Peabody, Sandino, Schaible, Simasek, Solomon and Waszczak

Attachments: [CM 0204 Honoring Kevin Ward](#)

10.b) Proclamation Celebrating February 2022 as Black History Month in the City of Hyattsville [HCC-241-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing February 2022 as Black History Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0201 Black History Month 2022](#)

11. Consent Items (7:45 p.m. - 7:50 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 Schaible, seconded by Councilmember Solomon, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

11.a) Council Chambers Hybrid Meeting Concept Design [HCC-223-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure to JMT in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for the concept design of the Council Chambers renovations to facilitate hybrid meetings. This work is to be done under their existing contract with the City and may be eligible for ARPA funding reimbursement.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Proposal for TO65 12-09-21 \(1\)](#)

11.b) Distribution Agreement with Capital Area Food Bank[HCC-229-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Capital Area Food Bank for the weekly receipt and distribution of non-perishable food boxes through March 31, 2022, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency, in support of the City's efforts to provide food to families in need during COVID-19.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Distribution Agreement COVID-19 January - March 2022 \(1\)](#)

11.c) Reschedule Public Hearing on American Rescue Plan[HCC-233-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council reschedule the Public Hearing to consider public testimony regarding the establishment of emergency relief programs to assist Hyattsville residents, businesses, and nonprofits with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding from February 22 to March 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsors: City Administrator

11.e) Schedule Public Hearing for the Sale and Disposition of Public Land, at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 22, 2022[HCC-236-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council schedule a Public Hearing for February 22, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. to consider testimony from the public regarding the sale and disposition of public land known as "Lot 5" or the Jefferson Street Parking Lot.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [JeffersonStreetParkingLot](#)

11.f) Resolution 2022-01: Authorization to Execute National Settlement Agreements with Jassen and the Distributors in the Opioid Litigation and Maryland Subdivision Agreements[HCC-240-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2022-01, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council to execute national settlement agreements with Jassen and the distributors in the opioid litigation and Maryland subdivision agreements.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Resolution 2022-01 re settlement](#)

12. Action Items (7:50 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

11.d) Zoning Variance Request V-61-21 - 3300 Lancer Drive, Hyattsville[HCC-234-FY22](#)

I move the City Council authorize the Interim Mayor to provide correspondence to the Prince George's County Board of Zoning Appeals in support V-61-21, the applicant's variance request regarding building a six (6) foot fence in the side and back yards of 3300 Lancer Drive, Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo - V-61-21 FINAL](#)
[V-61-21 Binder](#)

City Planner Taylor Robey provided an overview of the variance request and staff's recommendation to support the variance.

Councilmember Haba expressed his concern that the portion of the fence above the retaining wall stay within the four foot height limit. Director Chandler clarified that the referenced portion of the fence is separate from the variance request, and therefore would need to be taken up in the future by code enforcement.

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

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

12.a) Resolution 2022-01: Mayoral Special Election[HCC-244-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2022-01, a resolution whereby the City Council notifies the City's Board of Elections to fill the vacancy in the office of the Mayor by a special election, declares the City's 2022 special mayoral election to be a vote-by-mail election, and approves the Board of Elections thirty calendar day extension to conduct the election due to the absence of necessary equipment to administer the vote-by-mail election.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Resolution - Special Mayoral Vote by Mail Election 1.31.22\[96\]](#)
[BOSE Letter to City Council Feb 1 2022](#)

City Clerk Laura Reams presented the requirements for special elections as outlined by the City Charter.

Councilmember Denes clarified the time requirements for holding a special election based on his conversations with Clerk Reams and City Attorney Skip Cornbrooks.

Councilmember Waszczak asked for clarity regarding the timing of an election in regards to a second special election should a seated Councilmember be elected as Mayor. Clerk Reams provided information regarding the timing and process for a second special election if needed.

Councilmember Solomon asked for clarity regarding the timing for filling the vacancy. City Attorney Cornbrooks reiterated the requirement for filling a vacancy. Clerk Reams added that there should be discussion about possible Code changes to make the requirement for filling vacancies more clear.

Councilmember Waszczak asked for Clerk Reams to expound on the benefits of a vote-by-mail election. Clerk Reams spoke about the convenience and increased participation with vote-by-mail elections and reiterated that in-person voting remains an option for all residents.

Council Vice President Schaible asked City Attorney Cornbrooks to provide information regarding the approaches other municipalities use to fill vacancies. City Attorney Cornbrooks responded that the methods vary across municipality and type of vacancy.

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

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

12.b) Schedule Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 22 at 6:00 p.m. for Proposed Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-01, a Resolution to Adjust the Time Requirements to Hold a Special Election [HCC-243-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council schedule a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m in order to hear public testimony on proposed Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-01, a Resolution Amending Article II of the City of Hyattsville's Charter to adjust the time requirements by which a Special Election arising out of a vacancy in the Office of the Mayor or any Councilmember must be held.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Notice Public Hearing - Special Mayoral Election 2.1.22](#)
[Resolution 2022-01 - Charter Amendment Extending Time to Conduct Special Election 2.1.22 v3](#)

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

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

13. Discussion Items (8:10 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)

13.a) FY23 Budget Initiative: Design Roundabout at 5-way Intersection near Driskell Park [HCC-232-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve \$50,000 to prepare a concept design (for council and community input) and then a final plan set for an intersection roundabout at the 40th Avenue, Hamilton Street, and Gallatin Street 5-way intersection.

Sponsors: Schaible

Attachments: [Five-way crashes points](#) [Schaible Traffic Roundabout Supporting Doc](#)
[Hyattsville-Transportation-Study---Final-Report-- page 36](#)

Councilmember Schaible presented the idea for a roundabout and expressed his support for it.

Council discussed pedestrian and vehicular safety, feasibility of the roundabout, community input, funding for the project, and other areas in the City slated for traffic improvements.

13.b) FY23 Budget Initiative: City-Wide Branding Campaign[HCC-231-FY22](#)

I move the Mayor and Council include in the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget an expenditure of up to \$50,000 for the purposes of initiating a City-wide branding campaign to include an update of the City logo, flag, style guide, and other design materials to ensure the City's brand is unified, consistent, and representative of its residents. This proposal will require the issuance of a Request for Proposal by staff to seek a contractor to lead in the branding efforts and ensure community engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders throughout the process.

Sponsors: McClellan

Councilmember McClellan presented the background for the idea to update the City Flag and Seal.

Council discussed the RFP procedures, local artists, and potential impact on businesses.

13.c) FY23 Budget Initiative: Grant Program for High School Graduates Pursuing Higher Education[HCC-238-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize a grant program totaling \$10,000 in FY 2023 to be implemented by the Community Services and Recreation Department to help High School seniors and graduates who are Hyattsville residents take their next steps towards higher education and career paths.

The grant program shall prioritize supporting students who are in the first generation in their family to attend college, those whose immigration status forces them to pay out of state tuition, and those who may qualify for other forms of financial aid but may need help covering additional costs of room and board, books, equipment, etc. To be eligible for the grant, applicants shall describe their future aspirations and how the funds will support them as well as commit to some volunteer service.

The grants shall be allocated and distributed in partnership with local organizations that provide financial support as well as other services to help ensure success in college, including mentoring and tutoring. Eligible recipients of grant funds must also meet any partner program requirements.

All funds from the city shall be allocated to Hyattsville residents enrolled in an accredited institution of learning, including community colleges, universities, and trade or technical training institutions. No funds shall go towards overhead costs for partner organizations.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Councilmember Simasek presented the elements of the proposal and the potential impact for the City's youth.

Council discussed the amount of money allocated to the program, the disbursement schedule for funds, other available grants, the criteria listed for the program, and the application process as it relates to the residency requirement.

13.d) FY23 Budget Initiative: Overhead Lighting for Existing Sections of Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail[HCC-239-FY22](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council allocate \$100,000 to design and install overhead lighting for the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail from the trail's intersection with Rhode Island Avenue at Farragut St north to the municipal boundary with Riverdale Park.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Riverdale Trolley Trail Lighting R1 2020-12-09 \(002\)](#)
[Report-Presentation-to-the-Partnership.July-10-2017-1](#)
[Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail Parcel 2](#)

Councilmember Denes presented the benefits of improving lighting on the Trolley Trail.

Council discussed alternate funding sources, possible hurdles to completion, and land ownership issues.

14. Council Dialogue (9:00 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)**15. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Council Vice-President Schaible, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

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