

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PWBDFr33TFWZvenC7ID3HQ

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, January 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.

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_PWBDFr33TFWZvenC7ID3HQ

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:04 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Interim Director of Community Business and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

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

Emergency Services Manager Reggie Bagley

City Arborist Dawn Taft

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

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

Aye:	Croslin, Solomon, Waszczak, Denes, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino
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4. Approval of the Minutes

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

4.a. Approval of the Minutes[HCC-196-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2024, and December 2, 2024.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Minutes Nov 18 2024](#)
[Minutes December 2 2024](#)

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

Melissa Schweisguth thanked the Mayor for his statement against hate and discrimination in Hyattsville and advised the council of neighbors who had their Pride flags vandalized on their properties. She also spoke in favor of sending a letter of support for HB182/SB115 (Motor Vehicle Speed Monitoring Systems Penalties) and expressed concern about the lack of diversity in the candidates for the Corridor Investment Program grant.

Sarah Harper (Ward 2) spoke in reference to the upcoming lawsuit (Shand vs. City of Hyattsville) and asked that the City settle the lawsuit.

Mr. Marshall spoke in opposition to HB182/SB115 (Motor Vehicle Speed Monitoring Systems Penalties) and funding allocated for "The Spot".

Dan Broder asked that the City settle the upcoming lawsuit (Shand vs. the City of Hyattsville).

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the passing of longtime resident Nina Faye's husband.

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

The City Administrator provided updates on City events and programming.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)

7.a. Remand Briefing: Staff Draft II West Hyattsville-Queens Chapel Sector Plan and SMA [HCC-198-FY25](#)

For Presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [WHQC Memorandum](#)
[WHQC City of Hyattsville Briefing 2025](#)
[Directors Housing presentation Hyattsville City Council January 25](#)

Lakisha Hull, Planning Director for Prince George's County, introduced Tony Felts, Sarah Benton, and Thomas Lester from M-NCPPC who presented on the West Hyattsville/Queens Chapel Road Sector Plan Remand. Lakisha Hull also discussed Missing Middle Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

The Council asked for an update on the status of the Sector Plan and discussed the possible additions of Accessory Dwelling Units within the Sector Plan, the permitting process for Accessory Dwelling Units, concerns about the flood plain, and the support of the community to implement the sector plan as soon as possible.

7.b. Proposed Revisions to City Code Chapter 112, Urban Forestry [HCC-193-FY25](#)

For Presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Tree Ordinance Council Presentation 1-25.pptx](#)

City Arborist Dawn Taft, gave an overview of the proposed changes to the City Code which would streamline the tree removal process and work to expand the density of the tree canopy which dwindled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.c. Proposed Charter Changes Regarding Filling Vacancies for Elected Officials [HCC-195-FY25](#)

For Presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [BOSE Update to Council_Jan 21_FINAL_011525](#)

Zack Peters of the Board of the Supervisors of Elections presented proposed charter changes tied to filling vacancies for elected officials, reducing the need for special elections.

The Council discussed the proposed length of vacancies under the proposed charter changes, the process of a Councilmember vacating their seat to run for Mayor, utilizing appointments to fill vacancies, and budgetary impacts of special elections.

8. Appointments

A motion was made by Councilmember Redmond, 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

8.a. Appointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee [HCC-194-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Taurean Barnwell (Ward 3) to the Police and Public Safety Citizen's Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire on January 21, 2027.

Sponsors: Strab

Attachments: [Taurean Barnwell W3 redac](#)

9. Consent Items (9:10 p.m. - 9:15 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 Councilmember Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Denes, 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

9.a. FY25 Budget Amendment: Acceptance of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP) Grant [HCC-184-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and City Council amend the FY25 Special Revenues Funds budget to accept and appropriate the MWCOG-HAPP grant in the amount of \$59,000 for the feasibility and planning analysis of preserving or expanding the affordability of 4 market affordable rental communities in West Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Memo MWCOG HAPP Grant Acceptance Dec 23 2024](#)
[25-025-A HAPP City of Hyattsville 12 19a](#)

9.b. Trolley Trailhead Park Sitework [HCC-188-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$600,000 to NZI Construction for sitework for the Trolley Trailhead Park project, "The Spot," under their current contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [NZI The Spot Proposal 12-12-2024](#)

9.c. 2024 Corridor Investment Program Grant Awards[HCC-212-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the recommendations of City staff and approve Corridor Investment Program grant funding awards for the following entities, pending approval of funding:

- Anacostia Trails Heritage Area - \$1,500
- Art 'N Hair - \$1,500
- Art Works Studio School Inc. dba Art Works Now - \$5,000
- Creative Saints Loft - \$1,500
- Ferris Custom Cabinetry - \$1,584
- Gremlins Tattoo Lounge - \$5,000
- Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department - \$5,000
- Life Of Gains - \$5,000
- Maryland Meadworks - \$1,500
- Better Education L.L.C. (Mathnasium of Hyattsville)- \$5,000
- Robert Harper Books LLC, dba My Dead Aunt's Books- \$1,440
- Pyramid Atlantic- \$1,500
- Ramona's Pizza Garden - \$5,000
- Rooted and Polished - \$5,000
- Triple Line Studio - \$649.06
- Yes! Organic Market - \$2,400
- Yes! Organic Market - \$5,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Staff Memo - CIP 2024_Final](#)
[Corridor Investment Grant - Program Guidelines - 2023_final](#)

9.d. MOU with Revenue Authority of Prince George's County: The Spot - Amendment 1[HCC-233-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment 1 to the MOU between the City and Revenue Authority of Prince George's County, updating the proposed schedule for the Trolley Trailhead Placemaking Project, pending legal review.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Amendment_SPOT Project_12 30 24-Execution Copy](#)

10. Discussion Items (9:15p.m. - 9:35 p.m.)

10.a. Letter of Support for Maryland HB182/SB118 Motor Vehicles-Speed Monitoring Systems-Penalties[HCC-199-FY25](#)

For Discussion

Sponsors: Schaible, Denes, Waszczak and Sandino

Attachments: [hb0182f.pdf](#)
[first-motor-vehicles-speed-monitoring-systems-penalties.pdf](#)

Councilmember Schaible gave an overview of Maryland HB182/SB118 which would permit automatic camera enforcement citation fines to increase incrementally due to speed and expressed his support for the legislation. Chief Towers confirmed that police issued citations for speeding are tiered.

The Council discussed getting feedback from the Police and Public Safety Committee, the efficacy of this bill to curb speeding, and the necessity of submitting a letter of support. Councilmembers Haba, Denes, Schaible, and Council Vice President Waszczak spoke in favor of the bill.

A motion was made by CM Schaible and seconded by CM Denes to move this item to the Action Items agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made by CM Schaible and seconded by Council Vice President Waszczak to send a letter of support to the Maryland General Assembly for Maryland HB182/SB118 Motor Vehicle Speed Monitoring Systems Penalties. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Abstain: Solomon, and Lee

11. Council Dialogue (9:35 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)**12. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, 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