

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hTd9O7MWQ9ad73JU4DsWIw

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, January 13, 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_hTd9O7MWQ9ad73JU4DsWlw

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

Call to order at 7:03 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Interim Director of Community, Business, & Economic Development Jeff Ulysse

Treasurer Ron Brooks

Deputy Chief of Police Laura Lanham

Deputy Director of Public Works Hal Metzler

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Deputy Director of Community Services Cheri Everhart

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Services Manager Reggie Bagley

Present:

Mayor Robert Croslin

Council President Joseph Solomon

Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak

Councilmember Sam Denes

Councilmember Emily Strab

Councilmember Kareem Redmond

Councilmember Michelle Lee

Councilmember Edouard Haba

Councilmember Rommel Sandino

Absent:

Councilmember Danny Schaible

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**3. Moment of Silence for the Passing of President Jimmy Carter, victims of the attack in New Orleans, and victims of the wildfires in California.****4. Approval of Agenda**

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

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

Absent: Waszczak, and Schaible

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

Melissa Schweisguth thanked DPW for snow clearing but stated that timely sidewalk clearing is a persistent issue. She asked that the Council enforce the City Code relating to clearing sidewalks. She also asked that the Council take up the Rent Stabilization ordinance this year.

Mr. Marshall stated that the County vendor for recycling routinely leaves trash and debris all over the City during collection and urged the City Council to reach out to the County Council to resolve the issue.

Michael Angeloni (Ward 5) stated frustration with snow removal issues on sidewalks stating that it poses a challenge for people with mobility issues. He also stated his support the resolution for the vote by mail election.

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

The City Administrator provided updates on City event and programming. She also responded to resident concerns about sidewalk accessibility during winter weather activity. Community Services Deputy Director Everhart announced the winners of the Battle of the Lights City-wide decorating competition.

7. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**7.a. Gateway Community Development Corporation - Gateway Arts & Entertainment District**[HCC-192-FY25](#)

For Presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Ian Meeting](#)

Allie O'Neill, Rhonda Dallas (Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council), and CM Marcus Monroe (Former Gateway CDC President) provided a historical analysis of the Gateway CDC and an overview of the new management infrastructure. The Council asked questions pertaining to safeguarding against potential gentrification and collaboration between the municipalities.

8. Appointments

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

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

Absent: Schaible

8.a. Appointment to the Ethics Commission

[HCC-181-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor, with Council approval, reappoint T. Carter Ross (Ward 2) to the Ethics Commission for a term of three (3) years to end on January 13, 2028.

Sponsors: Croslin

Attachments: [T.C. Ross application Oct 2024 redac Jan.6.2025](#)

8.b. Appointment to the Educational Facilities Task Force

[HCC-182-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Amy Parker (Ward 3) to the Educational Facilities Task Force for a term of two (2) years to expire on January 13, 2027.

Sponsors: Waszczak and Sandino

Attachments: [Amy Parker reappointment application redac 12.5.24](#)

9. Consent Items (8:10 p.m. - 8:15 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 Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Sandino, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Schaible

9.a. Designating the City of Hyattsville's National League of Cities Voting Delegate

[HCC-185-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council designate Councilmember Kareem Redmond as the City of Hyattsville's voting delegate for the National League of Cities organization.

Sponsors: Solomon, Redmond and Lee

9.b. Resolution 2025-01: Designating the 2025 Biennial Election as Vote-by-Mail

[HCC-186-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2025-01, a resolution whereby the City Council declares the City's 2025 Biennial Election to be a Vote-by-Mail Election (INTRODUCTION & ADOPTION).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Resolution 2025-01 - 2025 Vote by Mail Election.pdf](#)

10. Action Items (7:55 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.)

10.a. Creation of an Audit Committee[HCC-187-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council establish the Audit Committee to review City audits and provide recommendations to the City Council.

Sponsors: Strab, Croslin, Schaible and Redmond

Attachments: [Committee Worksheet Audit Committee 121724](#)

The Council discussed revising the worksheet and financial disclosures for audit committee members, exclusions based on employment, and committee member onboarding.

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

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

Absent: Schaible

10.b. MOU: Gateway Community Development Corporation[HCC-191-FY25](#)

I move the Council authorize the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gateway Community Development Corporation, the City of Mount Rainier and the Towns of Brentwood and North Brentwood for the administration of the Gateway Arts and Entertainment District.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [MOU GCDC For Packet 123124](#)

The Council discussed funding for the Gateway CDC as well as how regions of the City not included in the Rhode Island Avenue/Rt. 1 Corridor will be served. CM Denes asked if the staff could provide an update on the artist housing space that was proposed by the Revenue Authority and the disposition of the County Services Building at a later meeting.

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

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

Absent: Schaible

11. Council Dialogue (9:10 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.)**12. Motion to Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

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

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

Absent: Schaible