

City of Hyattsville

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



Agenda Regular Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kY23hXILSrSPU-b_oaj54g

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:30 PM

Virtual

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor

Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5

Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President, Ward 1

Joanne Waszczak, Ward 1

Greg Barnes, Ward 1

Danny Schaible, Ward 2

Emily Strab, Ward 2

Gopi Dhokai, Ward 3

Edouard Haba, Ward 4

Michelle Lee, Ward 4

Kelson Nisbett, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator

Laura Reams, Deputy 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 <https://hyattsvillemd.portal.civicclerk.com>.

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, September 15, 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.

LANGUAGE TRANSLATION AND CLOSED CAPTIONING: The City of Hyattsville offers translation and closed captioning in over 50 languages for City Council Meetings via the Wordly platform. Follow the directions below to access the service:

-Go to: <https://attend.wordly.ai/join/RAVY-6886>

-Ensure the Session ID RAVY-6886 is displayed.

-Select Your Choice of Language and click on the "Attend" button.

-You can now read the captions on your device and/or listen to the translation of the City Council meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact info@hyattsville.org.

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 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 included in the official meeting record. Electronically submitted statements 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.

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_kY23hXILSrSPU-b_oaj54g

1. Call to Order and Roll Call**2. Presentations****2.a. Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2025-01: Removing the Requirement that Council Meetings Start at 8:00 PM & Occur Twice Monthly**

For Discussion Only.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments: 2025- 01 Charter Amendment Resolution_Meeting Time 5.1.25 .2,

Hyattsville Charter Amendment 2025-01_Presentation

3. **Public Comment Limit 2 minutes per speaker**
4. **Motion to Adjourn**

City Council
September 15, 2025

Submitted by: Laura Reams

Submitting Department: Administration

Agenda Section: Presentations

Item Title:

Hyattsville Charter Amendment Resolution 2025-01: Removing the Requirement that Council Meetings Start at 8:00 PM & Occur Twice Monthly

Suggested Action:

For Discussion Only.

Legal Review Required?

Completed

Summary Background:

The proposed Charter Amendment removes the requirement that Council Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. and meetings occur twice monthly. The proposed Amendment adds the requirement for Council to adopt an annual meeting schedule via Resolution. The Charter Amendment seeks to provide the Council with the flexibility to hold meetings at times that are appropriate and convenient for Council and community members.

This item was initially introduced in April 2024. At that time, the Council indicated a preference for more flexibility in the language. In developing the updated language, staff and the City Attorney took the Council's feedback into account and incorporated best practices from other municipalities.

Summary of Changes in the Updated Charter Amendment:

- **Removes** the requirement for Council to meet on a specific day or time.
- **Adjusts** the meeting requirement for Council to 1x per month unless a scheduled Council recess has been declared in the annual meeting resolution.
- **Adds** a requirement for Council to adopt their annual calendar via a formal resolution. Traditionally, the Council adopts its annual calendar in November.

The proposed language is below. To view the existing language with the strikethroughs, please refer to the attached Charter Amendment Resolution.

"The City Council shall meet regularly at such times as scheduled in its annual calendar, which shall be adopted by a resolution each year. The Council shall meet at least once each calendar month unless it is in recess as declared by a resolution of Council."

Next Steps:

Proposed Timeline for Adoption:

- August 4: Council discussion and scheduling of the required Public Hearing
- September 15: Public Hearing at 6:30 PM
- October 6: Scheduled Adoption of the Charter Amendment Resolution
- November 25: Effective Date of the Charter Amendment Resolution (50 days post adoption)

Fiscal Impact:

The City will incur printing fees to publish the required public hearing advertisement and summary notice of the Charter Amendment Resolution in the Prince George's Post.

City Administrator Comments:

The staff can support these changes and will ensure a resolution is included on the agenda annually.

Community Engagement:

Community members are encouraged to attend the public hearing and provide comments on the proposed charter amendment resolution. The proposed amendment will be published on the City's website under "Hyattsville Ordinances" and included in the appropriate Council meeting packets. Upon adoption, the City Clerk's office will publish the required legal notices and transmit the resolution to the State Department of Legislative Services.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 1 – Ensure Transparent and Accessible Governance

CITY OF HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND
CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION No. 2025 - 01

**A Resolution Amending the Charter to Permit Council to Meet
Based on the Adoption of its Calendar; Remove the
Requirement that Council Meetings Start at 8:00 pm; and
Remove the Requirement to Meet Twice a Month and Once a
Month on Specific Days in Certain Months.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND**, adopted pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the
Constitution of Maryland and Title 4, Subtitle 3 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated
Code of Maryland (as amended), to amend the Charter of the said City, said Charter being a part
of the public local laws of Maryland (1963 Edition, as amended), which Article contains in whole
or in part the Charter of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, whereby the Mayor and City Council
seek to amend the City Charter to eliminate the requirement for Council meetings to start at 8:00
p.m.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe it is in the interests of residents, staff,
and the elected officials to have flexibility with meeting start times; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe it is in the interests of residents, staff,
and the elected officials to have flexibility in scheduling meetings and permitting Council to
recess; and

WHEREAS, the City Council gave at least twenty-one (21) days advance notice of the
public hearing held regarding adoption of this Resolution and the amendment to the Charter
contained herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City
of Hyattsville, Maryland, in regular session assembled:

Section 1: That Article II, § C2-3 of the Charter of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, be
amended as follows:

§ C2-3 Organization; vacancies; powers and duties of Mayor; meetings; quorum.

* * *

G. The City Council shall meet regularly at such times as scheduled in its annual calendar
which shall be adopted by a resolution each year. The Council shall meet at least once
each calendar month unless it is in recess as declared by a resolution of Council. The City
Council shall hold two (2) regular monthly meetings on the first and third Mondays of each
month at 8:00 p.m.; except during the months of June and August, when there shall be one
(1) meeting on the first Monday of the month, and the months of July and September, when
there shall be one (1) meeting on the third Monday of the month, unless any of said days
is a legal holiday or In the absence of a quorum, should not be present. In such an event,

1 the regular meetings shall be held on the next business day when a quorum can be obtained
2 or at such time as the Mayor may designate, not more than one (1) week from the date that
3 said meeting should have been held.

4
5 * * *

6 **Section 2:** That the date of the adoption of this Resolution is _____, 2025, and that
7 the amendment to the Charter of the City of Hyattsville hereby proposed by this enactment shall
8 become effective on _____, 2025 (50 days after its passage), unless a proper petition for a
9 referendum hereon shall be filed by _____, 202 (40 days after passage) and that an exact copy
10 of this Resolution shall be posted at the main municipal building and a fair summary of the
11 Amendment shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Hyattsville
12 not less than four (4) times at weekly intervals within forty (40) days after passage of this Charter
13 Amendment Resolution.

14 **Section 3:** That as soon as the Charter Amendment hereby enacted becomes effective,
15 either as herein provided or following a referendum, the Clerk shall send separately to the
16 Department of Legislative Services, the following information concerning the Charter
17 Amendment: (1) the complete text of this Resolution; (2) the date of referendum election, if any,
18 held with respect thereto; (3) the number of votes cast for and against this Resolution by the Mayor
19 and City Council of the City of Hyattsville or in a referendum; and (4) the effective date of the
20 Charter Amendment.

21 **Section 4:** That the Clerk be, and is specifically enjoined and instructed to carry out the
22 provisions of Sections 2 and 3, and as evidence of compliance herewith the said Clerk shall cause
23 to be affixed to the Minutes of this meeting (1) an appropriate certificate of publication of the
24 newspaper in which the fair summary of the Amendment shall have been published; and (2)
25 records of mailing referred to in Section 3, and shall further complete and execute a Certificate of
26 Compliance.

27 **INTRODUCED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a
28 Regular Meeting on _____, 2025, at which meeting copies were available to the public for
29 inspection, and at which time a public hearing took place.

30 **ADOPTED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland, at a
31 Regular Meeting on _____, 2025, at which meeting copies were available to the public for
32 inspection.

33
APPROVED:

Date

City of Hyattsville, Maryland:

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor

ATTEST/WITNESS:

City of Hyattsville, Maryland:

Date

Nate Groenedyk
City Clerk

1

2

3 [] indicate deletions

4 Underline/**CAPS** indicate additions/amendments to additions

5

6

7 4861-9849-5944, v. 2

City of Hyattsville



Charter Amendment 2025-01

Annual Council Meeting Calendar

August 4, 2025



Charter Amendment 2025-01

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Goal: Provide Flexibility in City Charter & Align with Current Practices

- The proposed Charter Amendment **removes** the requirements that Council Meetings begin at 8 PM and meetings occur twice monthly on Mondays.
- **Adds** the requirement for Council to adopt an annual meeting calendar via Resolution.
 - This resolution may include scheduled Council recesses.
 - Unless the Council is in a schedule recess, one meeting per month is required.

Proposed Language:

- *"The City Council shall meet regularly at such times as scheduled in its annual calendar, which shall be adopted by a resolution each year. The Council shall meet at least once each calendar month unless it is in recess as declared by a resolution of Council."*

Approval Steps

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Charter Amendment Timeline

August 4, 2025: Council Discussion

September 15, 2025: Public hearing at 6:30 PM

October 6, 2025: Scheduled Adoption of the Charter Amendment Resolution

November 25, 2025: Effective Date of the Charter Amendment Resolution (50 days post adoption)