

City of Hyattsville

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 19, 2025

7:00 PM

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aiLnXxq0RviwBWk_5CKXaA

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.

Present: Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Danny Schaible
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Kareem Redmond
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Michelle Lee
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

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) 985-5001. 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.

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Meeting Notice:

The Hyattsville City Council will hold its meeting on Monday, May 19, 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.

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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:

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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_aiLnXxq0RViWBWk_5CKXaA

1. Call to Order and Council Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams

Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief of Police Jarod Towers

Deputy Chief of Police Laura Lanham

Director of Public Works Lesley Riddle

Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard

Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner

City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

Emergency Services Manager Reginald Bagley

Housing Manager David Cristeal

Present: Mayor Robert Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice-President Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Sam Denes
Councilmember Danny Schaible
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Kareem Redmond
Councilmember Michelle Lee
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Rommel Sandino

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

The Clerks Office offered an amendment to remove agenda item 8.b.(Appointment of Janet Nackoney to the Hyattsville Environment Committee).

CM Haba made a motion, that was seconded by CM Denes, to move agenda item 9.a. (BJAG White Paper Proposal Grant) to the Action Agenda. The motion passed, unanimously.

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

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

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

Will Seath (Ward 2) stated that he is looking forward to hearing the discussion about the purchase of the Werrlein lot at Driskell Park. He urged the Council to consider the purchase price versus the value of the property.

Greg Smith (Ward 1) inquired about the purchase of the Werrlein lot and questioned the purchase price versus the value of the property.

Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic advised that agenda item 10.c. (Purchase of Two Command Vehicles and One Vehicle for CIT Grant) did not indicate the source of funding, and agenda item 10.d. does not disclose the number of employees over time. She also inquired about funding sources for the purchase of the acquisition of the Werrlein lot.

Benjamin Serinsky spoke about the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation stating that he doesn't understand the purpose of the last "Whereas" statement as it politicizes the proclamation. He asked that it be removed.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) stated that he is opposed to traffic calming measures being implemented on the 4000 block of Nicholson Street citing that the data indicates there is no need. He also stated that he was offended by Mayor Hollingsworth being removed from the Audit committee, and recommended that the Jewish American Heritage Month proclamation be removed altogether citing difficulty in crafting the document. Lastly he expressed concern about the acquisition of the Werrlein property citing previous lawsuits, and told the Council that the property tax rates for homeowners need to be lowered.

Jessica Taylor (Ward 2) supports the Mt. Hermon Lodge redevelopment but has concerns about existing parking lot being turned into a residential area, citing an increase in traffic and safety concerns for the neighborhood children.

Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) commented on appointments to the Audit committee and inquired if residents from Wards 3, 4, and 5 applied. She also inquired if the City would withdraw the RFP for the park design if the Werrlein lot is purchased, and stated that she is disappointed there were not more cuts in the FY26 budget.

Todd Kliman (Ward 1) spoke about the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation citing that crafting it had been a long process and added that Mecklenburg County passed a similar proclamation. He asked that language about Gaza be removed from the proclamation and that the original document be passed.

Sean Carlson (Ward 1) is opposed to the purchase of the Werrlein property, calling it a bailout. He added that the tax payers should not be responsible for mistakes made by the developers.

Janet Griffin reinforced the sentiments of Jessica Taylor sentiments expressing concern about the lack of parking in that location citing concerns about parking and pedestrian safety.

Daniel Broder (Ward 2) is in favor of purchasing the Werrlein lot but asked that the City continue to negotiate the price. He also spoke about the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation advising that antisemitism does not include issuing a critique of Israel.

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

City Administrator provided updates on City programming and events.

Chief Towers discussed the need for the specialized chairs used by dispatch and discussed grants to offset the costs. He also advised that he is still trying to negotiate a lower price on the chairs.

6. Presentations (7:40 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**6.a. Mt. Hermon Lodge Preliminary Plan of Subdivision 4-24033**[HCC-334-FY25](#)

Presentation Only

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Consolidation Letter-4-24033](#)

[CIVP-4-24033](#)

[A-SOJ-4-24033](#)

[2025-05-19 Mt Hermon Lodge PPS 4-24036 Memo.ju.pdf](#)

David Cristeal introduced the proposed plan for the reuse of Mt. Hermon Lodge, located at 4207 Gallatin Street. Kayleigh Kulp (applicant), Nick Driban (traffic analyst), Sylvia Silverman (engineer) and Matthew Tedesco (attorney) gave an overview of the preliminary plan to redevelop the site into 8 loft apartments.

The Council discussed concerns about residential and commercial parking, community overcrowding, traffic impediments, and child safety. David Cristeal also discussed recommendations from staff and the Planning Committee, which include compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure adequate parking for persons with disabilities, coordination of construction hours with the City to mitigate noise and traffic, additional exterior bike storage, and promotion of long term environmental sustainability.

7. Proclamations

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, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

7.a. Proclamation of National Public Works Week[HCC-323-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation recognizing the week of May 18 through May 24, 2025, to be Public Works Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [CM 0519 National Public Works Week 2025](#)

8. Appointments**8.a. Appointment to the Audit Committee**[HCC-338-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council approve the appointments of Daniel Lange (Ward 2), Stanislaw Rzeznik (Ward 2), Nancy Hammond (Ward 2), and Glenn Robelen (Ward 2) to the Audit Committee for a term of two years to expire on May 19, 2027, and appoint Councilmember Emily Strab (Ward 2) and Councilmember Kareem Redmond (Ward 3) as Council Liaisons to the Audit Committee.

Sponsors: Strab and Redmond

Attachments: [Applications_Redacted.pdf](#)

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

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

Nay: Denes

Abstain: Haba

8.b. Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee (REMOVED FROM AGENDA) [HCC-342-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the re-appointment of Janet Nackoney (Ward 2) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years to expire May 19, 2027.

Sponsors: Haba and Schaible

Attachments: [Janet Nackoney W2 reappoint 5.19.25 redac \(1\)](#)

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 Redmond, that the Consent Agenda was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

9.b. Amendment to Audit Committee Worksheet[HCC-332-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council amend the Audit Committee Worksheet to add two additional seats on the committee, with a maximum committee membership of seven.

Sponsors: Strab, Redmond and Solomon

Attachments: [Committee Worksheet_Audit Committee_Amended.pdf](#)

9.c. Traffic Calming Petition Recommendations for 4000 Block Nicholson Street [HCC-335-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the staff recommendation to designate the 4000 block of Nicholson Street as a yield street.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Traffic Calming Petition - Nicholson Staff Recommendation UPDATE 20250507](#)
[230908 - Final - Hyattsville Multimodal Toolkit - Yield Street p47-48](#)

9.d. FY25 Budget Amendment: Special Revenues Budget and Appropriations of Unencumbered FY24 Grant Funds [HCC-340-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the FY25 Special Revenues Budget to appropriate prior year unencumbered DOJ/COPS Community Policing Development (CPD) Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) grant funds in the amount of \$230,000 to support the Hyattsville Police Department Joint CIT Mobile Crisis Program.

Sponsors: City Administrator

9.e. Acceptance of the Certified Results for the 2025 Biennial Election [HCC-341-FY25](#)

I move that the Mayor and Council accept the certified election results from the Board of Supervisors of Elections for the 2025 Biennial Election held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. This certification is provided for under Section C4-11 of the Hyattsville City Charter.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Certified Return Sheet 2025 .pdf](#)

9.f. Council Meeting Schedule Change [HCC-345-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council approve the rescheduling of the July Council Meeting from July 14, 2025 to July 21, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

10. Action Items (8:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

9.a. FY25 Budget Amendment - Accept SFY25 BJAG White Paper Proposal Grant Award [HCC-331-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council amend the FY25 budget to accept and appropriate the SFY25 BJAG White Paper Proposal Grant Award from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) in the amount of \$12,798.00 for the purchase of six (6) chairs in the new Communications Department of the Police and Public Safety Building.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Chief Towers gave an overview of the grants which will be utilized to purchase office equipment and chairs for dispatch employees.

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, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

10.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-02: Parking Violation Fine Increase (Introduction and First Reading) [HCC-337-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-02, an ordinance whereby the City Council amends the City Code to increase the fine for parking unlawfully in a handicapped parking space (INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING).

Sponsors: Denes, Haba and Waszczak

Attachments: [2025-02 Handicapped Parking Fine Increase Ordinance Draft 5.1.25 4916-2205-3949 v.3](#)

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

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

10.b. Proclamation Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month[HCC-344-FY25](#)

I move that Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation to declare May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: Solomon, Waszczak, Strab, Schaible and Haba

Attachments: [CM 0505 Jewish-American Heritage 2025 - Revised](#)

The Council discussed changes to the language in the proclamation, which include the last "Whereas" clause (which discussed anti-Semitism), the need for a "Therefore Be It Resolved" clause, and the addition of a definition of anti-Semitism to the proclamation.

A motion was made by CM Schaible, and seconded by Council President Solomon, to remove the last "Whereas" statement.

Yes: Croslin, Solomon, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Haba, Lee, Sandino/No: Waszczak/Abstain: Denes

A motion was made by CM Schaible, and seconded by CM Strab, to add a definition of anti-Semitism to the proclamation. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, and seconded by CM Strab to add a "Therefore Be It Resolved" statement to the proclamation. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

10.c. Purchase of Two (2) Command Vehicles and One (1) Vehicle for CIT Grant[HCC-333-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the purchase of three (3) vehicles from Apple Ford not to exceed a total amount of \$144,627.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Ford Explorer Request Memo- CIT Grant \(Council\)](#)
[Ford Explorer Request Memo- Command \(Council\)](#)

Staff and the Council discussed the sources of funding that would be used for this purchase (grants and capital improvement funding) and the need for fleet analysis and a vehicle lifetime replacement policy to better plan for vehicle purchases.

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

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

10.d. Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-03: Fiscal Year 2026 Budget (Introduction & First Reading) [HCC-339-FY25](#)

I move the Mayor and Council introduce Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-03, an ordinance adopting an annual budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the general purpose, fixing the tax rates for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025; authorizing collection of taxes herein levied, and appropriating funds for the fiscal year (INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING).

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [2025.05.19 Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-03 Fiscal Year 2026 Budget University Town Center Special Tax Report \(2025\).pdf](#)

City Treasurer Ron Brooks gave an overview of the FY26 budget.

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, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino

11. Discussion Items (9:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

11.a. Acquisition of Property from Werrlein WSSC, LLC: Lower Lot, Suffrage Point [HCC-343-FY25](#)

Council Discussion

Sponsors: City Administrator

Attachments: [Werrlein Agreement of Sale Presentation FINAL](#)

City Administrator Tracey Douglas and Treasurer Ron Brooks gave an overview and a background of the potential acquisition of the Werrlein Property that is adjacent to Driskell Park, including ongoing negotiations about the price.

The Council discussed the retirement and accrual of City debt, the current status of debt services, and possibilities to leverage this opportunity to improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and encourage increased stormwater mitigation. Council members Denes and Haba expressed concerns about continuing to incur high debt. Mayor Croslin advised that the State is giving the City of Hyattsville a reimbursement for \$3.5 million dollars which will help offset the cost of the property. Council Member Strab discussed the need for a thorough valuation of the property prior to a purchase .

12. Council Dialogue (10:00 p.m. - 10:10 p.m.)

13. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 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, Schaible, Strab, Redmond, Lee, Haba, and Sandino