

City of Hyattsville

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



Minutes Regular Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bp2nrmHlTyOBYAAQVA1noQ

Monday, July 21, 2025

7:00 PM

Virtual

CITY COUNCIL

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor

Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5

Joanne Waszczak, Council Vice President, Ward 1

Greg Barnes, Ward 1

Danny Schaible, Ward 2

Emily Strab, Ward 2

Kareem Redmond, Ward 3

Gopi Dhokai, Ward 3

Edouard Haba, Ward 4

Michelle Lee, Ward 4

Kelson Nisbett, Ward 5

ADMINISTRATION

Tracey E. Douglas, City Administrator

Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk, 301-985-5001, cityclerk@hyattsville.org

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:21 PM.

Staff in Attendance Includes:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas

City Treasurer Ron Brooks

Chief 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 Reginald Bagley

Community Business and Economic Manager Jeff Ulysse

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The open meetings compliance statement was read by Council President Joseph Solomon.

3. Approval of Agenda

The City Council made the following amendments to the agenda:

- Table agenda item 10.b. (FY26 Northstar Tutoring and Mentoring Contract) until the August 4, 2025 meeting
- Move agenda item 10.c. (Election of Council Officers) to the Action Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Haba, to approve the Amended Agenda.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Nisbett, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin

4. Public Comment (7:10 PM - 7:20 PM) Limit 2 minutes per speaker

Dan Broder (Ward 2) spoke in favor of the City Council enacting ranked choice voting.

Melissa Schweisguth asked that the City convene a committee to meet with homeowners' associations to discuss snow plowing and trash removal services. She also asked that the Council not pay the lease at the environmental depot without requiring that DPW open the building for direct resident services in the immediate future. Lastly, she spoke about clarifying to the Prince George's County Council that the residents of Avondale do not wish to be annexed into the City as stated in the sector plan.

Stephanie Guedj (Ward 2) spoke in favor of ranked choice voting.

Monica Gorman spoke against agenda item 12.a., which would shorten the time residents will have to cut overgrown yards, citing that this will cause a hardship for residents.

Irene Marsh spoke against agenda item 12.a., which would shorten the time residents will have to cut overgrown yards, citing that this will cause a hardship for residents.

Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) spoke in opposition to ranked choice voting and continuing the contracts with Throne portable bathrooms.

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

City Administrator Douglas provided an update on City-related news and events.

Council asked for and received more information about the entrance to Driskell Park, the status of The Spot, the status of the CCTV and License Plate Reader systems, the Portland Loos, bathrooms at Heurich Park, and a Ward 4 meeting.

6. Closed Session (7:40 PM - 8:10 PM)

6.a. Motion to Close

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of July 21, 2025, to obtain legal advice from the City Attorney regarding the licensing of a business within the City of Hyattsville.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b) (7) "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice."

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of July 21, 2025, to obtain

legal advice from the City Attorney regarding the licensing of a business within the City of Hyattsville.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b) (7) "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice."

Motion made by Councilmember Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Strab.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Nisbett, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin

Pursuant to the requirement of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 3-104(1)(2); this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 8:20 p.m. on Monday, July 21, 2025.

In addition to the City Council, the following staff members were present:

- Tracey Douglas, City Administrator
- Jeff Ulysse, City Planner
- Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk
- Skip Cornbrooks, City Attorney

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Topics Discussed: Council was provided an update by staff and the City Attorney, and subsequently discussed the City's position on the pending county license of a business within the City limits.

Action Taken: None taken.

The closed session adjourned at 8:58 p.m. on a motion made by Councilmember Lee and seconded by Councilmember Haba. The Council returned to open session at 9:00 p.m.

7. Presentations (8:10 PM - 8:40 PM)

7.a. Presentation: Riverfront At West Hyattville Community Association City Refuse Collection and Snowplow Services

For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community, Business, and Economic Development

Attachments:

Director Ulysse (CBED) and Director Riddle (DPW) gave an overview of a request made by the Riverfront at West Hyattsville Homeowners' Association for the City of Hyattsville to provide refuse collection and snow removal services.

The Council and staff discussed timelines for implementing these services, the services to be provided to residents of the Riverfront community, and the establishment of an ad hoc committee to provide insight and recommendations. Councilmembers also discussed conducting a review of HCC-309-FY25, the potential conveyance of streets, the purchase of new toters used in solid waste collection, and costs for snow removal.

8. Proclamations

Motion made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Strab, to approve the proclamations.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

8.a. Proclamation Celebrating National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

I move the Mayor and Council adopt the proclamation celebrating July as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: CM 0721 National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month 2025

9. Appointments

Motion made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Strab, to approve the appointments.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

9.a. Assignment of Council Liaisons to Committees

I move that the Mayor and Council appoint the following Councilmembers as liaisons to the following City Committees:

- Councilmembers Strab, Redmond, and Schaible to the Audit Committee
- Councilmember Dhokai to the Code Compliance Advisory Committee
- Councilmember Haba to the Education Advisory Committee
- Councilmember Waszczak to the Educational Facilities Task Force
- Councilmembers Lee and Dhokai to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Councilmember Haba to the Environment Committee
- Councilmembers Redmond, Barnes, and Schaible to the Planning Committee
- Councilmembers Nisbett and Strab to the Police and Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee
- Councilmember Lee to the Race and Equity Task Force
- Councilmembers Strab and Barnes to the Shade Tree Board
- Councilmember Waszczak to the Youth Advisory Council

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

10. Consent Items (8:40 p.m. - 8:45 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 Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

10.a. Hyattsville Ordinance 2025-02: Parking Violation Fine Increase (Introduction and First Reading)

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: Edouard Haba, Councilmember, Joanne Waszczak, Councilmember, Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: 2025-02 Handicapped Parking Fine Increase Ordinance Draft 5.1.25 4916-2205-3949 v.3

10.b. FY26 Northstar Tutoring & Mentoring Contract

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a one-year contract with Northstar Tutoring to provide Tutoring and Mentoring Services for the City's children and youth for an amount not to exceed \$80,000. The Contract is subject to approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community Services

Attachments: Northstar Tutoring Contract FY26

This item was tabled during the approval of the agenda.

10.c. Hope Center for Wellness Contract: Mental Health Services to Children and Youth

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a one-year contract with the Hope Center for Wellness, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, to provide services in support of the City's Children and Youth Mental Health Wellness Initiative, contingent upon the review and approval by the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community Services

Attachments: Hope Center For Wellness Contract FY26

10.d. 41st Place Pedestrian Safety Improvements

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the DPW FY26 Capital Improvements Sidewalks Budget and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$65,000 to NZI Construction to construct sidewalks on 41st Place and Crittenden Street under their existing contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: NZI 41st Pl Sidewalk Proposal 24-02 06-09-2025

10.e. Rent Expenditure for 4631 Baltimore Ave

I move the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$54,000.00 for the second year of the lease for 4631 Baltimore Ave, to be funded from the Public Works FY26 budget.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: 4631 Baltimore Ave Lease 09-26-2024, 4631 Baltimore Ave Lease Addendum 1 10-08-2024

10.f. Nicholson Street Resurfacing between 31st Avenue and 31st Place

I move the Mayor and Council amend the DPW FY26 Capital Improvements Streets Budget and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$90,000 to NZI Construction Corp. for the resurfacing and repainting of Nicholson Street between 31st Avenue and 31st Place (Ward 4). This work is facilitated utilizing NZI's existing rider contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: Nicholson Street Resurfacing from 31st Place to 31st Ave_July 09 2025, Nicholson Street Resurfacing 31st to 31st_Map showing Limits

10.g. Change Order - Adirondack Tree Experts Contract

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to issue a change order to the contract with Adirondack Tree Experts to exercise option year 1 of the contract and increase the not to exceed amount by \$15,000 to cover additional tree work.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: Adirondack Quotes 07-2025, Adirondack Tree Experts Contract
DPW24-004 Tree Maintenance 10-01-2024

10.h. Declaration of Public Sidewalk Use and Access Easement: 3325 Toledo Road

I move the City Council authorize the City Administrator to accept a 'Dedication of Public Sidewalk Use Easement' for the subject parcel at 3325 Toledo Road, Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community, Business, and Economic Development

Attachments: Combined_Public Use Easement (Sidewalk) Library Apt. (DR-1)

11. Action Items (8:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)

11.a. Election of Council Officers

I move the Mayor and Council elect Councilmember Joseph Solomon as Council President and Councilmember Kareem Redmond as Council Vice President for a term of two (2) years to end in July 2027.

Sponsors: Robert S. Croslin, Mayor

Department: Legislative

Attachments:

Councilmember Redmond and Council President Solomon spoke about their visions for their roles as Council officers.

I move the Mayor and Council elect Councilmember Joseph Solomon as Council President and Councilmember Kareem Redmond as Council Vice President for a term of two (2) years to end in July 2027. Motion made by Councilmember Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Strab.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

11.b. Staff Draft III West Hyattsville Queens Chapel Sector Plan and SMA Update

I move the Mayor and Council authorize staff to transmit a letter of support to the M-NCPPC Planning Board regarding Staff Draft III of the West Hyattsville-Queens Chapel Sector Plan and SMA, recommending the incorporation of the revisions outlined in the staff memorandum dated July 21st 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community, Business, and Economic Development

Attachments: 2025-07-17_Combined agenda attachment memo.ju

The staff and Council discussed sector plan language permitting the inclusion of accessory dwelling units, the plan's annexation of the Avondale community, and future uses for the WSSC Building.

I move the Mayor and Council remove the recommendation for LU 10.4 from the correspondence to be sent to M-NCPPC. Motion made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond. Motion made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: Councilmember Schaible

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

I move the Mayor and Council authorize staff to transmit a letter of support to the M-NCPPC Planning Board regarding Staff Draft III of the West Hyattsville-Queens Chapel Sector Plan and SMA, recommending the incorporation of the revisions outlined in the staff memorandum dated July 21st 2025. Motion made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: Councilmember Schaible

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

11.c. Throne Public Bathrooms - Contract Extension

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the renewal of Throne Labs rental services for two (2) public restrooms for a term not to exceed 1 year under their existing contract with the City, for an expenditure not to exceed \$108,000.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: Throne Invoice 190 06-30-2025

Deputy Director Priyanka Joshi (DPW) gave a brief overview of the locations and utilization of the Throne bathrooms, stating that they improve hygiene and accessibility for residents and visitors.

The staff and Council discussed funding for portable bathrooms, the differences between Portland Loos and Thrones, and the timeline for the installation of Portland Loos, and adding a throne back to Heurich Park.

I move that the Mayor and Council change agenda item 11.b to three restrooms for an amount not to exceed \$162,000. Motion made by Councilmember Waszczak, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: Councilmember Schaible

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the renewal of Throne Labs rental services for two (2) public restrooms for a term not to exceed 1 year under their existing contract with the City, for an expenditure not to exceed \$162,000. Motion made by Councilmember Waszczak, seconded by Councilmember Haba.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: Councilmember Schaible

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

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

12.a. Revision to City Code Chapter 25, Article VI Brush, Grass and Weeds

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President

Department: Legislative

Attachments: Recommendation Memo to Council - 04.22.25

Code Compliance Manager Joe Brewer provided an overview of the proposed revision to the City Code pertaining to the time residents have to cut overgrown grass.

The Council and staff discussed the means that staff use to communicate with residents, clarifying the language to inform residents of the allowed timeframe to remediate tall grass. The Council expressed their preference to change the language to 7 business days or 10 calendar days.

12.b. License Agreement with Suffrage Point Homeowners Association for Temporary City Refuse Collection and Snowplow Services

For Discussion

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community, Business, and Economic Development

Attachments: Draft Suffrage Point License Agreement, Resolution License Agreement for Trash and Snow_Suffrage Point

Director Ulysse (CBED) provided an overview of a temporary license agreement that would allow the City to operate on a private road to provide City services, in place of a formal conveyance. Both CM Strab and CM Schaible spoke in support.

The motion, made by CM Strab, seconded by CM Redmond, to adopt the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Suffrage Point for the licensing period, and enter into a licensing agreement.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett

13. Council Dialogue (10:30 p.m. - 10:40 p.m.)

14. Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond, to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 PM.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Dhokai

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin, Councilmember Nisbett