

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_T1nv5l1BSmCTshlxbI_MKA

Monday, September 15, 2025

7:00 PM

Virtual

CITY COUNCIL

Robert S. Croslin, Mayor

Joseph Solomon, Council President, Ward 5

Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President, Ward 3

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

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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor Robert S. Croslin
Council President Joseph Solomon
Council Vice President Kareem Redmond
Councilmember Joanne Waszczak
Councilmember Greg Barnes
Councilmember Danny Schaible
Councilmember Emily Strab
Councilmember Gopi Dhokai
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Michelle Lee
Councilmember Kelson Nisbett

ABSENT:

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas
Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams
City Treasurer Ron Brooks
Chief of Police Jarod Towers
Deputy Chief of Police Laura Lanham
Director of the Department of Public Works Lesley Riddle
Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works Hal Metzler
Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works Priyanka Joshi
Director of Community, Business, and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse
Business and Economic Development Coordinator Renee Harris
Director of Community Services Sandra Shephard
Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner
City Clerk Nate Groenendyk
Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor
Emergency Operations Manager Reginald Bagley
Race and Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

City Clerk Groenendyk added agenda item 9.i. (Rescheduling of the 2026 Health Care Rates Council Work Session) to the consent agenda. The item was approved for

addition by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Council President Solomon that the amended agenda be approved.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Mayor Croslin, 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:

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

- Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic asked that a spreadsheet be used to track the progress of action items.
- Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) thanked the Race & Equity Task Force for their work and expressed concerns about micro-grants given to residents for support, access to race-disaggregated police data, and discretionary funds for a Ward event in the Riverfront community. She also expressed concerns about facade improvement grants, stating that she would like to see more outreach to other portions of the City.
- Em Morrison inquired about the status of the Lexis Nexis agreement.
- Sarah Benderatis spoke about speed mitigation requests on her street, adding that she would like to see stop sign cameras and flashing stop signs installed.
- Kurt Britzenhoff (Ward 5) thanked the Race and Equity Task Force but asked that the Council consider the costs of undefined items, as many City projects are already over budget.
- Ellen R. (Ward 5) is opposed to the Lexis Nexis agreement and the use of the Leads Online platform, citing concerns about surveillance.
- Sara Harper reiterated concerns about privacy and surveillance raised by Ellen R.
- Octavia Clapp (Ward 3) is in support of the Lexis Nexis agreement and supports ranked choice voting.
- Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) is opposed to the charter amendment and has concerns about street vendors, loose dogs, and the street sweeper that the City purchased.
- Daniel Broder (Ward 2) spoke in support of the Werrlein purchase and asked that the Council continue to negotiate a lower price. He also cited that he is opposed to the Lexis Nexis agreement and supports ranked choice voting.

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

The City Administrator provided updates on City programming, events, and construction projects. The Council asked and received more information about the Canvas garage, the Queens Chapel Sector Plan, audits, the environmental depot, and openings of the new public safety building and the teen center. The Council also discussed street sign replacement and facade improvement grants.

6. Presentations (7:40 PM - 8:30 PM)

6.a. 2026-59 Race and Equity Task Force - Equity Plan

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments: Equity Plan Presentation 09.15_Council Packet, Hyattsville RETF
Equity Plan_0915_CouncilPacket

Equity Officer Louimarre introduced Nykia Clemonts and Daniel Amador, co-chairs of the Race and Equity Task Force, to review the 2024-2025 Updated Equity Plan.

Highlights of the equity plan included the development of equity strategies for housing, community safety and policing, economic development, transportation, and ADA access for people with disabilities.

Council member Schaible asked members of the task force to also consider including eviction intervention measures in the updated plan.

7. Proclamations

A motion was made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Council President Solomon that the City Council adopt the proclamations.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Mayor Croslin, 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:

7.a. 2026-42 Proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month

I move the Mayor and Council adopt the proclamation celebrating September 15,

2025, to October 15, 2025, as Hispanic Heritage Month. Test.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments: CM0915 Hispanic Heritage Month 2025_Final

7.b. 2026-60 Proclamation for National Preparedness Month

I move the Mayor and Council adopt the proclamation recognizing September as National Preparedness Month.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments: CM0915 National Preparedness Month 2025

8. Appointments

A motion was made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Lee that the appointments be approved.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Mayor Croslin, 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:

8.a. Appointment to the Youth Advisory Council

I move the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of the following to the Youth Advisory Committee for a term of one year:

- Anastasia Keith
- Christopher Jimenez
- Craig Monnity
- Diana Alvarez
- Eric Manzano Salinas
- Jorge Guzman
- Litzy Velasquez
- Margaret Hernandez Merino
- Seyifunmi Okunola

- Yasmin Pineda Escobar

Sponsors: Joanne Waszczak, Councilmember

Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

8.b. 2026-51 Appointment to the Shade Tree Board

I move the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Kathryn Kutzner (Ward 2) and Randy Fletcher (Ward 3) to the Shade Tree Board for a term of three years to end on September 15, 2028.

Sponsors: Robert S. Croslin, Mayor

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Kathryn Kutzner W2 Sept 2025 redac, Randy Feltcher W3 re-appoint App 8.12.25 redac

8.c. 2026-52 Appointment to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee

I move the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Evan Myers (Ward 2) to the Police and Public Safety Citizens' Advisory Committee for a term of two years to end on September 15, 2027.

Sponsors: Emily Strab, Councilmember

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Evan Myers 6.16.25 redac

8.d. 2026-53 Appointment to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee

I move the mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Nicole Betschman (Ward 3), Erica Thomas (Ward 1), and Marylyn Presutti (Ward 4) to the Health, Wellness, and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of two years to end on September 15, 2027.

Sponsors: Michelle Lee, Councilmember, Gopi Dhokai, Councilmember

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Maryln Presutti W4 Sept 2 2025 redac, Erica Thomas W1 Sept 3 2025 redac, Nicole Betschman Jul 17 redac

9. Consent Items (8:30 p.m. - 8:35 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 Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Strab that the consent agenda be approved.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Mayor Croslin, 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:

9.a. 2026-44 Commercial Facade Improvement Program: 2025 Grant Awards

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the 2025 Commercial Façade Improvement Grant awards for façade improvement projects at the following commercial properties:

- 5126 Baltimore Avenue: \$15,000
- 4318 Gallatin Street: \$10,017
- 4800 Baltimore Ave: \$12,415
- 5223 Baltimore Ave: \$20,000
- 6211 Belcrest Rd: \$5,000
- 5501 Baltimore Ave: \$5,536.12.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community, Business, and Economic Development

Attachments: Staff Memo_CFI2025_September 2025

9.b. 2026-47 FY26 Budget Appropriation: Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Police Retention and Recruitment Program Grant

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate, in the FY26 budget, a grant award from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in the amount of \$23,750 to support HPD recruitment and retention efforts.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Police

Attachments: Award Acceptance Form

9.c. 2026-48 FY26 Budget Appropriation: Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Police Accountability, Community and Transparency (PACT) Grant Award

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate, in the FY26 budget, a grant award from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in the amount of \$62,175 for support of the HPD's Mental Wellness and Community Crisis Support Program.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Police

Attachments: GrantApplicationReport_20250606100414 (NEW AWARD)

9.d. 2026-49 Ward 5 Discretionary Funds

I move the Mayor and Council approve the disbursement of \$250 from FY26 Ward 5 discretionary funds to support the Riverfront at West Hyattsville community event held on September 6, 2025.

Sponsors: Joseph Solomon, Council President, Kelson Nisbett,
Councilmember

Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

9.e. 2026-54 MOU with Revenue Authority of Prince George's County: The Spot - Amendment 2

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment 2 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

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: MOU Revenue Authority The Spot Amendment 2

9.f. 2026-55 Decommissioning and Surplus of Furniture

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the decommissioning and disposal of the furniture noted in the attached memo dated August 13, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: Furniture Decommission-Disposal Memo 08-13-2025

9.g. 2026-56 Special Use Agreement - Hyattsville Elementary School PTA Zombie Run

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a Special Use Agreement with Hyattsville Elementary School Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) for the use of David C. Driskell Community Park and select City streets for its Annual Zombie Run, scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community Services

Attachments: 2025 Zombie Run Use Agreement

9.h. 2026-57 Special Use Agreement - Route 1 Velo 2025 Cyclocross Race

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to execute a Special Use Agreement with Route 1 Velo for the use of David C. Driskell Community Park for its Annual Cyclocross race. The race is scheduled for Sunday, September 21, with set-up in the afternoon of Saturday, September 20.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community Services

Attachments: 2025 Cyclocross Special Use Agreement

9.i. 2026-63 Rescheduling of the 2026 Health Care Rates Council Work Session

I move the Mayor and Council reschedule the 2026 Health Care Rates Council Work Session from 7:00 PM on October 13, 2025, to 7:00 PM on September 30, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

Added during Approval of the Agenda

10. Action Items (8:35 p.m. - 9:15p.m.)

10.a. Agreement with Lexis Nexis Risk Solutions

I move Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Accurant/Lexis Nexis for access to their records database.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Police

Attachments: Hyattsville Police Department - addAccurantCrimeConsortiumSub,
Hyattsville Police Department - InrsAppAgreeGovtNonFCRA

I move Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an agreement with Accurant/Lexis Nexis for access to their records database. Motion made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Council President Solomon.

Chief Towers provided more information related to the agreement with Lexis Nexis. He specifically addressed who would be able to access info in the database, terms to withdraw from the agreement, and data ownership.

The Council and staff discussed the safety of shared information, including who would have access to data entered by the Hyattsville Police Department, third-party vendor information, other participants in the consortium, the use of public information in the database, and safeguards to prevent the exposure of information.

A motion was made by Councilmember Strab, seconded by Council President Solomon that this agenda item be tabled to allow time for legal review to ensure that the sale of collected data is prohibited.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Mayor Croslin, Council President Solomon, Councilmember Barnes, Councilmember Schaible, Councilmember Strab, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee

NAY: Council Vice President Redmond, Councilmember Nisbett

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Dhokai

ABSENT:

10.b. 2026-46 FY26 Budget Appropriation: Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy Gun Reduction Grant

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate, in the FY26 budget, a grant award from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in the

amount of \$25,000 to purchase gun reduction technology software.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Police

Attachments: Award Acceptance Form

Chief Towers gave an overview of the grant, which would pay for 3 years of access to digital evidence software. He reiterated that this motion is to accept the grant funds, not enter into any legally binding agreement.

The Council asked about costs after grant funding runs out, the use of AI, and municipal participation.

I move that the Mayor and Council accept and appropriate, in the FY26 budget, a grant award from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in the amount of \$25,000 to purchase gun reduction technology software. Motion made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Council President Solomon.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Mayor Croslin, 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:

11. Council Dialogue (9:15 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.)

12. Closed Session - Note: Council Will Not Return to Open Session (9:25 p.m.)

12.a. 2026-58 Motion to Close

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of September 15, 2025, in order to consult with the City Administrator and staff to discuss negotiations related to the acquisition of real property.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b) (3) "to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto".

The Council will not return to open session.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments:

A motion was made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Barnes, that the meeting be adjourned to go into closed session at 10:07 PM.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: Councilmember Waszczak, Mayor Croslin, 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:

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 10:12 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2025.

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

- *Tracey Douglas, City Administrator*
- *Laura Reams, Deputy City Administrator*
- *Jeff Ulysse, Director of Community, Business, and Economic Development*
- *Lesley Riddle, Director of the Department of Public Works*
- *Ron Brooks, City Treasurer*
- *Nate Groenendyk, City Clerk*

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Topics Discussed: Council was provided an update by staff regarding the negotiations and financial details related to the potential purchase of a property within the city limits of Hyattsville.

Action Taken: None taken.

The closed session adjourned at 11:23 p.m. on a motion made by Councilmember Redmond and seconded by Councilmember Nisbett. The Council did not return to open session.