

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_9kUTIH6rTKmRR6fYY9S3Dw

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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

Laura Reams, Deputy 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 7:05 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
Strategic Advisor Lesley Riddle
Acting Director of the Department of Public Works Hal Metzler
Director of Community, Business, and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse
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

2. Moment of Silence

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4. Approval of Agenda

The City Clerk offered an amendment to the agenda to add a proclamation honoring

Laura Reams for her years of service. It was approved via unanimous consent.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.a. 2026-144 Approval of Minutes

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of the following meetings:

- December 1, 2025
- December 15, 2025

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Minutes_Dec 1 2025, Minutes_Dec 15 2025

Motion made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Barnes.

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of the following meetings:

- December 1, 2025
- December 15, 2025

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

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

Erin Hogeboom thanked the Mayor for the moment of silence. She also thanked the staff for their assistance at the Greenwood School to ease traffic during pick-up and drop-off.

Daniel Broder (Ward 2) thanked everyone who attended a recent ranked choice voting event and strongly encouraged the Council to implement ranked choice voting. He also thanked the Department of Public Works for their hard work in clearing the streets during the winter storm and asked that we continue standing against ICE. Lastly, he

thanked Laura Reams for all of her years of service to the City of Hyattsville.

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

The City Administrator shared updates on City events, programming, and thanked Laura Reams for her years of service to the City of Hyattsville. She also acknowledged the Department of Public Works for its hard work clearing the streets. Department of Public Works Acting Director Hal Metzler gave an update on their progress and the plan for the continual clearing of the streets. Emergency Operations Manager Reginald Bagley provided updates on Prince George's County efforts to aid residents in the wake of Winter Storm Fern. Race and Equity Officer Shakira Louimarre gave updates on equity programming, including the Black History Month event.

The Council inquired about the essential water use alert implemented by WSSC, resources needed by the Department of Public Works and public safety officers, and the timeline to enforce clearing snow and ice from sidewalks. The Council also thanked Laura Reams for her years of service.

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

8.a. 2026-138 Treasurer Action Plan on Audit Committee Recommendations

For presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Finance

Attachments: 2026.01.26 Audit Committee Recommendation CAP Presentation

Treasurer Ron Brooks gave a presentation of the Action Plan based on the recommendations from the Audit Committee.

The Council and staff discussed the standards used to create the Audit Committee's recommendations and the next steps to implement the ERP (enterprise resource planning system). Councilmembers thanked the staff and committee for their hard work. Committee Chair Daniel Lange stated that the committee will meet again to draft a response to the action plan as presented by the treasurer.

9. Appointments

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

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

9.a. 2026-139 Council of Government Policy Committee Appointments

I move the Mayor and Council make the following appointments to the Council of Governments (COG) Policy Committees for the 2026 calendar year.

- Region Forward Coalition: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Tracey Douglas
- Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Police Chief Jarod Towers and Sandra Shephard
- Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Hal Metzler
- Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee: Mayor Robert Croslin, with staff alternate Hal Metzler

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: MWCOG_Policy_Committees

9.b. 2026-143 Appointment to the Hyattsville Environment Committee

I move that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Bradley Phelps (Ward 2) and Ross van Dongen (Ward 5) to the Hyattsville Environment Committee for a term of two (2) years, ending on January 26, 2028.

Sponsors: Edouard Haba, Councilmember

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: van Dongen Redac Application (1), Phelps Redac Application (1)

10. 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 requests specific items be removed from the Consent agenda for separate action.

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab,

that the consent agenda be approved.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

10.a. 2026-110 FY26 Budget Amendment: Special Revenues Funds Appropriations of FEMA Reimbursements Grant Funds

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the FY26 Special Revenues Funds Budget to appropriate the remaining grant funds of \$269,918 to close-out COVID-19 FEMA Reimbursement Grant Funds. These funds cover the remaining close-out costs for vaccines, equipment, and testing sites that are 100% reimbursed by FEMA for the period ending June 30, 2025.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Finance

Attachments:

10.b. 2026-137 Renewal License Agreement with Friendship Arms, LLC

I move Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a Renewal License Agreement with Friendship Arms, LLC for the City's use of an office at the Friendship Arms building for the Mental Wellness Check-in Initiative.

Sponsors:

Department: Police

Attachments: License Renewal COH and Friendship Arms (1) eic 12.2.25 .1

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

11.a. 2026-140 Hyattsville Resolution 2026-01: Adopting the Council Rules of Procedure

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2026-01 adopting the Council Rules of Procedure.

Sponsors: Robert S. Croslin, Mayor, Joseph Solomon, Council President, Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President

Department: Legislative

Attachments: Draft Resolution 2026_01-Council Rules of Procedure

I move the Mayor and Council adopt Hyattsville Resolution 2026-01 adopting the Council Rules of Procedure. Motion made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab.

The Council discussed the submission and sharing of agenda items for future meetings, proposed Council work groups, and access to the agenda management system.

The motion by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

12. Discussion Items (8:35 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.)

12.a. 2026-145 Proposed Charter Amendment and Code Update: Approval of Personnel Manual

For Discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments: Draft Charter Amendment - Personnel Manual to City staff
10.24.25 , Ordinance - Repealing Council Approval of Personnel

Manual to City 10.24.25 , Charter and Code
Amendments_Personnel Manual

Deputy City Administrator Laura Reams and Human Resource Director Jay Joyner gave a presentation on the updates to the employee manual and accompanying charter/code change. The City's current personnel manual requires City Council approval by Resolution. The current manual has not been updated in many years. Current challenges include keeping pace with labor laws, which can change quickly, legal risks associated with outdated policies, and inconsistent operations. Proposed changes include removing the requirement that the Council approve the personnel manual by resolution, and the administration of the employee manual will be handled by the City Administrator or their designee. The Council will retain compensation approval, the retirement and pension system, employee benefits, and budget appropriations for authorized staffing positions. All personnel policies remain subject to the city charter, city ordinances, and state and federal law.

The Council and staff discussed the current approval process for the employee manual, what the manual will include, and the Council's implications and involvement in shaping the manual. If the Council wishes to move forward, the City Clerk's office will schedule a public hearing.

13. Proclamations

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

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

13.a. 2026-147 Proclamation Honoring Laura Reams for her Years of Service to the City of Hyattsville

I move the Mayor and Council approve the proclamation honoring Laura Reams for her years of service to the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Proclamation Honoring Laura Reams

14. Council Dialogue (9:10 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.)

15. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 PM.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: