

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_WjfKuk-GRvWQZRoylxrzmw

Wednesday, February 18, 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

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 Gopi Dhokai
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Michelle Lee
Councilmember Kelson Nisbett

ABSENT:

Councilmember Emily Strab

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas
City Treasurer Ron Brooks
Deputy Budget Director Ben Bosch
Chief of Police Jarod Towers
Deputy Chief of Police Laura Lanham
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. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor asked for a moment of silence for Jesse Jackson, who died on February 17, 2026.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond, to add providing a letter of support for Maryland HB 1142 to the action agenda.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Strab

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember Barnes, that the amended 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 Dhokai, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Strab

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

- Jesse Seitel (W5) asked that the Council allocate additional funding for Community Services in the FY27 budget to support the immigrant community.
- Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic raised concerns about the current budget and asked the council not to pass a future budget that shows a funding deficit.

5. Presentations (7:20 PM - 8:00 PM)

5.a. 2026-156 FY27 Budget Planning Presentation

For Presentation

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Budget Work Session Agenda Packet_February 18 2026

Treasurer Ron Brooks introduced the new Deputy Budget Director, Ben Bosch, before he and City Administrator Douglas introduced the FY27 budget planning presentation.

The Council and staff discussed proposed modifications to the tax rate, financial loss from reduced tax assessments, a separate tax rate for apartments, and the use of the constant yield tax rate in the budgetary process. The Council also discussed ensuring

that motions for expending funds align with city goals and values and the budget timeline.

6. Action Items

6.a. 2026-159 Motion to Provide a Letter of Support for Maryland HB 1142

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Mayor to transmit a letter to the Maryland General Assembly expressing the City of Hyattsville's support for House Bill 1142, *Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures*, with amendments consistent with the concerns outlined in the draft letter presented to the Council. The letter shall reflect the City's support for the establishment of the Task Force while recommending modifications to the proposed appointment structure for municipal representatives, as described in the attached draft correspondence.

Sponsors: Joseph Solomon, Council President

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: RE_ HB 1142 – Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures (Support with Amendments)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Mayor to transmit a letter to the Maryland General Assembly expressing the City of Hyattsville's support for House Bill 1142, *Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures*, with amendments consistent with the concerns outlined in the draft letter presented to the Council. The letter shall reflect the City's support for the establishment of the Task Force while recommending modifications to the proposed appointment structure for municipal representatives, as described in the attached draft correspondence.

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

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Strab

7. Council Dialogue (8:00 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)

8. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Council Vice President Redmond, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 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 Dhokai, Councilmember Haba, Councilmember Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Strab