

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_XsZUVc6ITACKPdtJhDWaog

Monday, February 23, 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 Emily Strab
Councilmember Gopi Dhokai
Councilmember Edouard Haba
Councilmember Kelson Nisbett

ABSENT:

Councilmember Michelle Lee

Also Present:

City Administrator Tracey Douglas
City Treasurer Ron Brooks
Deputy Budget Director Ben Bosch
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. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Schaible, that the 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

Nisbett
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

4. Approval of Minutes

4.a. 2026-166 Approval of Minutes

I move the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- January 27, 2026

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Minutes_January 27 2026

I move the Mayor and Council approve the minutes of the following meeting:

- January 27, 2026

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

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 Nisbett
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

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

- Charlotte Francoeur asked the council to protect residents who are immigrants. She also stated that she opposes the Flock contract and asked for increased funding for community services to implement programming for at-risk community members and hire a caseworker.
- Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic (Ward 5) raised concerns about the budget and additional expenses for pending agenda items, asking that they not be discussed without existing funding allocated. She also expressed concerns about city debt and liabilities.
- Mike Bonds (Ward 3) asked for increased access to information for residents.

- Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) thanked those who participated in last week's protest. She also added that she supports sending a letter of support for Senate Bill 868 and requests that the City provide a letter of support for the cross-filed bill in the House of Delegates. Lastly, she asked that the City better predict the legacy costs for programming in future budgets.
- Nicole Laemers (Ward 3) requested additional funding for community services and asked the City to prioritize hiring a case manager to support vulnerable community members.

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

The City Administrator provided updates about the winter storm clean-up, new businesses, City programming and events, and website updates.

7. Consent Items (7:40 p.m. - 7:45 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 Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Barnes, 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 Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

7.a. 2026-155 Acceptance of the Maryland DHCD Community Revitalization Funds

I move the Mayor and Council accept the grant award of \$100,000 from the State of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to support the City of Hyattsville's Commercial Facade Improvement Program.

Sponsors: Jeff Ulysse, CBED Director

Department: Community, Business, and Economic Development

Attachments: MFIP-2026-Hyattsville_Commercial Facade Improvement grant agreement

8. Action Items (7:45- p.m. - 8:15 p.m.)

8.a. 2026-158 Letter of Support for Maryland State Senate Bill 868

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Mayor to transmit a letter to the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee expressing the City of Hyattsville's support for Senate Bill 868, State Highway Administration-Maryland Route 410 (East-West Highway) Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Expansion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: sb0868f (1)

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the Mayor to transmit a letter to the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee expressing the City of Hyattsville's support for Senate Bill 868, State Highway Administration-Maryland Route 410 (East-West Highway) Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Expansion.

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

Council President Solomon advised that this letter of support references the cross-filed bill in the Maryland House of Delegates.

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 Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

8.b. 2026-159 IT Managed Services

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an IT managed services agreement with Clark Computer Services, Inc., 181 Thomas Johnson Dr, Frederick, MD, 21702, for a term of 12-months and not to exceed \$317,160 and upon legal review and approval.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Finance

Attachments:

I move the Mayor and Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into an IT managed services agreement with Clark Computer Services, Inc., 181 Thomas Johnson Dr, Frederick, MD, 21702, for a term of 12-months and not to exceed \$317,160, and upon legal review and approval. Motion made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab.

Treasurer Ron Brooks gave an overview of the current IT services contract and the ongoing need for services.

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 Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

9. Discussion Items (8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)

9.a. 2026-160 Creation of "Heritage Tree" Program

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Emily Strab, Councilmember, Greg Barnes, Councilmember

Department: Legislative

Attachments:

Councilmember Emily Strab gave an overview of this budget initiative.

Motion made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Barnes that the Mayor and Council include \$840 in the FY27 budget to purchase plaques to recognize Heritage Trees as a part of Hyattsville's 140th Anniversary.

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 Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

9.b. 2026-161 Enhancing Council and Staff Access to Information and Reporting

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President

Department: Legislative

Attachments:

Council Vice President Redmond gave an overview of the budget initiative.

The Council discussed data and information security, the RFP process to contract a company, and annual costs. The Council also discussed whether this software will interfere with the enterprise resource planning software (ERP), and the process for information input and placing queries. The clerk's office will arrange a demo for the Council to observe how the software works.

9.c. 2026-162 Volunteer Shoveling Program

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Gopi Dhokai, Councilmember

Department: Legislative

Attachments:

Councilmember Dhokai gave an overview of the budget initiative.

The Council and staff discussed purchasing additional snowblowers, potential liabilities for this program, and the legacy costs of the equipment life cycle and replacement. The staff will acquire pricing information for the purchase of multiple snowblowers.

9.d. 2026-163 Create a Revolving Affordable Housing Fund to Incentivize Accessory Dwelling Unit Construction and HPD Local Home Ownership

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Danny Schaible, Councilmember

Department: Legislative

Attachments:

Councilmember Schaible gave an overview of the budget initiative.

The Council and staff discussed funding sources and separating the loan program for

the Hyattsville Police Department into a separate motion. They also discussed terms for loan repayment, program parameters, the effect accessory dwelling units will have on neighboring property values, and ways to implement a comprehensive, affordable housing plan that is equitable for residents.

9.e. 2026-164 Establishing a "Mayor for a Day" Program in the City of Hyattsville

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Greg Barnes, Councilmember

Department: Legislative

Attachments:

Councilmember Greg Barnes gave an overview of the budget initiative.

The Council and staff discussed ways to expand the program and participant recruitment. Councilmember Waszczak asked that the budget initiative be presented to the Youth Advisory Council for review and recommendation.

9.f. 2026-165 Project Manager

For Discussion.

Sponsors: Emily Strab, Councilmember

Department: Legislative

Attachments:

Councilmember Strab provided an overview of the budget initiative.

The Council and staff discussed funding sources for this initiative, expanding the role to more than one staff position, contracting a firm to handle project management, and the anticipated benefits of implementing this position. The Council also discussed utilizing project management software.

10. Council Dialogue (9:45 p.m. - 9:55 p.m.)

11. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Barnes, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:38 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

Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee