

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_SRPFASBiRQymH7EBXB8pDQ

Monday, March 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 7:03 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 Debi Sandlin
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
City Planner Chloe Kauffman
Community Development Specialist Danny Mears
Strategic Advisor Suzanne Ludlow
Deputy Director of Community Services Cheri Everhart
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

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, 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 Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

4. Approval of Minutes

4.a. 2026-195 Approval of Minutes

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

- February 18, 2026

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Budget Work Session Minutes_February 18 2026

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

- February 18, 2026

Motion made by Councilmember Barnes, 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 Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

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

- Robert Oerter (Ward 1) spoke in favor of the emergency relief fund for immigrant families.

- Stephanie DeLorenzo (Ward 1) spoke in favor of the emergency relief fund for immigrant families.
- Ninfa Amador Hernandez spoke in favor of the emergency relief fund for immigrant families.
- Bette Dickerson (Ward 2) spoke in favor of support for expanding senior programming.
- Eleanor Banks spoke in favor of the emergency relief fund for immigrant families.
- Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) opposes the emergency relief fund for immigrant families, adding that if the City allocates funding, it should be distributed by an organization that is neutral on the issue of immigration.

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

The City Administrator and staff provided updates on City events, programming, and construction projects.

The Council and staff discussed the lower Ward 1 stormwater project, the fitness park on 38th Street, and the status of the signalization project on Baltimore Avenue.

7. Presentations (7:40 PM - 8:05 PM)

7.a. 2026-187 Dewberry: Hyattsville Data Analytics Project

For Presentation.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments: Dewberry Council Presentation, FinalRecommendationsReport

City Administrator Douglas introduced Amanda Byrd and Claire Kolman from Dewberry to provide a presentation.

The Council and staff discussed reports previously prepared by Dewberry and ways to prioritize the recommendations for City staff.

8. 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: 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:

8.a. 2026-190 Autism Awareness Day

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt a proclamation celebrating April 2, 2026, as World Autism Awareness Day and April as Autism Acceptance Month in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: CM 0323 National Autism Acceptance Month

8.b. 2026-191 National Public Health Week

I move the Mayor and Council adopt the proclamation designating April 6-12, 2026, as National Public Health Week in the City of Hyattsville.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: CM 0323 Public Health Week 2026

9. Appointments

A motion was made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Council President Solomon, 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. 2026-188 Appointment to the Education Advisory Committee

I move the Mayor and Council appoint Danielle Sykes (Ward 5) to the Education Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years ending March 23, 2028.

Sponsors: Edouard Haba, Councilmember

Department: City Clerk

Attachments: Sykes Redac Application (1)

10. Consent Items (8:05 p.m. - 8:10 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 Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT:

10.a. 2026-184 Lower Ward 1 Resiliency Projects Support

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize an expenditure to the Low Impact Development Center (LIDC) in an amount not to exceed \$103,100 for continuing coordination and project management for the Lower Ward 1 Resiliency Projects under their existing contract with the City.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Department of Public Works

Attachments: LIDC DPW19-011A Lower Ward 1 Resiliency Proposal 02-19-2026

10.b. 2026-194 FY26 Budget Amendment: Special Revenues Funds Appropriation of National Opioid Settlement Funds

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the FY26 Special Revenues Funds Budget to appropriate \$33,975.64 in National Opioid Settlement Funds. These funds can only be used to serve the purpose of Opioid Remediation as set forth in the National Opioid Settlement Agreement and the State of Maryland Opioid Subdivision agreement with local jurisdictions.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Finance

Attachments:

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

11.a. 2026-183 2026-2031 City of Hyattsville Strategic Plan: Stepping Forward

I move the Mayor and City Council adopt the 2026-2031 Hyattsville Strategic Plan titled "Stepping Forward" as presented, which establishes the City's priorities, goals, and strategies to guide policy decisions and departmental work plans.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Community, Business, and Economic Development

Attachments: HVL-StrategicPlan-2026

I move the Mayor and City Council adopt the 2026-2031 Hyattsville Strategic Plan titled "Stepping Forward" as presented, which establishes the City's priorities, goals, and strategies to guide policy decisions and departmental work plans.

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

The Council and staff thanked the staff for their hard work and asked how community feedback was incorporated into the strategic plan. They also discussed the timeline for updating the strategic plan and the implementation schedule.

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:

11.b. 2026-192 Creation of Hyattsville Common Ownership Community Advisory Committee

I move the Mayor and Council approve the creation of Hyattsville Common Ownership Community Advisory Committee and the associated committee worksheet.

Sponsors: Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President, Joseph Solomon, Council President, Greg Barnes, Councilmember, Kelson Nisbett, Councilmember, Danny Schaible, Councilmember, Edouard Haba, Councilmember

Department: Legislative

Attachments: Hyattsville Common Ownership Community Advisory Committee_Final

I move the Mayor and Council approve the creation of the Hyattsville Common Ownership Community Advisory Committee in accordance with the associated committee worksheet.

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

The Council discussed the efficacy of this committee if converted into a task force. Councilmember Waszczak raised concerns about forming a committee based on a housing type and the necessity of this as a long-standing committee.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Joanne Waszczak

ABSENT:

11.c. 2026-193 Creation of the CERT Committee

I move the Mayor and Council approve the creation of the Hyattsville Community Emergency Response Team Committee and the associated committee worksheet.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Administration

Attachments: CERT Committee Worksheet_Draft

I move the Mayor and Council approve the creation of the Hyattsville Community Emergency Response Team Committee in accordance with the associated committee worksheet.

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

The Council discussed future funding needs for the committee and thanked the CERT

team for their hard work.

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:

12. Discussion Items (9:10 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)

12.a. 2026-189 FY27 Budget Discussion

For Discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: City Clerk

Attachments:

Ron Brooks and Ben Brosch opened up the budget discussion.

The Council and staff discussed tax classifications and proposed tax increases for residential dwellings, as well as the timeline to implement revenue-generating measures. The Council requested a five-year review of the financials and budget predictions that account for annual increases in personnel, contracts, debt services, and financing.

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

14. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Nisbett, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:34 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: