

# City of Hyattsville

Hyattsville Municipal Building  
4310 Gallatin Street, 3rd Floor  
Hyattsville, MD 20781  
(301) 985-5000  
[www.hyattsville.org](http://www.hyattsville.org)



## Minutes Regular Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cMmZJPk-QW6D4av395PHaQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cMmZJPk-QW6D4av395PHaQ)

**Monday, March 9, 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](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org)**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

**PRESENT:**

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:**

Mayor Robert S. Croslin

**Also Present:**

City Administrator Tracey Douglas  
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. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Barnes, that the agenda be approved.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

##### **4.a. 2026-179 Approval of Minutes**

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

- February 9, 2026

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** City Clerk

**Attachments:** Minutes\_February 9, 2026

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

- February 9, 2026

Motion made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Waszczak.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

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

- Miranda Carter (Ward 2) asked the Council to prioritize emergency community relief funds for families affected by immigration enforcement.
- Charlotte Francoeur (Ward 2) asked the Council to prioritize emergency community relief funds for families affected by immigration enforcement. She asked that the process be accessible and that funds become available within a few days of approval. She also asked the Council to be mindful of the collection of demographic information.

- Sarah Harper (Ward 2) also asked the Council to prioritize emergency community relief funds for families affected by immigration enforcement. She asked for additional support for community members, such as providing "Know Your Rights" cards in multiple languages.
- Ben Simasek spoke in favor of the emergency relief fund and asked that the City prioritize families with children.
- Leia Dickerson (Ward 1) spoke in favor of creating an HOA Committee.
- Tatjana Hrubik-Vulanovic stated her support for the community emergency relief fund and expressed concerns about City spending. She expressed concern about the past due audits and suggested forming a committee to monitor and review the finance department.
- Lisbeth Melendez-Rivera (Ward 2) spoke in favor of the community emergency relief fund.
- Chris Gagnon (Ward 3) spoke in favor of funding for the drone show in the FY27 budget, but has concerns about how much it will cost. He stated that he is opposed to the Jenoptik contract, citing concerns that it is minimally effective and removes agency from officers. He asked for a second hearing with community members.
- Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) asked that the Council request lights and security cameras on the bridge to Chillum Park in the letter to M-NCPPC. She also expressed concerns about the Jenoptik contract and stated that she is not in favor of the drone show, citing costs. Lastly, she noted that the HOA committee should include residents who live in condominiums and asked if they could be more effective as a temporary task force.
- Edna Little (Ward 4) asked for continued funding for the age-friendly programming, citing that Hyattsville has a growing senior community that needs support.
- Michelle Smith (Ward 1) asked for support for the senior community and assistance to aid in housing affordability, smart energy, and small businesses.
- Michelle Lee (Ward 4) spoke on behalf of increased funding for senior activities and programming.
- Bette Dickerson spoke in favor of increased funding and the expansion of senior programming and activities.

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

The City Administrator shared updates on City events and programming.

The staff and Council discussed an upcoming pet adoption event, invasive vine removal, animal control complaints, the Standby Guardianship training, and the raincheck rebate program.

## **7. Proclamations**

A motion was made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember

Haba, that the City Council adopt the proclamations.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

**7.a. 2026-173 Women in Public Office Day**

I move the Mayor and Council adopt the proclamation designating March 19, 2026, as Women in Public Office Day in the City of Hyattsville.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** City Clerk

**Attachments:** CM 0309 Women in Public Office Day 2026

**7.b. 2026-174 Transgender Day of Visibility**

I move the Mayor and Council adopt the proclamation designating March 31, 2026, as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Hyattsville.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** City Clerk

**Attachments:** CM 0309 Transgender Day of Visibility Proclamation

**7.c. 2026-175 Women's History Month**

I move that the Mayor and Council adopt the proclamation designating March 2026 as Women's History Month in the City of Hyattsville.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** City Clerk

**Attachments:** CM 0309 Women's History Month 2026

**8. Appointments**

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

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

**8.a. 2026-176 Assignment of Council Liaison to Committee**

I move the Mayor and Council appoint Councilmember Kelson Nisbett as liaison to the Race and Equity Task Force.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** City Clerk

**Attachments:**

**9. 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 Councilmember Strab, seconded by Councilmember Haba, that the consent agenda be approved.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

**9.a. 2026-157 Disbursement of FY26 Education Enrichment Grants Awards**

I move that the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of \$9,500 to support the grant recommendations from the Education Advisory Committee listed in the attached memo for the dissemination of the FY26 Education Enrichment Grants.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** Community Services

**Attachments:** Letter to Council 2025-2026 Enrichment Grants, 2025-2026 EAC Grant Council Spreadsheet, \_FY26 Education Enrichment Grant Program (Responses) - Form Responses 1

**9.b. 2026-167 FY26 Budget Appropriation: M-NCPPC Project Grant for Recreation Activities**

I move that the Mayor and Council amend the FY26 Special Revenue Funds Budget to accept and appropriate the grant award in the amount of \$50,000 from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and authorize the City Administrator to sign the contract, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney for legal sufficiency.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** Community Services

**Attachments:** City of Hyattsville Recreation FY26 Project Charge Contract 2.23.26

**9.c. 2026-169 PGC Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program Contract - 2025-004**

I move that the Mayor and City Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into the *Non-Capital Grant Program Contract (2025-004)*, to provide funding of \$6,850 for an architectural schematic design package, as described in the Non-Capital Grant Program staff memo dated January 13, 2026, and Historic Preservation Commission approval letter dated January 23, 2006.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** Community, Business, and Economic Development

**Attachments:** 2025-004 NCGP Contract, Cover Sheet (3)

**9.d. 2026-180 Disbursement of Ward 1 Discretionary Funds**

I move the Mayor and Council approve the disbursement of \$250 of FY26 Ward 1 discretionary funds to support programming for seniors at Friendship Arms Apartments.

**Sponsors:** Greg Barnes, Councilmember, Joanne Waszczak, Councilmember

**Department:** City Clerk

**Attachments:**

**9.e. 2026-181 Disbursement of Ward 5 Discretionary Funds**

I move the Mayor and Council approve the disbursement of \$250 of Ward 5 FY26 discretionary funds to support senior activities at Friendship Arms Apartments.

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

**Department:** City Clerk

**Attachments:**

**10. Action Items (7:45 p.m. - 8:25 p.m.)**

**10.a. 2026-168 Letter to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Regarding Trail Safety and Maintenance**

I move that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission regarding the prioritization of maintenance and safety for the City's Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek trail systems.

**Sponsors:** Joseph Solomon, Council President, Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President, Edouard Haba, Councilmember

**Department:** Community, Business, and Economic Development

**Attachments:** 2026-02-17\_MNCPPC\_Letter\_Trails\_Safety\_.ju

I move that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send correspondence to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission regarding the prioritization of maintenance and safety for the City's Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek trail systems. Motion made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Haba.

The Staff and Council discussed the letter of support for trail safety and maintenance efforts sent last year and ways to build upon requests moving forward. They also discussed collaborating with WMATA and surrounding municipalities, and using City funds to aid in trail maintenance.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

#### **10.b. 2026-170 Contract with Jenoptik Smart Mobility Solutions**

I move Mayor and Council to authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Jenoptik Smart Mobility Solutions, LLC for the City's Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Program, for a period of three (3) years.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** Police

**Attachments:** Jenoptik Draft\_11.12.2025\_Allison Weikel (5) (eic 2026.2.20) .1 (3)  
(eic 2026.3.04 .2

I move Mayor and Council to authorize the City Administrator to enter into a contract with Jenoptik Smart Mobility Solutions, LLC for the City's Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Program, for a period of three (3) years. Motion made by Council Vice President Redmond, seconded by Councilmember Strab.

Chief Towers provided a presentation on the Jenoptik Smart Mobility Solutions automated camera program and contract.

The Council and staff discussed the efficacy of the camera program, the number of cameras that will be operational in the City, the process to contest a ticket, and receiving payments for tickets in collections. They also discussed data collection, the speed threshold for issuing tickets, contract renewal, and camera maintenance.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

#### **11. Discussion Items (8:25 p.m. - 9:35 p.m.)**

##### **11.a. 2026-171 Anniversary Festival Drone Show**

For Discussion.

**Sponsors:** Joanne Waszczak, Councilmember

**Department:** Legislative

**Attachments:**

Councilmember Waszczak made a motion, seconded by CM Strab, that the Mayor and Council include an amount not to exceed \$30,000 in the FY27 budget to fund a drone show in place of a fireworks show for the City of Hyattsville's 141st Anniversary festival in April 2027, and that the City task its grant writer to apply for sensory-friendly funding, or some other type of grant.

Councilmember Waszczak gave an overview of this budget initiative.

The Council and staff discussed the timeline for securing the drone display for the anniversary, potential cost-sharing options, and concerns about pricing. They also discussed applying for grants to offset costs.

The motion Failed by the following vote:

AYE: Council President Solomon, Councilmember Waszczak, Councilmember Strab, Councilmember Haba

NAY: Councilmember Nisbett

ABSTAIN: Council Vice President Kareem Redmond, Councilmember Greg Barnes, Councilmember Danny Schaible, Councilmember Gopi Dhokai, Councilmember Michelle Lee

ABSENT: Mayor Croslin

**11.b. 2026-177 Environmental Committee's Outreach Initiatives**

For Discussion.

**Sponsors:** Edouard Haba, Councilmember, Joseph Solomon, Council President, Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President, Danny Schaible, Councilmember, Emily Strab, Councilmember

**Department:** Legislative

**Attachments:**

Councilmember Haba made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strab, that the Mayor and Council appropriate \$4,000 in the FY27 budget to be used by the Hyattsville Environment Committee to support its outreach initiatives. These funds will facilitate the committee's community engagement efforts with the production of educational and promotional materials, as well as community events.

Councilmember Haba gave an overview of this budget initiative.

The Council and staff discussed uses for the requested funding.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin

#### **11.c. 2026-178 Relief Funds for Impacted Immigrant Families**

For Discussion.

**Sponsors:** Edouard Haba, Councilmember, Joseph Solomon, Council President, Danny Schaible, Councilmember

**Department:** Legislative

**Attachments:**

Councilmember Haba gave an overview of the budget initiative.

The Council and staff discussed the vetting process for applicants, the criteria to participate in the program, and continuation of existing community services. They also discussed getting feedback from the Race and Equity Task Force, widening the distribution of funding, program management, and hiring a case manager. The Council agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

#### **11.d. 2026-182 Creation of HOA Advisory Committee**

For Discussion.

**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 Homeowners Association Advisory Committee\_Worksheet Draft

Council Vice President Redmond gave an overview of this initiative.

The Council and staff discussed the vetting process for members, term limits, and whether this committee would be better served as a task force. They also discussed the inclusion of residents who live in condominiums. The Council agreed to address this at a future meeting.

**11.e. 2026-172 Creation of the CERT Committee**

For Discussion.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** Administration

**Attachments:** CERT Committee Worksheet\_Draft

Emergency Services Manager Bagley gave an overview of this initiative.

The Council and staff discussed future funding for the committee, training opportunities, and regular committee reporting. They also discussed services that could be provided by the CERT team. The Council agreed to address this at a future meeting.

**12. Council Dialogue (9:35 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.)**

**13. Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, seconded by Councilmember Nisbett, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:08 PM.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

AYE: 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: Mayor Croslin