

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_tcnoYIEQR6a0jQetPGjUbg

Wednesday, March 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 7:04 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
Deputy City Administrator Debi Sandlin
City Treasurer Ron Brooks
Deputy Budget Director Ben Bosch
Director of Community, Business, and Economic Development Jeff Ulysse
City Clerk Nate Groenendyk

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Lee, 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. Public Comment (7:10 PM - 7:20 PM) Limit 2 minutes per speaker

- Anita Williams (Ward 4) expressed concerns about tax rates and the lack of affordable housing. She also expressed concern about the increase in utility bills and inquired if the City could install a solar farm.
- Melissa Schweisguth (Ward 5) asked the Council to consider implementing a special tax rate on vacant properties and apartments. She also asked that the Council not raise the tax rate for residential properties.

5. Discussion Items (7:20 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

5.a. 2026-186 Tax Classification Discussion

For Discussion.

Sponsors: City Administrator

Department: Finance

Attachments: Fiscal 2027 Budget Work Session - Property Tax Rate Discussion__CA Copy(Final)

Treasurer Ron Brooks and Deputy Budget Director Ben Brosch gave an overview of projected revenues and expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2027, noting the current projections show a \$4.07M gap between revenues and expenditures. Additionally, a proposal to add classifications of property and changes to their associated tax rates to raise revenues was presented. Deputy Brosch explained several options for raising taxes on certain property types and the effect of each option on the City's projected revenue.

Council asked about the history of the percentages of different classifications of properties over the past 5 years, the potential of increased taxes being passed on to renters, the value of taxing different classifications at different rates, insights into what is driving the year after year gap in revenues and expenditures, the impact of vacant property classification, other municipalities that have enacted similar changes to tax structures, the different categories which vacancy rates could be applied to, the possibility of a small business rate, the possibility of expenditure reductions, differentiating between short-term and long-term rental properties, tax rate differentials based on length of time a property has been vacant, the impact of town homes in an HOA versus not in an HOA, and the issue of under-assessed properties for tax purposes.

6. Council Dialogue (8:30 p.m. - 8:40 p.m.)

7. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilmember Haba, seconded by Councilmember Schaible, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:56 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