

# 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\\_W65ccM8NRjC1GegoANxINw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_W65ccM8NRjC1GegoANxINw)

Wednesday, May 20, 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 7:04 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 Michelle Lee  
Councilmember Kelson Nisbett

**ABSENT:**

Councilmember Edouard Haba

**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  
Strategic Advisor Lesley Riddle  
Acting Director of the Department of Public Works Hal Metzler  
Deputy Director of Community Services Cheri Everhart  
Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner  
City Clerk Nate Groenendyk  
Deputy City Clerk Quianna Taylor

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Council President Solomon, that the agenda be approved.

CM Schaible offered an amendment to the agenda to add the following motion to the Action Items:

I move that the City of Hyattsville send a letter of support to the Board of Licensed Commissioners related to the request submitted by Streetcar 82 owner Mark Burke to

extend business hours on June 12th and June 25th to host a U.S. Men's National Team World Cup watch party. It was accepted via unanimous consent.

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 Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Haba

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

- Michael Sponseller (Ward 5) raised concerns about the FY27 budget and proposed increases in property taxes. He also expressed frustration about streets in the West Hyattsville Riverfront community that were supposed to be taken over by the City, citing that those residents are being taxed for services that they do not receive.
- Jonathan Gold (Ward 5) opposes the connection at Nicholson Street, citing that this would be a problem for emergency vehicles. He added that residents would be negatively impacted by the traffic and increased parking.
- Mr. Marshall (Ward 4) asked for a timeline to repair the potholes on 42nd Avenue between Oliver Street and Oglethorpe Street and inquired about the status of the sidewalks that were supposed to be installed at Route 1 at Charles Armentrout. He stated that he opposes funding for the Spot, the immigrant relief fund, the Thrones portable bathrooms, and the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department, and supports the increased Cost of Living Adjustment for staff. Lastly, he inquired about any precedent where the City supported a local business extending its hours of operation.

**5. Presentations (7:20 PM - 7:45 PM)**

**5.a. 2026-261 Presentation - Traffic Calming**

Presentation

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** Department of Public Works

**Attachments:** Traffic Calming Presentation

Strategic Analyst Lesley Riddle and Project Manager Allie O'Neill provided an overview

of traffic-calming projects at various City locations and an update on funding for the Lower Ward 1 stormwater improvements.

The Council and staff discussed the Nicholson Street connector, improvements to the culverts near Maryland Meadworks and the intersection of Buchanan and Banner Streets, and the need for continued community engagement. They also discussed the timeline to complete the projects.

## **6. Action Items**

### **6.a. 2026-279 Letter of Support for World Cup Community Events**

I move the City of Hyattsville send a letter of support to the Board of Licensed Commissioners related to the request submitted by Streetcar82 owner Mark Burke to extend business hours on June 12th and June 25th to host a U.S. Men's National Team World Cup watch party.

**Sponsors:** Danny Schaibe, Joanne Waszczak, Councilmember, Emily Strab, Councilmember, Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President, Joseph Solomon, Council President, Kelson Nisbett, Councilmember, Gopi Dhokai, Councilmember

**Department:** City Clerk

#### **Attachments:**

I move the City of Hyattsville send a letter of support to the Board of Licensed Commissioners related to the request submitted by Streetcar82 owner Mark Burke to extend business hours on June 12th and June 25th to host a U.S. Men's National Team World Cup watch party. Motion made by Councilmember Schaible, seconded by Council President Solomon.

The Council and staff discussed the City supporting businesses extending their hours of operation, event dates, and times and the use of World Cup branding language in City communications.

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 Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Haba

## **7. Discussion Items (7:45 p.m. - 8:10 p.m.)**

### **7.a. 2026-259 Council FY27 Budget Amendment: COLA Increase**

Proposed Motion: I move the Mayor and Council increase the cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the FY27 budget for City employees from 2% to 2.5%.

**Sponsors:** Kareem Redmond, Council Vice President, Michelle Lee, Councilmember, Gopi Dhokai, Councilmember

**Department:** Legislative

**Attachments:**

I move the Mayor and Council increase the cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the FY27 budget for City employees from 2% to 2.5%. Motion made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Strab.

Ron Brooks stated that finance is prepared to adjust the budget to accommodate this

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 Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Haba

**8. Council Dialogue (8:10 p.m. - 8:20 p.m.)**

**9. Closed Session**

**9.a. 2026-260 Motion to Close-Note: Council will Not Return to Open Session**

I move the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of May 20, 2026 to discuss the performance evaluation and compensation of an employee over whom this public body has jurisdiction.

This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

**Sponsors:** City Administrator

**Department:** Human Resources

### **Attachments:**

A motion was made by Council President Solomon, seconded by Councilmember Waszczak, that the Mayor and Council close the Council Meeting of May 20, 2026, to discuss the performance evaluation and compensation of an employee over whom this public body has jurisdiction. This session will be closed under the authority of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

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 Lee, Councilmember Nisbett

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Haba

Pursuant to the requirement of the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 3-104(1)(2), this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the City of Hyattsville was held virtually at 8:00 p.m. on May 20, 2026.

In addition to the City Council, the following staff members were present: Director of Human Resources Jay Joyner, HR Generalist Janel Beckett, and HR Generalist Benda Cruz. Councilmember Edouard Haba was absent.

The authority under which the session was closed was the Annotated Code of Maryland State Government General Provisions Article Section 3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Topics Discussed: Council discussed the proposed one-year contract extension for the City Administrator, with an annual base salary of approximately \$220,000.

### **Actions Taken:**

1. Motion to separate the compensation package into six individual components to be voted on separately: Failed: Yes: 2 (Schaible, Strab) No: 8 (Croslin, Waszczak, Barnes, Redmond, Dhokai, Lee, Solomon, Nisbett)

2. Motion to remove post-retirement consulting and orderly transition provisions from the proposed agreement: Passed: Yes 10 (unanimous) No: 0
3. Motion to approve the City Administrator's contract extension and compensation: Passed Yes: 10 (unanimous) No: 0

The closed session adjourned at 8:49 p.m. on a motion made by Council President Solomon and seconded by Council Vice President Redmond.

The meeting ended at 8:49 p.m.