City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2013 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Brady, Gardner, Marcos, Trouth and Turner (Arrived 8:37p.m.); City Manager Deutsch, Assistant City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez, the Press and the Public.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Crystal Faison with Shepherd Energy briefed Council on a program available to residents called the Quick Home Energy Check-up. This program is of no cost to residents and includes a visual assessment of appliances, windows and insulation as well as direct energy and cost saving measures. It's a program sponsored by En-Power Maryland through Governor Martin O'Malley's initiative to reduce Maryland's energy usage by 15% by 2015.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Brady made a motion to appoint Ms. Gail L. Elkins as an alternate member of the Board of Appeals. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmember Brady made a motion to reappoint Dr. Gerald George to the Arts Committee. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Robinson swore-in Ms. Elkins and thanked her for her service.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Robinson thanked Matt Corley and staff for the great summer concerts that were held in the city during the summer.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Deutsch reported on a grant that will be issued to the city for $143,000 to improve pedestrian safety on Race Track Road near Yorktown school. He reported that the Bowie Business Shuttle started today, September 3. Ridership numbers will be reported in the next few months.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Trouth moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of August 5 Meeting Minutes.; B) Approval of Resolution R-54-13 – Approving the Fourth Amendment to the Water Tower Lease Agreement Between the City and Cellco Partnership (Verizon Wireless) at 3107 Belair Drive; C) Approval of City Council Position Letters on Transportation Priority Lists to State and County. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fourth of July Critique – City Manager Deutsch briefed Council on some of the events that transpired on the evening of the 4th of July that was held at the Prince George's Stadium. The estimate of people in attendance is 7,500 – 8,000. These numbers do not include the people who gathered at numerous points around the community and near the stadium to watch the fireworks. Staff has discussed with the Bowie Baysox organization about continuing the event at the stadium on a more permanent basis and will add more aerial fireworks to the show next year. In hopes of easing some of the post event traffic congestion, staff will have the band come back on stage for a 30-minute set after the fireworks. Staff also held a wrap-up meeting with the City Police Department to discuss the traffic issues encountered after the program was over. Although the Police Department will not be able to eliminate all of the traffic issues, the event should run smoother next year and they should be able to shave about 30 minutes off the exit time.

Public Hearing:

Since there were no speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing to have been held.

Following comments from Council, the Mayor thanked staff for the great event and look forward to an even greater event next year.

B. WMATA Transit Recommendations – Mr. Joe Meinert, City of Bowie Planning Department Director briefed Council on the final report produced by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for the B-Service Routes. A copy of this report is on file in City Hall. WMATA held several public outreach meetings in March to receive feedback from riders. Most attendees favored the following recommendations: increased service hours, service frequency, and new bus stops at new commercial and residential developments. Mr. Meinert recommends that a letter detailing the City's priorities for enhanced transit service be sent to the Metro Board of Directors and Prince George's County.

Councilmember Turner made a motion to have Council support the draft letter attached to the memo. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Community Legacy Application, Resolution R-53-13 – City Manager Deutsch summarized the staff memo on the application process for grants from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Office of Neighborhood Revitalization for the Community Legacy Program for FY 2014. The City's request to DHCD/NR is for $181,500 which will provide additional funding for the City's Senior Citizen "Green" Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Councilmember Trouth asked if any municipality is able to apply for this grant. Mr. George Jones, City of Bowie Grants Manager, replied that there are preliminary qualifications required to meet this application and the City met all the requirements.

Councilmember Turner asked how many homes will this additional funding help. Mr. Jones replied 15 additional homes.

Public Hearing:

Since there were no speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Marcos made a motion to approve Resolution R-53-13. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Brady moved to adjourn the City Council meeting and move into Close Session under State Government Article §10-508(a)(3): To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. State Government Article §10-508(a)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion and it carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Awilda Hernandez, CMC
City Clerk

WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Date: 9/3/13 Time: 9:05pm Location: City Council Chambers Motion to close meeting made by: Brady;

Seconded by Trouth, Members voting in favor: Marcos, Turner, Gardner, Robinson

Trouth, Brady Opposed: _____ Abstaining _____ Absent Polangin

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION, State Government Article, §10-508(a) (check all that apply):

___ (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; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;
___ (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business;
✓ (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto;
___ (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State;
___ (5) To consider the investment of public funds;
___ (6) To consider the marketing of public securities;
✓ (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;
___ (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;
___ (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations;
___ (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;
___ (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination;
___ (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;
___ (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;
___ (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASONS FOR CLOSING AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

(✓) Consulted with City Attorney on legal development matter.
(✓) Considered the acquisition of real property for open space.
(✓) Considered potential business location in the City.

Persons attending closed session: _____

This statement is made by Mayor Robinson, Presiding Officer: _____
SIGNATURE

********** FOR USE IN MINUTES OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **********

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND ACTION(S) TAKEN (IF ANY):

Time closed session adjourned: 10:00 pm

Appendix C