City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2013

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, October 21, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Polangin, Councilmembers Brady, Gardner, Marcos, Trouth and Turner; City Manager Deutsch, Assistant City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez, Staff, the Press and the Public.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Robinson pulled Item B under New Business, Bowie Senior Citizen Energy Audit Program, and moved it to the November 25th Council Agenda.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

States Attorney for Prince George's County, Angela Alsobrooks, reported on crime statistics and programs handled by the States Attorney's office. Major decline in numbers is in violent crimes which are down 15.6%.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Brady moved to appoint Ms. Phoenix A. Harris to the Bowie Arts Committee for a two-year term. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mayor Robinson swore-in Ms. Harris and welcomed her to the committee.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Deutsch reported that the Prescription Drug Take Back program will be held on Saturday, October 26th.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Brady wanted clarification for the record of Item F; that the departure is tied to the property and to the use of the property. City Attorney Ruff replied yes, if the property changes its use the departure will not apply to the new use.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of Resolution R-59-13 – Accepting Bid for the Complete Cleaning and Repainting of the Interior Surfaces, and the Spot Cleaning and Topcoating of the Exterior Surfaces With Containment, to the 600,000 Gallon Steel Elevated Water Tank Located at 3107 Belair Drive; B) Approval of Resolution R-60-13 – Awarding a Contract for the Interior and Exterior Painting of the Belair Mansion; C) Approval of Resolution R-61-13 – Awarding a Contract for the Replacement of the Boiler System at the Bowie Gymnasium; D) Approval of Resolution R-62-13 – Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirement in Accordance With Section 61 of the Charter of the City of Bowie to Allow for Issuance of a Contract to Musco Lighting for the Installation of Lighting at the Allen Pond Park Basketball Courts and Skate Park.; E) Approval of Resolution R-63-13 – Awarding a Contract for the Installation of a New Asphalt Shingle Roof, Fascia, Trim, and Gutters, and the Installation of a Photovoltaic System at the Bowie Senior Center; F) Approval of Resolution R-64-13 – Approving Departure Application BD-1-13, a Request by C. Hope Real Estate, LLC for a Departure From the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance §27-568(a) to Permit 37 Parking Spaces Rather Than the Required 136 Parking Spaces at 14201 Woodcliff Court, Bowie, Maryland; G) Approval of Letter to Prince George's County Planning Board re: Proposed FY 2015 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Budget. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Adoption of Ordinance O-6-13 – Amending the Bowie City Code, to incorporate the Provisions of Maryland General Assembly HB 362 (2013) With Respect to the Definition of "Interest" for Purposes of the City's Public Ethics Law.

Mr. John Fitzwater, Assistant City Manager, summarized the staff report and recommends approval of Ordinance O-6-13 amending Section 2-68(J) of the City Code excluding a publically traded mutual fund on a national scale from being subject to the disclosure requirements of the City of Bowie's Ethics Ordinance.

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, Councilmember Turner made a motion to approve Ordinance O-6-13. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Tree Maintenance Program – Community Forester Rick Kellner and Parks and Grounds Superintendent Ed Hall briefed Council on the program. The purpose is to maintain tree health and safety and sustain a long-lasting, healthy environment within the limits of the City of Bowie in the public domain that includes routine tree trimming, responsive tree trimming and/or tree removal, storm damage management, tree replacement and planting. A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Gary Allen, Chairman of the Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee, commented on a proposed City Tree Replacement Program.

Councilmember Brady has concerns with the removal of trees moving faster than the replacement and wanted to know if the numbers reported include resident trees. Mr. Kellner reported that it does not include the trees removed by residents.

Council thanked Mr. Kellner and Mr. Hall for their presentation.

B. Bowie Senior Citizen Energy Audit Draft Program – Item moved to Council November 25th Meeting Agenda.

C. Prince George's County General Plan Update – Mr. Joe Meinert, Planning Department Director, summarized the staff report for Council. Plan 2035 creates a new concept for growth management and planning that will help the County focus its resources on priority districts. Staff recommends support of Preliminary General Plan 2035 with these additional recommendations: 1) The land use policy dealing with Regional and Municipal Coordination should include potential for municipalities to take a greater role in land use planning and administration; 2) Preliminary General Plan should include specific concepts, policies and strategies necessary to create Neighborhood Conservation Areas; 3)Traffic Level of Service "E" is not recommended for Suburban Centers; 4) City supports Policy 6 regarding light pollution and the proposed amendment to County Code to include lighting standards for appropriate development activities; 5) Following strategy should be added to Implementation Policy 3: Establish legislation that permits the elected municipal body to function in the role of the Planning Board for master plan preparation and development review within their jurisdiction, similar to the way in which the County Council serves in both legislative and administrative capacities.

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, Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to support Preliminary General Plan 2035 with staff recommendations. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Awilda Hernandez, CMC
City Clerk