



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, June 16, 2014 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 Truth, Councilmembers Brady, Gardner, Marcos (Arrived 8:45p.m.), Polangin (Arrived 8:30p.m.), and Turner; City Manager Deutsch, Assistant City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, Staff, the Press, and the Public.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Maria Arnold and Linda Thompson presented Council with a Proclamation from Governor O'Malley declaring June 16-22 as Maryland Pollinator Week.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Teacher of the Month Awards (May/June) - Ms. Nikita Thelwell of the Bowie Education Committee presented the "Teacher of the Month Award" to Karen Jenkins from Highbridge Elementary School for the month of May and Patricia Letsin from C. Elizabeth Rieg Regional School for the month of June. Both teachers received a dinner for two certificate from Texas Roadhouse in Bowie and a Certificate of Recognition from the City of Bowie.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Robinson reminded residents of the 4th of July Celebration being held at Bowie Baysox Stadium this year, doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the festivities begin at 7:30 p.m.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Deutsch mentioned that early voting is taking place until June 19th and polls are open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Truth moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of Resolution R-36-14 – Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and

Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie by a Two-Thirds Vote to Allow for the Rental of Leaf Collection Trucks and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract With Hertz Equipment Rental in the amount of \$53,915; B) Approval of Resolution R-37-14 – Accepting a Bid Proposal for the Purchase and Installation of a Virtual Set System for the Bowie Studio; C) Approval of Resolution R-39-14 – By Two-Thirds Vote Waiving the Bidding Requirements of Section 61 of the City Charter to Allow the City to Enter Into a Contract With AB Consultants, Inc., for Consulting Services Relating to 100% Design Drawings for Phase 1 of the Bowie Heritage Trail, Between 12th Street and 10th Street, and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement for Such Consulting Services; D) Approval of Resolution R-40-14 – Approving a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for a Fourth of July Event at Prince George's Stadium in the Years 2014-2018 and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Agreement on Behalf of the City; E) Approval of Resolution R-41-14 – Approving the Maryland Smart Energy Communities Grant Agreement Between the Maryland Energy Administration and the City of Bowie and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign this Agreement on Behalf of the City; F) Approval of Council Support re: Draft County Legislation for Assisted Living Facilities in M-X-T. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Emergency Ordinance O-4-14 – Mr. David Deutsch, City Manager, briefed Council on Ordinance O-4-14 which will authorize the transfer of certain amounts into accounts that, at year-end, will have an excess of expenditures over appropriations. Some of the higher appropriations were due to the winter storms we had as well as a replacement of a refuse truck that was destroyed by fire.

Public Hearing:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Trough made a motion to adopt Emergency Ordinance O-4-14 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Senior Housing – Mr. Jesse Buggs, the City's Director of Grants, summarized the Senior Citizen Rental Assistance Report to Council. A copy of the report is on file in the City Clerk's Office. In November of 2013 Council received requests for consideration to create a rent stabilization program for seniors; staff has generated the report outlining all the different programs available via federal, state, county and city programs that provide assistance for seniors and recommends that Council not pursue a rent control program and that a program to provide cash assistance to seniors to meet rental obligations is cost prohibitive.

Public Hearing:

1. Harriet Edmondson, 16010 Excalibur Rd, #A307 – spoke in concerns of the increasing rent cost for seniors.
2. Octavia Blake, 3800 Enfield Chase Ct. – thanked Council for their consideration on the matter and she will continue to advocate for rent control.

3. Norman Cole, 3800 Enfield Chase Ct. – stated that the percentages of rent increase are not accurate.
4. Angelia Clarke, 3800 Enfield Chase Ct, #406 – stated that the seniors concerns have not been adequately addressed.

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

Councilmember Turner mentioned a couple of programs that are available for assistance that were not included in the report. They are SB354 – Maryland Renters Tax Credit, which is based on income restrictions and the County Council has legislation before them dealing with owners of multi-family complexes to allow for extensions of leases to at least three years at the same rate.

Councilmember Gardner stated that he is not pleased with the report and implores staff to look into more assistance from county, state and federal government.

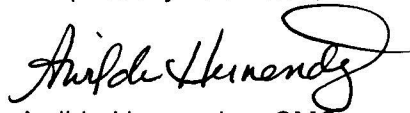
Councilmember Brady asked if staff looked into any charitable organizations or philanthropic that can assist or at least to provide the citizens with more information on programs that are available. Mr. Deutsch replied that Gloria Gaddy, staff at the Senior Center, provides a lot of this information to seniors.

Mayor Robinson thanked the citizens that came and spoke this evening and stated that Council will continue to work with legislators to find a solution.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Trouth moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Awilda Hernandez', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Awilda Hernandez, CMC
City Clerk