



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, May 2, 2022, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Adams, Councilmembers Bofo, Esteve, Gardner (virtually), Harrison, Ndebumadu (virtually 8:05 p.m.) and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Councilmember Woolfley motioned to amend the agenda and move New Business Item A) Economic Development Strategy Presentation and Briefing to the May 16 meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Bofo seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner, Ndebumadu did not vote).

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Shelemiah Griffiths-Johnson, Chair Bowie Youth Council – Thanked Council for their support at the first Bowie Youth Council Town Hall meeting.
2. Stephanie Maceiko, Trainor Ln – Honored the memory of a fellow student from Bowie High School, Sofia Peck.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Ms. Brittany Bunn, a member of the City's Diversity Committee read an excerpt on Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month.
- B. Council presented Ms. Tameeka Washington with a Proclamation and Certificate of Appreciation for her service as an Advisor on the Bowie Youth Council Committee.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams expressed his congratulations to his wife Judge Sheila Tillerson Adams for receiving the Gladys Noon Spellman Public Service Award.

Councilmember Esteve congratulated City Clerk Awilda Hernandez on Municipal Clerks Week and thanked her for her service.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported that final preparations for the adoption of the FY 2023 budget are being done. The last budget worksession will be held on Monday, May 9th and adoption is scheduled for May 16th. Mr. Lott also recognized former City Attorney Robert Levan on his passing last week.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of April 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Proclamation P-9-22 Recognizing May 2022 as Apraxia Awareness Month in the City of Bowie; C) Adoption of Proclamation P-10-22 Recognizing May 2022 as National Bike Month; D) Adoption of Proclamation P-11-22 Proclaiming May 1-7, 2022 as Municipal Clerks Week in the City of Bowie; E) Approval of Letter to Prince George's County Council in Reference to their FY 2023 Proposed Budget & Capital Improvement Program; F) Approval of Letter to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Reference to their FY 2023 Proposed Budget and CIP; G) Approval of Letter to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Reference to Allen Pond Park Regional Amenity Budget Support. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner, Ndebumadu did not vote).

OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY 2023 Budget, CIP and Constant Yield Tax Rate – Finance Director, Mr. Byron Matthews reported that municipalities are required by State law to place an advertisement in a local newspaper and to hold a public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate. The City has complied with those requirements and is proposing to maintain the current tax rate of \$0.40 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.1% higher than the Constant Yield Tax Rate and will generate \$1,304,855 in additional property tax revenues for the City.

Mr. Carl Robinson, Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee presented the committees report on the FY 2023 Proposed Budget (Copy attached).

Public Hearing:

City Clerk Hernandez stated that two comments were received via email for this public hearing (Copies attached).

Since there were no more comments presented and no speakers signed up, Mayor Adams declared the Public Hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Esteve motioned to maintain the tax rate at \$.40 per \$100 of assessed property value. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner, Ndebumadu did not vote).

B. Water Filtration Rebate Program – Public Works Director, Mr. Jose Aldayuz briefed Council on the status of the program. As of April 27, 2022, 81 applications have been received. Six of them are not in the City's water service and the remaining 75 applications do not meet the turbidity criteria for the rebate program.

Councilmember Harrison asked how many times will the homes be tested. Mr. Aldayuz responded that based on the criteria Council adopted, the homes are tested three times consecutively to track the turbidity levels which must be at a level of 50 NTU's in order to qualify for the rebate.

Councilmember Harrison then asked if the homes would be tested again if instances of the brown water occurs again in homes that have been previously tested and not met the criteria. City Manager Lott responded that that is not in the current scope of the program.

Councilmember Woolfley asked if the applications received were from the hotspots area or scattered throughout the City. Mr. Aldayuz responded that they are scattered all over the City.

Council thanked staff for the update.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Economic Development Strategy Presentation and Briefing – This item was moved to the May 16, 2022 Council Meeting.

B. Adoption of Resolution R-15-22 Adopting the Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan Fiscal Year 2023 – Ms. Kay Star, Grant Writer, summarized the staff report. The Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2023 indicates that CDBG funds will provide for housing rehabilitation services, fair housing training, and workforce development & life skills training.

Public Hearing:

Since there was no one signed up to speak and there were no comments submitted, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Harrison motioned to adopt Resolution R-15-22. Councilmember Woolfley second the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

C. City Water Service – City Manager Lott briefed Council on the results of a meeting between staff and representatives of WSSC in regard to the City's water service. WSSC is bound by the WSSC Water Code of Regulations (Chapter 13.05 Acquisition of On-Site Water/Sewer Systems) regarding the acceptance of water systems. The City would have to provide record plats, site plans, maps and other plans to WSSC to evaluate the system for a preliminary evaluation at the City's expense. The tuberculation issues in the City's lines would have to be remediated as well before any consideration of taking over the lines are made by WSSC.

Council thanked staff for organizing the meeting and concurred that this process would not be feasible for the City at this time.

D. Outdoor Restaurant Grant Program – Councilmember Woolfley stated that some restaurant owners have approached him with concerns about not being able to meet some COVID protocols with outdoor seating options to their patrons. Councilmember Woolfley believes that the City should consider supporting the restaurants with some assistance.

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo agrees with Councilmember Woolfley's suggestion and recommends doing some sort of grant program of \$20,000 to help restaurants purchase outdoor seating material with a cap of \$2,500 per applicant.

Mayor Adams asked City Manager Lott if there is currently a line item for this in the current budget. Mr. Lott responded that there is not, but it could be taken out of the City Manager's discretionary budget line item.

Councilmember Ndebumadu supports the program and encouraging businesses to remain in the City.

Councilmember Harrison would like to know what the parameters would be for this program. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo stated that it would be exclusive for restaurants that have the capabilities/area to have outdoor seating.

City Manager Lott stated that staff will put together a list of parameters for the program and present to Council for their approval. He is also recommending that it mirror the Water Filter Rebate program and be a reimbursable program.

Councilmember Esteve motioned to have staff develop a \$20,000 grant program for restaurants in the incorporated City limits of Bowie specifically to reimburse up to \$2,500 for the purchase of outdoor dining materials up to six months from purchase date. Councilmember Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote). The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Awilda Hernandez', written in a cursive style.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: Toya Kess <toyjohn1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 9:49 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Old Bowie

Good Day,

I'm a current resident of Old Bowie and I'd like to share input on what I think this area could benefit from. A few years ago, a Committee was formed with the goal of developing an Arts and Entertainment District along Chestnut Avenue. I remember it being a process and one of the requirements expressed was to have events in the area. I know that Covid had an adverse impact on events within the past two years but I'm hoping that it's still the goal. I would also like to know if the Old Bowie Festival (s) is a step in that direction.

Inasmuch, in regards to the FY 23 Budget and beyond, I'm requesting that Old Bowie get earmarked funds to assist in this project (Arts and Entertainment District) as we pay taxes too. Parks etc. are exceptional as green space is needed but we really need this area to be upgraded as there are so many aging buildings surrounding us. Optics play a part as well.

Also, the bridge along Chestnut Avenue needs a major overhaul. I do believe that the State or County manages this but it's no excuse to take no action. As one of the newer residents in the area, is there anything that can be done about this?

The areas that are not covered by HOAs need attention as it relates to litter and debris. We can use a little help in this area. I do get out there with my grabber and pick up trash but we need help and maybe signs of fines being brought about as a result of non compliance (this is a larger PG County issue as well..it's filthy here). I did develop a neighborhood group to assist in combating this.

Another issue that I would like to bring up is that the turn coming from Chestnut to 5th Street is not safe. I see school buses coming through that opening as well as children coming through that pathway with cars speeding or not signaling. This is very unsafe and I hope that we are not awaiting a tragedy to address this. Maybe more signs, speed bumps, lights etc. can benefit that area.

Finally, Old Bowie is a beautiful place to live with old town charm. Because it's "older", neglect of this area can quickly result in a very aesthetically looking aged environment and that needs to be avoided as residents here are tax payers as well.

Please let me know how I can play a role in developing a better Old Bowie.

Thanks,

Latoya

Awilda Hernandez

From: Fred Lane <fredlane.lane@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 8:24 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Testimony for May 2

Hello,

My name is Jane Karl, 4010 Nicholas Place, Bowie, MD.

If you know history, one of the signs of a collapsing society is distrust in government. Local government becomes very important if federal government begins to fail. Talk of food shortages, etc is pretty scary for most folks. If Bowie wants to be ahead of the game, the time is now to encourage people to become more dependent on themselves, and begin growing food. It needs to be more than the green team can do. We need more than a task force to look into it. There's a lot of unused space in Bowie that could be used as farms, gardens, etc. Wouldn't it be good to instead of wasting gasoline to cut the grass, we use the space as gardens? Improve the soil, which in turn improves the air. People get outside, get better mental health, get better physical health and get a free tan, no health club membership needed. It's simply a win win situation. Not to mention, young people will want to live in an area where this is happening. I'd rather eat good tasting food than spend tons of money on the store bought food that tastes like nothing. Lets leave our kids a world worth inheriting and teach them where food comes from and the skills to grow it. The way our world is headed, later will be too late. Thanks.