



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, May 16, 2022, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 Boafu, Esteve, Gardner (arrived at 8:20 p.m.), Harrison, Ndebumadu (virtually 8:18 p.m.) and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, Staff, and the Public.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Jeffrey Cooper, Dunwood Crossing Dr. – Thanked Council for their efforts on the mortgage foreclosure issue and stated he was glad to see that it's on an upcoming agenda.
2. Karen Williamson, Dunwood Valley Dr. – Thanked Council for adding the housing/squatter issue as an item on the June 6th agenda and for everything they've done to get to that point.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Mr. Shelemiah Griffiths-Johnson, Chair of the Bowie Youth Council, presented their monthly report to Council, providing feedback and results from the Youth Town Hall which was held on April 21st.
- B. Arts and Education Scholarship Recipients – Gabrielle Davidson, on behalf of the Arts Committee, presented the Arts Scholarship to Joshua Kucharski.

LaDonna King, on behalf of the Education Committee, presented the Education Scholarships to Corey Bast, Alexis Denny, Sabrina Lussier, and Jacqueline Wells.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu motioned to appoint Ms. Linda Bailey to the Community Recreation Committee for a two-year term. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner not yet present, Ndebumadu did not vote.)

Councilmember Woolfley motion to appoint Mr. Michael Lagua to the Green Team Executive Committee for a two-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Boafu seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner not yet present, Ndebumadu did not vote.)

Mayor Adams swore-in Ms. Bailey to the Community Recreation Committee and Mr. Lagua to the Green Team Executive Committee.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams asked for a moment of silence for the hate crimes and violence that happened over the weekend, everything going on in Ukraine, and the 1,000,000 lives lost due to COVID-19.

Mayor Adams wished a speedy and complete recovery to Senator Chris Van Hollen.

Mayor Adams also congratulated the eighth-grade math teacher from Benjamin Tasker Middle School, Ms. Evelyn Policarpio, for being named the 2022 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year and asked that a proclamation be presented to her at the upcoming June 6th City Council Meeting.

At Mayor Adams' request, City Manager Lott provided information on the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott thanked everyone who went through the budget process, stating that the budget is at the point where it can be voted on and hopefully approved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of May 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Proclamation P-12-22 Recognizing May 21, 2022 as Kids to Parks Day in the City of Bowie; C) Adoption of Proclamation P-13-22 Celebrating Memorial Day 2022, By Honoring Those Whose Lives Were Given in Service to Their Country; D) Adoption of Resolution R-21-22 Awarding a Contract for IT Server Room Clean Agent Fire Suppression System; E) Adoption of Resolution R-22-22 Accepting a Bid Proposal for Glen Allen Pond 2 Repairs Project; and F) Approve Change in Equipment Purchased with FY22 Capital Funds in Communications Division. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY 2023 Budget Ordinance O-1-22 and Capital Improvements Program Resolution R-12-22 – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and CIP – Councilmember Woolfley moved to approve Budget Ordinance O-1-22 and Capital Improvements Program Resolution R-12-22. Mayor Pro Tem Boafu seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Economic Development Strategy Presentation and Briefing – Mr. John Henry King, Economic Development Director, gave the staff report stating that the final draft of the report was received in April and has been posted on the City's website to allow for the public to read it and provide comments. Mr. King stated that staff is recommending that the strategy be accepted and referred to the Economic Development Committee to make suggestions back to the Council for its implementation. Mr. King introduced the consultants from Dr. Richard Clinch from the University of Baltimore Jacob France

Institute and Mr. Bill Cole from Margrave Strategies who, along with Ms. Katie Gerbes and Ms. Jordann Montoya from Margrave Strategies, presented on the four strategic areas of focus and the 12 recommended actions. The four areas of focus were: to utilize creative placemaking to support economic development, with an initial focus on Bowie Town Center; to leverage Bowie State University as the City of Bowie's most natural anchor institution; to distinguish the City as an athletic recreation tourism hub; and to expand the City's business base through targeted business startup expansion and retention efforts. Each of the 12 recommended actions tied into one of the areas of focus.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu thanked the presenters and City staff for their time and efforts, and Mr. King for 21 years with the City. Mayor Pro Tem Boafu stated that there was some consensus from his colleagues about allowing residents more time to read over the document, bringing it back to the second meeting in June for another public hearing and a discussion and vote, and then sending to the Economic Development Committee after that.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu asked questions on and discussed engaging with Bowie Town Center (including programming and walkability/safety), the District Council as a partner, redevelopment of aging facilities, the need for additional manpower (staff time) for implementation of the plan, collaboration with Bowie State University, relationships with economic development partners, the Bowie Baysox, and considering during the budget process the investments the City wants to make (in terms of goals and priorities for the next several years.)

Mayor Adams addressed Bowie BIC and Bowie State University, funding, and the Accelerator program.

Councilmember Harrison spoke about entrepreneurship and minority and women owned businesses, county resources and partnership, and the South Lake project and the amenities it will bring to the City.

Councilmember Gardner stated that Mayor Pro Tem Boafu addressed many of his concerns and questions, and asked about the reorganization of the Sears property, along with budget recommendation items such as tenant buildout and employee assistance for home purchasing.

Councilmember Woolfley spoke on placemaking, incentives for employees to work and live here, and tax rebates for employees. He also asked about the effect on the bottom line for the City, in terms of what to prioritize, the transition from a bedroom community to a destination of its own, and the promotion of services.

Councilmember Esteve thanked the presenters and staff and spoke that Bowie, like many other communities, is wrestling with how to deal with changes in the economy. He also spoke on the priorities of residents and tradeoffs, the inevitability of growth in the area, and working proactively for the long-term interests of the community and the residents. It is important to be upfront with the residents. He stated he is on board with 80% of the plan but that everyone needs to be realistic as it is going to be a tough job ahead.

Public Hearing:

1. John Eidsness, Sarah Ln, IT Committee Chair – Comments/presentation attached.
2. Verna Teasdale, Midwood Ln – Thanked Council for their support for the 2nd Old Bowie Celebrates Festival being held on October 1, 2022, spoke about the merging of the Old Bowie Celebrates/International Festival events, and discussed the recommendations of the Economic Development Strategy Presentation as it relates to Old Town Bowie, including the creation of an Arts, Heritage, and Entertainment District.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo motioned to have this topic eligible again for public hearing during the 2nd meeting in June to allow more residents to have time to digest the document as is, and then following the second meeting in June, forwarding it to the Economic Development Committee. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion and offered an amendment of having the report be provided in a bulleted format for ease of reading. It was discussed that the presentation is in a bullet point format and is available for residents to review. It was also discussed to boost the visibility of the report. Councilmember Esteve stated he was fine with just the slides and withdrew his amendment. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo restated his original motion. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

B. Climate Action Plan Implementation – Mr. Joe Meinert, Planning Director, introduced Ms. Ashleigh Diaz, Sustainability Planner, who gave the staff report on the details on the implementation for the Climate Action Plan approved in June 2020. She gave a brief refresher on the Climate Action Plan, stating that the goal is a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. The implementation plan was created in house by the Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, the Planning staff, and herself. The implementation plan lays out objectives, metrics, and next steps for each of the action items listed in the Climate Action Plan. Ms. Diaz also discussed the comments received during the public comment period during the month of April.

Ms. Diaz stated that next steps are approval of the implementation plan, continuing to lead the way the EV's (Green Fleets, Fuel Reduction Plan, and Residential), and that a new plan would be created in 2025 as the actions are set to take place between 2020 and 2025.

Councilmember Esteve thanked Ms. Diaz for the report and her work, and asked about potential cost savings for composting pickup using the same trucks that pick up yard waste. Ms. Diaz stated that the tipping fees are significantly lower, \$25 a ton for yard waste, and \$45 a ton for food waste, vs. \$70 a ton for trash. There is also a chance for cost savings in bringing yard waste and food waste together.

Councilmember Esteve also asked about the county bill CB-014-2022 related to disposable food service ware, and asked if any conversations have been had within the City about this particular legislation. Ms. Diaz stated not that she is aware but that she has had conversations with Dr. Martha Ainsworth and has been informed about it. Councilmember Esteve suggested that this is something Council take a look at their next upcoming meeting to see if they have any interest on taking a position on this issue.

Councilmember Woofley stated he is pleased to see the continuing efforts on EV's. It is a great thing to do that has a tangible benefit locally and in the macro realm. He echoes Councilmember Esteve's commentary on composting and what can be done there. In terms of plastics and other areas that we find ourselves discussing, he thinks it needs to be done in concert with the broader governing authority. It would be difficult for a geographic area to have an effect on retailers. On the County and State level there would more success in that area, and he thinks whatever the City can do to support those efforts at that level would be important.

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 moved to accept the Climate Action Implementation Plan. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

C. Adoption of Resolution R-20-22 Establishing the Bowie Race Track Task Force – Mr. Joe Meinert, Planning Director, presented the staff report. A steering committee with numerous representatives has met several times and concluded that it would be a good idea to have a Council appointed task force. The resolution lays out the recommended charge of the committee. Public input and comments would be solicited, and the work would be completed within a ten-month period, having the task force provide recommendations by July 1st of next year.

Mayor Adams thanked Councilmember Harrison for her time and effort, and guidance from others.

Councilmember Esteve spoke on concerns of the subcommittee model, wanting to make sure it would be a collaborative process. He stated it is a very representative group and wants to make sure they operate in good faith. Mr. Meinert stated there would be continuing meetings of the executive steering committee and would provide oversight. They would draw upon the expertise of the subcommittees to design a public process and would be an integrated process.

Councilmember Harrison addressed Councilmember Esteve's concerns, stating that she and the Mayor had had the same concerns, and wanted to make sure the subcommittees would go to the steering committee without having a huge group of people in the decision making process. They would have a charge from the executive committee and would not be acting on their own. A representative of the subcommittees would attend the meetings of the executive committee. It would be very collaborative.

Councilmember Esteve asked if on the executive committee, there could be a representative of the subcommittee. Councilmember Harrison stated that that is the plan. Councilmember Esteve asked if that could be spelled out in the resolution. City Manager Lott stated that City staff work for the Council and could put in whatever they wanted. Councilmember Esteve stated that if verbal direction from Council is good enough, then he is okay with that. He just wanted to make sure that is clear in the process. Mayor Adams asked if Mr. Meinert had that information and direction.

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 Esteve moved to adopt Resolution R-20-22 Establishing the Bowie Race Track Task Force. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu 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 10:12 p.m.

May 16, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Fifer". The script is cursive and fluid.

Carolyn Fifer (for City Clerk Awilda Hernandez)
Administrative Associate to the City Clerk

Information Technology Committee

Comments on Draft Economic Development Strategy

The Bowie City Council consistently demonstrates its commitment to eliminate the Digital Divide for residents and make its City operations secure, effective, and cost efficient. All City policies about public and private development should facilitate secure, effective, affordable digital access for residents and businesses.

Access to digital communications is as much a necessity as power, water, and waste management. The City's review of the Draft Economic Development Strategy should include evaluating its impact on:

- Affordable Access to Data Services
- Building Design
- Energy Use
- Water and Waste Management

The City might not enjoy express authority to require certain standards that the Draft recommends but as stated in the Draft Economic Development Strategy:

The City's stated opinion on projects does carry weight with the Prince George's County Planning Board

City Residents and Businesses Benefit from Access to Multiple Data Carriers

As Economic Development opportunities are considered the City should insist developers assure residents and businesses have a choice of data providers. The IT Committee has heard complaints from residents that have access to only one Internet Provider and therefore no opportunity to bargain for lower prices or better service.

This is particularly true in rental units where the cost of installing a new fiber optic line across a landlord's property is a barrier to new providers. In a related area of City interest, restricted access also applies to providing electric power to vehicle charging stations.

The City's Dig Once Policy should apply to all development to include pre-installed spare facilities from the public right of way, across private property, and into each building. This assures that more than one internet provider would be available to tenants throughout the useful life of the building.

The last mile of digital access should not be a monopoly, nor should it be ugly.

Commercial Façade Improvement Program

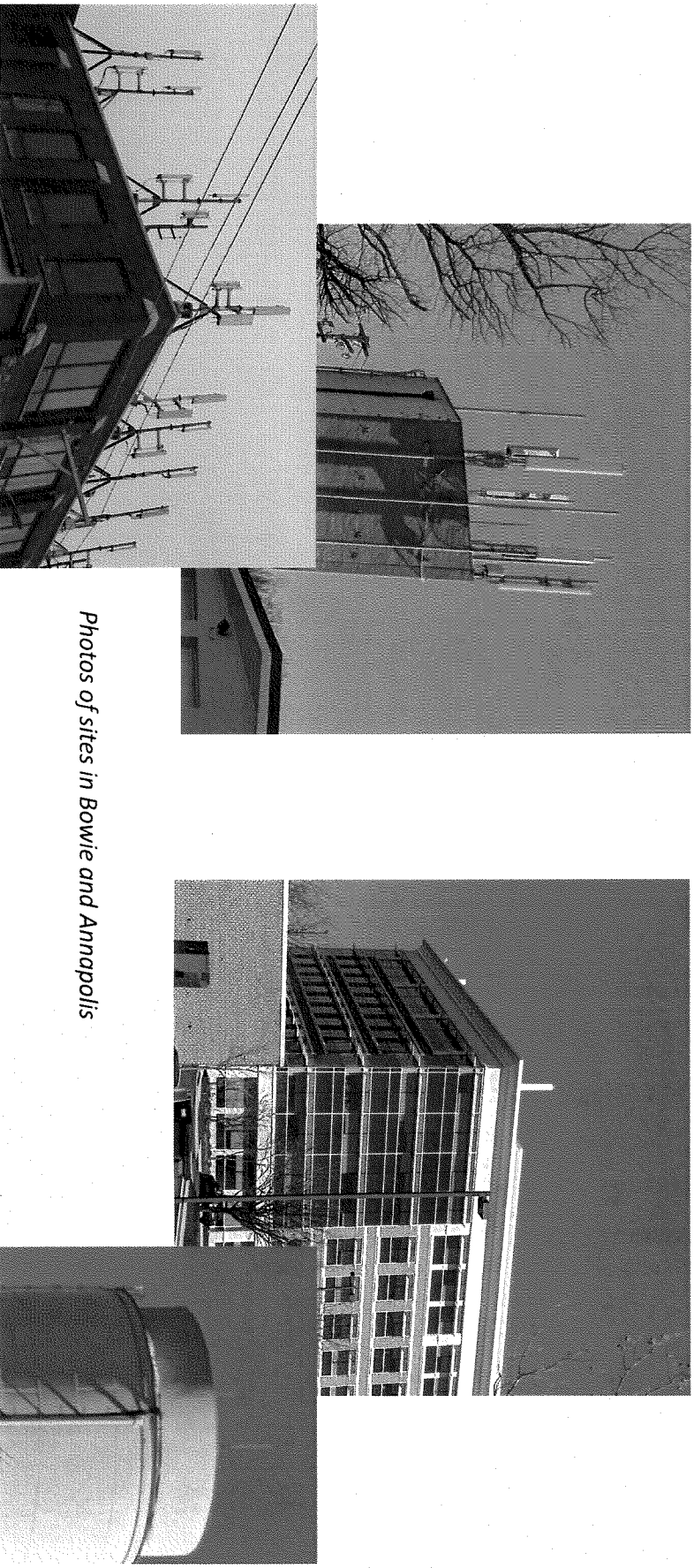
The Draft Economic Development Strategy recommends the City establish a Commercial Façade Improvement Program. This provides the City with an opportunity to address both existing buildings as well as new development.

As stated earlier, residents and businesses need choices for multiple data providers. In addition to underground service, these choices will include light pole or rooftop access for wireless data antennas, satellite and microwave dishes, or free-space optical data transmission.

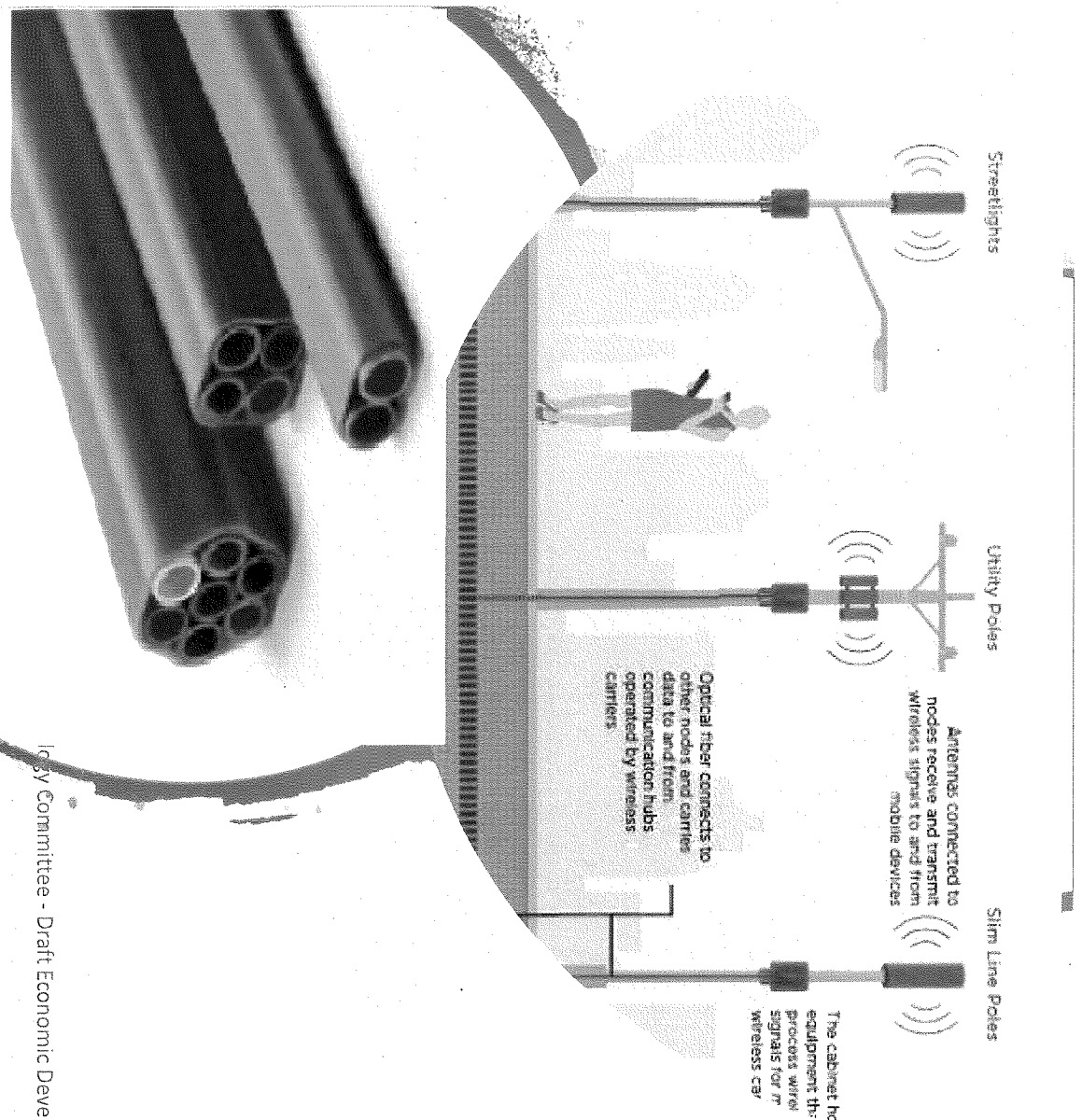
The City's "Small Wireless Facilities Design Guidelines" when applied to a Commercial Façade Improvement Program will provide benefits that support the recommendations in the Draft Plan:

- Allow access to multiple sources of data communication
- See that antennas aren't ugly eyesores
- Architectural screening to camouflage roof antennas improves worker safety as well aesthetic value

Roof Lines Can Be Ugly or Maintain Original Character



Photos of sites in Bowie and Annapolis



•DIG ONCE ... Pre-Install Spare Paths for Future Technology

- DIG ONCE with Multi-Cell**
Conduit wherever feasible – The first installation places multi-cell conduit with spare duct available for later installations.
 - Eliminate excavation for future installation
 - Eliminate first provider site capture
- Spare duct management is common practice for telecom companies and has been adapted for private property easements and maintenance requirements

See: Ocean City Boardwalk

City of Bowie MD Council Ordinances and Resolutions

City of Bowie Dig Once Guidelines

- Ordinance O-2-1

City Development Plan

- The Economic Prosperity Section addresses Smart Technology

Smart Technology Resolution R-9-21

- Smart Technology Solutions for Residents and City Operations
- Addresses the Digital Divide

City of Bowie Small Wireless Facilities Design Guidelines, April 2019