



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, June 6, 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 Bofo, Esteve, Harrison, and Ndebumadu (virtually), City Manager Lott, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Councilmember Esteve requested to amend the agenda by adding a brief discussion under Old Business in reference to the grant program for outdoor dining in local restaurants.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

City Clerk Hernandez stated for the record that ten comments were received via email and they are attached to these minutes for the record.

1. Abigail Snyder, Environmental Advisory Committee Chair – Spoke in regard to having Council support Prince George's County Bill CB-14-2022 Accessory Disposable Food Service Ware.
2. Robert Johnson, Pin Oak Pkwy – Invited everyone to attend the Juneteenth Family Bike Ride and Festivities that will take place at Allen Pond Park on Sunday, June 19th.
3. Jeffery Cooper – Spoke in support of continuing with legislation dealing with foreclosed properties in the City.
4. Rhonda Billingsen, Durham Dr. - Spoke in support of continuing with legislation dealing with foreclosed properties in the City.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Ms. Emily Luna from the LAYC (Latin American Youth Center) Maryland Multicultural Youth Center provided information on the services the center provides to Maryland youth.
- B. Council presented a City Proclamation to Ms. Evelyn Policarpio for being selected as Prince George's County 2022 Teacher of the Year.
- C. Council presented Recognition Certificates to the Bowie Youth Council and congratulated them on their inaugural year.

- D. Council presented a City Proclamation to Ms. Lisa Smith for her years of service as the Bowie BIC Executive Director and congratulated her on her retirement.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Esteve requested a proclamation be presented at the June 21 Council meeting recognizing LGBTQ Pride Month.

Mayor Adams thanked staff and everyone that participated at Bowiefest. It was a great turn-out especially for being in hiatus for the last two years.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott thanked Council for recognizing staff and the great work they did in putting together Bowiefest. He also congratulated Council on passing the City's FY 2023 budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Esteve made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of May 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Proclamation P-15-22 Proclaiming June 2022 as Men's Health Month in the City of Bowie; C) Adoption of Proclamation P-16-22 Proclaiming June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth in the City of Bowie; D) Adoption of Proclamation P-17-22 Recognizing June 4-12, 2022, as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week in the City of Bowie; E) Adoption of Proclamation P-18-22 Proclaiming June 20-26, 2022 as Pollinator Week in the City of Bowie; F) Adoption of Resolution R-16-22 Accepting Bid Proposal for On-Call Plumbing Services; G) Adoption of Resolution R-17-22 Accepting Bid Proposal for On-Call Electrical Services; H) Adoption of Resolution R-18-22 Accepting Bid Proposal for Custodial Services at the Public Works Department; I) Adoption of Resolution R-19-22 Accepting Bid Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services at the Solid Waste Facility, Well and Water Tank Sites, and Wastewater Pump Station Facilities; J) Adoption of Resolution R-20-22 As Amended – Establishing the Bowie Race Track Property Task Force; K) Adoption of Resolution R-23-22 Contract Renewal for Street Repair; L) Adoption of Resolution R-24-22 Waiving Bidding Requirements for the Purchase of One Refuse Truck; M) Adoption of Resolution R-25-22 Accepting Bid Proposal for Repairs to a Wooden Rail on Mitchellville Road at Route 197. Mayor Pro Tem Boafu seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation – City Attorney Levan briefed Council on the proposed legislation she is working on with certain directions that Code Enforcement staff will be able to take when it comes to properties within the City limits that have been foreclosed. It will be on the June 21 Council meeting agenda for Council's action.

B. Discussion on outdoor dining restaurant grant program – Councilmember Esteve commented that several restaurants have approached him to see if the timeframe for purchasing outdoor seating materials for the grant program could be moved back to April 1st instead of May 1st. Several of them begin to prepare for the summer months in March and April. City Manager Lott responded that there is no problem with the change as long as all other parameters of the grant program remain in place.

Councilmember Esteve motioned to push back the timeframe of receipts to April 1st instead of May 1st. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bowie BIC Update - Executive Director Lisa Smith and Vice Chair Wendy Jenkins presented to Council the accomplishments of Bowie BIC in the last year. They currently have 18 BIC Accelerator and Graduate companies, they generated over 422 jobs and \$42M generated in revenues.

Mayor Adams again thanked Ms. Smith for her years of service in the Bowie BIC and wished her well in her retirement.

B. Discussion on Belair Drive Speed – Councilmember Harrison commented on a complaint she has received from a resident about the speeding along Belair Drive and measures to control the speed that he would like to see the City install such as speed humps.

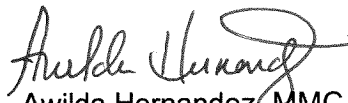
City Manager Lott informed Council that a speed traffic assessment was done on this portion of Belair Drive in 2019 and it met the standards for Level II speed calming devices (speed humps). A community meeting was held at Kenhill that allowed residents to attend and voice their concerns. An overwhelming number of residents were against the installation of the speed humps, so they were not installed. City Manager Lott suggest the installation of speed cameras in neighborhoods now that there is new State legislation allowing the installation of the cameras outside of just school areas. Legislation will have to be created and will be presented to Council at the June 21 Council meeting for action.

C. Discussion on Juneteenth Celebration – City Community Outreach Specialist, Lori Cunningham, briefed Council on all the events the City will be hosting in celebration of Juneteenth.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote). The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: Melissa Richardson <ladymelissa@solace2you.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: To be read at June 6, 2022, City Council meetin, and placed in the records.
Re: Squatters concerns in conjunction with pending approval of Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation

Greetings, Mr. Mayor and City Council Members of Bowie, Maryland :

We want to first thank our neighbors, Mrs. Karen Williamson and Mr. Jeffery Cooper for their dedication to put forth our concern about squatters in our community.

We are in agreement with the ***Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation, that requires banks*** to register their foreclosed properties with required State of Maryland actions to provide public safety and security of the property while in their possession. In doing so, we agree that the City of Bowie and the communities HOAs in Bowie are also notified when homes are foreclosed so that they may be aware of the risk of squatters illegally occupying such properties. In addition, it would be helpful to require the mortgage holders of these properties to install a monitoring system to record unauthorized entry and occupation. Such action will help law enforcement identify violators.

As residents of Bowie since 1995, living in the Woodmore Highlands community, we have noticed over the last few years, the adverse consequences of having squatters occupy foreclosed homes. We saw a lack of upkeep to the properties, uncertain suspicious activities related to the goings and comings of different people, and the possession of dogs that appeared dangerous, and often barked in an aggressive manner when one would walk by the property, even when the dogs were inside the home. This is unsettling.

As law abiding, tax paying, voting home owners, we should not be forced to contend with the lack of concern by the mortgage holders of these foreclosed homes. Their lack of concern puts us at real risks to our physical safety, along with seeing the devaluation of our neighborhood, esthetically and economically.

Mr. Mayor, and Council Members, your support of this legislation is requested.

Kindly,

Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Melissa) Richardson
Woodmore Highland Residents
301 301 390 5870 home
301 919 4184 cell
ladymelissa@solace2you.org

Sent from my Galaxy

Awilda Hernandez

From: Michael Doaks <michaeldoaks@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:06 PM
To: Mayortadams@cityofbowie.org; Adrian Boaf; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; ndebumadu@cityofbowie.org; Ingrid Harrison; Henri Gardner; Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears; Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Foreclosoure Legislation

Dear Bowie Elected Officials,

I am writing in support of legislation that would put in place rules and procedures for handling squatters who occupy foreclosed and vacant homes in Bowie neighborhoods. Squatters are taking advantage of loopholes in the law that delay actions on the part of banks and REO companies to evict them from illegally occupied properties. More proactive measures need to be put in place that would keep vacant foreclosed homes secure and report illegal occupancy to the authorities.

I am support of Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation. This legislation would require BANKS to register their foreclosed properties with required State actions to provide public safety and security of the property while in their possession.

Mayor, City of Bowie, Honorable Tim Adams - tadams@cityofbowie.org;
District 3, City of Bowie, Councilman Adrian Boaf - aboaf@cityofbowie.org
District 1, City of Bowie, Councilman Michael Esteve - mesteve@cityofbowie.org
District 2, City of Bowie, Councilman Dufour Woodley - dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org
District 4, City of Bowie, Councilman Roxy Ndebumadu - rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org
Member at Large, City of Bowie, Councilman Ingrid Harrison - iharrison@cityofbowie.org
Member at Large, City of Bowie, Councilman Henri Gardner - hgardner@cityofbowie.org
City Manager, City of Bowie, Mr. Alfred Lott - alott@cityofbowie.org;
Assistant City Manager, City of Bowie, Mr. Daniel Mears – dmears@cityofbowie.org
City Clerk, City of Bowie, Awilda Hernandez – Ahernandez@cityofbowie.org

Awilda Hernandez

From: David Boone <djb8742@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 7:18 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Speed in Bowie

I have submitted complaints to the Mayor of Bowie about the speeding, tailgating and dangerous drivers on Kembridge Drive for a number of years with no positive results to remedy this situation. The main area is from Kenhill Drive to Kenilworth Elementary and involves men, women, old, young, cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles and just about anything on wheels. Two of our cars have been hit and we have a hard time getting out of our driveway. This will get much worse since it seems to be a thoroughfare now, and much worse with ongoing development at Melwood and expansion of route 197. Please help.

David Boone
12320 Kembridge Drive
Bowie, MD 20715
Djb8742@hotmail.com
240-338-2523
Sent from my iPhone

Awilda Hernandez

From: JACKIE NAVES <jackynav@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Timothy Adams; aboafi@cityofbowie.org; Dufour Woolfley;
mdebumadu@cityofbowie.org; Ingrid Harrison; Henri Gardner; Alfred Lott; Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Support for Mortgage Foreclosure legislation

Dear legislators,

As homeowner's in the Woodmore Highland subdivision, we fully support the Mortgage Foreclosure legislation and the Woodmore Highlands Homeowner Association.

David and Jacqueline Naves
3101 Dunkagle Ct
Bowie, MD 20721

Awilda Hernandez

From: Elmer C Hebron <chebron1@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:01 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation Requesting your support

Good evening Mayor Adams and City Council Members,

I am a retired Metropolitan Police Sergeant and the Chairman of the Woodmore Highlands Home Owner Association, Architectural Control Committed. While a member of the police department, I investigated crimes inside vacant houses. Some of the crimes were sexual assaults, illegal drug activity and stolen property.

As a member of the Home Owner Association, I investigated vacant properties that were taken over by squatters. During my investigations, I found similar problems that I found while on the police department. One vacant property in Woodmore Highlands were occupied by drug dealers who used the property as a drug safe house. At another property occupied by squatters, drug activities were reported. Three properties in all have been occupied by squatters in Woodmore Highlands. In each incident, the neighbors expressed to me how terrified they were having squatters nearby. Especially female property owners and property owners with children.

Several times I had contact with management companies of the vacant properties occupied by squatters. The management companies were not based in Maryland. They were from Georgia and Arizona. The problem was not in their back yard. In each incident when I expressed how frightened and upset the neighbors were having squatters next door, they appeared to be unconcerned. Sometimes I would call a management company and no one would answer. Very seldom did I get a call back. In addition, due to the legal system, once squatters occupy a property, it can take months or over a year to get them out. The key is to prevent them from entering.

Therefore, for the safety of Bowie residents, I urge the Bowie City Council to support legislation requiring Mortgage Foreclosure and Finance Companies to register with the City when they have foreclosed property.

Craig Hebron

Woodmore Highlands

Awilda Hernandez

From: Milly Hall <hallmilly@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez; Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu; Ingrid Harrison; Henri Gardner
Cc: Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Mortgage Legislation Requesting Your Support
Attachments: Mortgage F.Leg support.pdf

***Requesting Your Support
Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation***

June 6, 2022

Good Evening, Mayor Adams, Bowie City Councilmembers and staff:

As a citizen of Bowie and my neighborhood for 24 years i'm deeply concerned over the uptick of squatters we've witnessed invade our community recently, and the lack of response from the city council.

With the Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation, it would be beneficial for all parties for the City of Bowie to make notice to the HOAs of vacant foreclosed properties in order to help prevent the issue of squatters. The enforcement and support of this legislation from the City would make a world of difference in addressing this disturbance and safety hazard.

Thank you,

Milly Hall
Woodmore Highlands HOA
Secretary/VP

Awilda Hernandez

From: Adam <alevi_1998@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu; Ingrid Harrison; Alfred Lott; Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Hallmilly
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Proposed Foreclosure Legislation

Dear Mayor Adams, Council Members and Staff:

I understand you will be discussing and voting on mortgage foreclosure legislation at tonight's Council meeting. As I understand, the legislation will require lenders to register their foreclosed properties with the City of Bowie and be required to maintain and secure the property while it is in their possession. Members of my community recently had a dispute with a lender, it's realtor and squatters that claimed certain rights to remain on the premises. The squatters did not maintain the property and were disrespectful to the HOA leadership.

Further, I understand the Bowie Police Department has limited authority to address such situations. To the extent additional legislation is needed to fill-in gaps in legal authority to address such situations, I believe that the Council should move swiftly as mortgage foreclosure relief will be ending in many local jurisdictions.

Thank you,

Adam Levi

Bowie, Maryland

20721

Awilda Hernandez

From: K. Williamson <williamsonkl@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:38 PM
To: Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu; Ingrid Harrison; Henri Gardner; Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears; Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Jeffrey Cooper; Milly Hall; Woodmore Highlands HOA
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: City of Bowie Council Meeting for 06/06/2022 - Citizen Participation Letter from Karen Williamson

To The city of Bowie Mayor, the Honorable Tim Adams, the City Bowie of Councilmen, and the City of Bowie Staff,

Good evening all.

Please add this email to the record for the Council hearing tonight on 06/06/2022.

It is with my sincere regret that I will not be able to attend in person the hearing for the ***Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation*** per the planned Agenda. I tested positive for COVID and must follow the State of Maryland Health isolation protocols. Mr. Jeffery Cooper and I have continued to bring this matter and concern to the attention of the council. Please engage with Mr. Jeffery Cooper as you would with me if I were present. I would like to thank my councilman Adrian Boafo for addressing all of my correspondences and conversations that have led us to an understanding of the basic needs for this legislation. Additionally, I must thank our Mayor, the Honorable Tim Adam, for assuring that this agenda item remained as planned on tonight's discussion.

I remain firm in our belief that our progressive suburban city must establish a precedence for foreclosed property occupancy status with regard to squatter takeover. While there are still some minor details to work out, I appreciate that our city leadership regards this matter and will continue to work to a full resolution.

I look forward to being online at the time of the session this evening.

Sincerely,

Karen Williamson
14206 Dunwood Valley Drive, Woodmore Highlands HOA Community
Bowie, MD 20721

Sent from Mail for Windows

Awilda Hernandez

From: Gail Elkins <ge3203@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 6:47 PM
To: Timothy Adams; Adrian Bofo; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu; Ingrid Harrison; Henri Gardner; Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears; Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Letter in support of neighbors in Woodmore Highland Re: Banks, Mortgages and Squatters
Attachments: Letter Re Squatters and Mortgage Companies (June 6 2022).pdf

Dear Mr. Mayor, Councilmembers, Madam City Clerk, City Administrator -

Please see the attached letter for tonight's Council Meeting and take it under advisement at the appropriate time during the meeting.

Sincerely,

Gail L. Davis Elkins

Gail L. Davis Elkins
3203 Dunwood Ridge Terrace
Bowie, Maryland 20721
(H) (301) 218-8997 * (M) (202) 210-1157

June 6, 2022

Greetings Mayor Adams and Bowie City Councilmembers:

Succinctly, I support my neighbors on the Mortgage Foreclosure Legislation. This is common-sense legislation that can easily help this and other communities in Bowie avoid squatters taking over properly illegitimately, preventing re-sale of foreclosed homes, for example, and essentially disrupting the community.

Sincerely,
Gail L. Davis Elkins

Cc:

Mayor, City of Bowie, Honorable Tim Adams - tadams@cityofbowie.org;
District 3, City of Bowie, Councilman Adrian Boafo - abofo@cityofbowie.org
District 1, City of Bowie, Councilman Michael Esteve - mesteve@cityofbowie.org
District 2, City of Bowie, Councilman Dufour Woodley - dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org
District 4, City of Bowie, Councilman Roxy Ndebumadu - rndebunadu@cityofbowie.org
Member at Large, City of Bowie, Councilman Ingrid Harrison - iharrison@cityofbowie.org
Member at Large, City of Bowie, Councilman Henri Gardner - hgardner@cityofbowie.org
City Manager, City of Bowie, Mr. Alfred Lott - alott@cityofbowie.org;
Assistant City Manager, City of Bowie, Mr. Daniel Mears - dmears@cityofbowie.org
City Clerk, City of Bowie, Awilda Hernandez - ahernandez@cityofbowie.org

Awilda Hernandez

From: Ingrid Harrison
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 6:58 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Fw: (EXTERNAL): CITIZEN PARTICIPATION REQUEST JUNE 6TH AGENDA TRAFFIC/SPEEDING on BELAIR DRIVE

Hi Awilda,

Looks like he did not include you on this...
Please share with the Council. Thank you!
Ingrid

Ingrid S. Harrison

City of Bowie
Councilmember At-Large
Mobile: (301) 204-4911
Office: (301) 809-3029



From: HOLMES,HOLMES and HOLMES <ldh0829@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 4:53 PM
Cc: Ingrid Harrison <iharrison@cityofbowie.org>
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION REQUEST JUNE 6TH AGENDA TRAFFIC/SPEEDING on BELAIR DRIVE

Hi Ms. Hernandez,
Please share the comments in my letter to the Council...Thanks

Good Evening Members of the Bowie City Council!
My name is Linwood Holmes & I have resided @ 3000 Belair Dr for 43 1/2 years.

For several years, & for whatever reason, especially since the pandemic restrictions have been lifted, the amount of traffic on Belair has increased tremendously: IT IS INSANE !!!!

That being said, this is the BIG PROBLEM & ISSUES:

The proximity between BBT to the old Bowie Annex:

- 1) I've clocked speeds up to 61mp from all kinds of vehicles @ ALL hours
- 2) school buses to 48 mph (& this is normal...ALL DAY) from early am to the late evening, & more & more they are using B.Drive as a shortcut (AGAIN) to avoid the back up on Rte 197.
- 3) more & more cars passing other cars, school buses, metro buses, over the double line, sometimes passing 3 vehicles at one time
- 4) the noise from trucks, muscle cars & school buses from their loud engines, exhaust & tires is twice as loud when they are speeding
- 5) The speeding is out of control...It's become the norm...It's become more of a Highway...
- (6) As a result of the pandemic & has continued, MORE & MORE kids are walking to & from school, joggers, families walking with their kids, dogs & baby strollers, and people walking their dogs, etc. at all hours...

7) people don't stop at the stop signs, many only slow down just enough to turn...(Tulip Grove Drive, Starlight & Ln & Trinity Dr)

8) Since I retired, I have had no peace. I have to keep my TV on to get to sleep, even with the windows are closed, Constantly getting woke up...

THE BOTTOM LINE: is 1/2 THESE PEOPLE DONT CARE one bit & the other have just don't even pay attention, they just follow the lead of the car in front of them...

There is a licensed DAYCARE CENTER @ at 3005 Belair Dr. Parents start dropping their kids off as early as 6 am & start picking them up as early as 1 pm...to 6, 7 in the evening...They park their cars on both sides of the street to drop their kids off...The danger of crossing the street & unloading & loading their cars is wrong is not acceptable.. it's just like any school zone...

The suggestion of putting a speed camera in the middle between the 2 points, is definitely a start (in operation 24/7/365)

Pedestrian Right Of Way... BOLDLY marked across Starlight Ln & Crossing Belair Dr at/to Starlight Ln, Skylark Ln the same. I think speed humps should be somewhere in there too.

Thank you for your time....

Linwood Holmes