



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu, Councilmembers Estève, Gardner, and Woolfley, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, Assistant to the City Clerk Fifer, and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu motioned to remove Item D under Old Business "Discussion/Request for Approval for a retirement celebration in honor of Judge Sheila Adams" from the agenda. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed 3-1-1 (Estève voted no, Adams abstained).

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Assistant to the City Clerk Fifer stated that 8 written comments were received and would be attached to the minutes for the record.

1. Milly Hall – Spoke against tobacco store being open 24 hours near a residential area.
2. Patrice Murray - Spoke against tobacco store being open 24 hours near a residential area.
3. Terry Nuriddin - Spoke against tobacco store being open 24 hours near a residential area.
4. Maureen Quinones, Samuel Ogle Middle School – Spoke about Environmental Awareness Art Project done by students that are displayed in the City Hall lobby for the next week.
5. Rhonda Billingslea - Spoke against tobacco store being open 24 hours near a residential area.
6. Connie Carter – Spoke in support of renaming the dog park after former Councilmember Dennis Brady.
7. Lisa Babin/Timothy Holmes – Spoke against the development of a storage facility on Elder Oaks Blvd.
8. Gary Allen – Spoke in support of renaming dog park after former Councilmember Dennis Brady.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Administration of Oath of Office by Mayor Timothy J. Adams to Jarryd Hawkins, At-Large, and Clinton Truesdale, Sr., District 3 – Jarryd Hawkins was sworn in as an At-Large Councilmember and Clinton Truesdale, Sr. was sworn in as the District 3 Councilmember. District 23 State Delegate Adrian Bofo presented commendations to the new Councilmembers on behalf of the District 23 team (Senator Ron Watson, Delegate Marvin Holmes, Delegate Kym Taylor, and himself) and the State of Maryland.

B. Remarks by Newly Appointed Councilmember - Councilmember Hawkins and Councilmember Truesdale thanked their family and friends for their support, and thanked Council for selecting them, and said they looked forward to serving the City and its residents.

C. Presentation of Proclamation P-3-23 to the Bowie High School Marching Band – Mayor Adams presented Proclamation P-3-23 to the Bowie High School Marching Band for their performance at Governor's Moore Inauguration.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-In:

Councilmember Gardner motioned to appoint Mr. Leslie Kaunitz to the Public Safety Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Mayor Adams swore in Mr. Kaunitz to the Public Safety Committee.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu recognized the constituents who came forward to share their concerns about the tobacco store in Pointer Ridge. Councilmember Ndebumadu asked City Attorney Levan if they could do any of the things that residents asked them to do regarding the tobacco store. City Attorney Levan said Council has no authority to exercise any control over land use issues, however they could write a letter to County Council expressing the City Council's concern. Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu suggested residents reach out to County Council as well to voice their concerns and desires.

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu spoke about the International Council of Shopping Centers Conference that will be held in May and stated that she and Councilmember Gardner will be attending that conference. She spoke of wanting to create a survey for residents to provide feedback on what businesses they would like to see in Bowie. In addition, she spoke of wanting to hold a developer roundtable to find out industry trends.

Councilmember Estève stated he agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu and Assistant City Manager Mears' comments but cautioned that there is a major disconnect between what residents say they want and what they actually do regarding redevelopment and businesses/spending and the City should take caution prior to spending any additional money for studies as there is the potential to spend a lot of money and not end up with any actionable products. It's a word of caution but he otherwise supports the spirit of what Council is trying to do.

Councilmember Gardner echoed the words of Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu and Councilmember Estève but stated that something does need to be done and asked the City Attorney if the information shared with Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu on what actions Council can take regarding businesses and uses could be shared with the residents so they understand that Council is not involved in the retail process. City Attorney Levan cannot provide advice to the public but could work with the City Manager's Office and the Planning Department for them to create sharable information.

Mayor Adams shared with the new Councilmembers that there is limited control that Council has

on a lot of things and said it is about educating the public. He also wanted them to know that there is a mischaracterization that they were trading a tobacco shop for a school and that Council has been working hard to keep Pointer Ridge open and to see what they can do.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Assistant City Manager Mears, on behalf of City staff, welcomed and congratulated Councilmember Hawkins and Councilmember Truesdale and stated that staff looks forward to working with them. He also stated that City staff have been working hard on the preparation of the City budget which will be presented soon to Council. It is the opportunity to get into the policy direction and the guidance to City staff for the next fiscal year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Gardner made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Adoption of Resolution R-11-23 Accepting Bid for the Replacement of Generators and Automatic Transfer Switches at Water Well and Wastewater Pump Station Facilities B) Adoption of Resolution R-12-23 Accepting Bid Proposal for Maintenance of Roadside Drainage Swales and C) Adoption of Resolution R-13-23 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirement of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement for the Purchase of Two (2) Generac Mobile Light Towers. Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY23 Mid-Year Budget Report – Assistant City Manager Daniel Mears gave the FY23 Mid-Year Budget Report to Council, including discussing progress on objectives from many departments. Finance Director Byron Matthews provided additional information including revenue and expense numbers, this year versus last year.

Councilmember Esteve asked for the status of the replacement of the Whitemarsh bridge. Assistant City Manager Mears responded that it is on track for completion in early spring.

Councilmember Woolfley asked about the updates to the stage at Allen Pond Park. Community Services Director Sally Hein responded that they are recommending to scale back the stage on the same site, more modular, that way the picnic area will not need to be relocated and it will save money for the city.

B. Employee Comp Time Policies – Human Resources Director Steven Haley briefed Council on the City's employee comp (compensatory) time policies for both exempt and non-exempt employees. The policy is in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The City offers comp time to salaried employees at normal rate not time and a half.

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu would like to see the dollar amounts of hourly versus salary. Mr. Haley will prepare the numbers and forward to Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu thanked Mr. Hailey for his report.

C. Pickleball Courts at Glen Allen Park – At Council's request, Community Services Director Sally Hein conducted an analysis on the potential of having pickleball courts at Glen Allen Park, or elsewhere in the City, and provided her research to Council. Council concurred to give Ms. Hein additional time to look into this more thoroughly and will have the topic brought back at a future meeting.

D. Discussion/Request for Approval for naming the City's Dog Park in honor of former Councilmember Dennis Brady – Council concurred for staff to determine the costs and plan for rededicating the Dog Park and will bring that information back to Council at a future meeting for a vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Estève second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn Fifer /sh".

Carolyn Fifer, CMC
Assistant to the City Clerk

From: [Awilda Hernandez](#)
To: [Alfred Lott](#); [Daniel Mears](#)
Cc: [Carolyn Fifer](#)
Subject: Fwd: {EXTERNAL}: Peaceful Protest To Let You Know – The Tobacco Store Has To Go: Sponsored by the Civic Engagement Committee of the Collington Station HOA, Inc.
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 12:00:30 PM

FYI...

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Begin forwarded message:

From: GAIL BASS <gail.bass@verizon.net>
Date: February 21, 2023 at 9:39:19 AM EST
To: Awilda Hernandez <ahernandez@cityofbowie.org>, Rosann Ndebumadu <rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org>, Timothy Adams <tadams@cityofbowie.org>, Henri Gardner <hgardner@cityofbowie.org>, Michael Esteve <mesteve@cityofbowie.org>, Dufour Woolfley <dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org>
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Peaceful Protest To Let You Know – The Tobacco Store Has To Go: Sponsored by the Civic Engagement Committee of the Collington Station HOA, Inc.

Dear Bowie City Official:

This 24/7 tobacco shop has been permitted to open in the Bowie Pointer Ridge Shopping Center. This is UNACCEPTABLE.

We want your support in having it closed immediately.

This unsavory retail creates an unnecessary hang-out and will endanger the safety of all who come to shop, including Bowie children who come to the shopping center to the Sky-Zone and the many Bowie senior citizens who live in the Pointer Ridge vicinity and currently walk to do the little shopping the center still offers.

The presence of this type of retail will not only plummet the value of our precious homes but also lower the respectability of our Bowie neighborhoods.

As a Bowie resident, I ask you to do the following:

1. Pass an emergency ordinance disallowing any 24/7 tobacco shops.
2. Inventory the existing vacant Bowie retail spaces and forbid this type of use.
3. Legally inquire into the (a) enabling statutory law for this type of retail and (b) request the Prince George's County Delegation to pass emergency disabling legislation.

4. Trace the systemic State and County process used to fast track this type of retail.

5. Legally challenge Prince George's County CB-009-2023, which is an attempt to control these types of establishments, not eradicate them from residential neighborhoods.

As a Bowie resident, I am asking you to do these things and anything else that will eliminate this toxic venue from our residential communities.

Constituent and Voter,

David & Gail Bass

15105 Johnstone Lane, Bowie, MD 20721

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->
<!--[endif]-->

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Awilda Hernandez
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 6:36 PM
To: Carolyn Fifer
Subject: Fwd: {EXTERNAL}: Tobacco Store 24/7 Pointer Ridge Shopping Center

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Begin forwarded message:

From: D Cuning <dcunning39@yahoo.com>
Date: February 20, 2023 at 5:32:54 PM EST
To: Awilda Hernandez <ahernandez@cityofbowie.org>
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Tobacco Store 24/7 Pointer Ridge Shopping Center

Concern over the Tobacco Store located in the Pointer Ridge Shopping Center located on Route 301 in South Bowie. It is my understanding that this business is allowed to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many in the near-by Pointer Ridge and Ternberry housing communities have only recently learned of the relatively new business establishment and are deeply concerned about such a business establishment. I would like to share my concerns about the 24/7 Tobacco Store during the Public Comment period at the Bowie City Council Meeting on February 21, 2023.

There exist multiple establishments in the City of Bowie (especially along Route 301) that currently sale Tobacco Products 24 hours a day. This includes an existing gas station located at Route 301 and Pointer Ridge Rd. (less than 500 feet away) from this newly established business. Tobacco products continue to be a health risk for the public and a leading cause of Cancer. This new business is located in a shopping center near a Dollar Tree Store and the Sky Zone, businesses that are frequented by young people. While zoning laws may allow for such establishments to be located in neighborhood shopping centers, this business at this location, and the only business operating 24 hours a day in the shopping center, that markets products that are a known health risk for the public, appears to be poor choice for the City of Bowie. If we cannot do anything else, let us at least limit this business operating hours to a reasonable period of 10-12 hours a day. However, the City of Bowie does not need any more businesses that sale products that present a known risk to the community.

Thank you.

David Cunningham,
Resident of Ternberry 20 years,
City of Bowie, MD.

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https://us5.proofpointessentials.com/index01.php?mod_id=&mod_option=gitem&mail_id=76932368-89CBnfm1uoCk&r_address=ernandez%40cityofbowie.org&report=

Awilda Hernandez

From: Awilda Hernandez
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears
Cc: Carolyn Fifer
Subject: Fwd: {EXTERNAL}: 24 / 7Tobacco Shop Pointer Ridge Shopping Center

FYI...

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Begin forwarded message:

From: "G. Anthony Williams" <gawilliams105@gmail.com>
Date: February 21, 2023 at 2:41:37 PM EST
To: Awilda Hernandez <ahernandez@cityofbowie.org>, Rosann Ndebumadu <rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org>, Timothy Adams <tadams@cityofbowie.org>, Henri Gardner <hgardner@cityofbowie.org>, Michael Esteve <mesteve@cityofbowie.org>, Dufour Woolfley <dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org>
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: 24 / 7Tobacco Shop Pointer Ridge Shopping Center

Dear Bowie City Official: This 24/7 tobacco shop has been permitted to open in the Bowie Pointer Ridge Shopping Center. This is UNACCEPTABLE. We want your support in having it closed immediately. This unsavory retail creates an unnecessary hang-out and will endanger the safety of all who come to shop, including Bowie children who come to the shopping center to the Sky-Zone and the many Bowie senior citizens who live in the Pointer Ridge vicinity and currently walk to do the little shopping the center still offers. The presence of this type of retail will not only plummet the value of our precious homes but also lower the respectability of our Bowie neighborhoods. As a Bowie resident, I ask you to do the following: 1. Pass an emergency ordinance disallowing any 24/7 tobacco shops. 2. Inventory the existing vacant Bowie retail spaces and forbid this type of use. 3. Legally inquire into the (a) enabling statutory law for this type of retail and (b) request the Prince George's County Delegation to pass emergency disabling legislation. 4. Trace the systemic State and County process used to fast-track this type of retail. 5. Legally challenge Prince George's County CB-009-2023, which is an attempt to control these types of establishments, not eradicate them from residential neighborhoods. As a Bowie resident, I am asking you to do these things and anything else that will eliminate this toxic venue from our residential communities.

Constituent and Voter

Glenn & Sheryl Williams
105 Johnsberg lane
Bowie, Maryland 20721

Awilda Hernandez

From: Hon. Dr. Isaac C. Trouth, III <itrouth@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:40 PM
To: Carolyn Fifer
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Fw: Celebration for Sheilla Adams

FYI

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Hon. Dr. Isaac C. Trouth, III <itrouth@aol.com>
To: Tim Adams <tadams@cityofbowie.org>; Awilda Hernandez <ahernandez@cityofbowie.org>
Cc: hgardner@cityofbowie.org <hgardner@cityofbowie.org>; Rosann Ndebumadu <rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org>; Michael Estève <mesteve@cityofbowie.org>; DuFour Woolfley <dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 06:38:11 PM EST
Subject: Celebration for Sheilla Adams

Hello All,

Why is the celebration for Mayor Adams's wife an agenda item? Rephased, why is the City of Bowie considering this as an expense? Why this expense when our City Expenses exceed our City Income? Please help me understand the rationale behind the decision. Thank You!

Regards,

Dr. Isaac C. Trouth, III
Former Mayor Pro Tem and District \$ Council Member
City of Bowie Maryland
15204 Dalebrooke Drive
Bowie, MD 20721

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Hon. Dr. Isaac C. Trouth, III <itrouth@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:41 PM
To: Carolyn Fifer
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Fw: The Tobacco Store has to Go! (Citizen Participation)

FYI

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Hon. Dr. Isaac C. Trouth, III <itrouth@aol.com>
To: Tim Adams <tadams@cityofbowie.org>; Awilda Hernandez <ahernandez@cityofbowie.org>
Cc: hgardner@cityofbowie.org <hgardner@cityofbowie.org>; dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org <dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org>; mesteve@cityofbowie.org <mesteve@cityofbowie.org>; rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org <rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 06:24:55 PM EST
Subject: The Tobacco Store has to Go! (Citizen Participation)

Subject: The Tobacco Store has to Go! (Citizen Participation)

Dear Mayor Adams, and Bowie Council members,

It has come to my attention that a 24/7 tobacco shop has been permitted to open in the Pointer Ridge Shopping Center. This is **UNACCEPTABLE**.



This unsavory retail creates an unnecessary hang-out and will endanger the safety of all who come to shop, including the children who come to the shopping center to the Sky- Zone and the many senior citizens who live in the Pointer Ridge vicinity and currently walk to do the little shopping the center still offers.

The presence of this type of retail will not only plummet the value of our precious homes but also lower the respectability of our neighborhoods. Currently within one mile on both sides of the Pointer Ridge Shopping Center housing developments are being built. Both communities are asking upwards of \$600,000 for a townhome. Most of the homes in a two-mile radius of this shopping center are valued at over \$400,000.

I will make two points and close:

1. Predatory strategies that intentionally compromise the health and well-being of our children and seniors will not be tolerated in our community.
2. Both new developments are mixed use zone – no reputable businesses will want to come to a community with a 24-hour tobacco shop. The value of not only our properties, but the new builds as well will fall with the addition of the tobacco shop.

It is your duty to revoke this permit must be revoked immediately. I am requesting that you use the legislative powers invested in your position to do so today.

Regards,

Former Mayor Pro Tem and District 4 Council Member

Dr. Isaac C. Trouth, III
15204 Dalebrooke Drive
Bowie, MD 20721

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From: [Awilda Hernandez](#)
To: [Carolyn Fifer](#)
Cc: [Alfred Lott](#); [Daniel Mears](#)
Subject: Fwd: {EXTERNAL}: Letter for City Council On 2 - 21-2023 Meeting. Keep Pointer Ridge Elementary School open and close Tobacco Store Opening
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:20:59 PM

This could count as a citizen comment.
Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Begin forwarded message:

From: Melissa Richardson <ladymelissa@solace2you.org>
Date: February 21, 2023 at 5:53:33 PM EST
To: Timothy Adams <tadams@cityofbowie.org>, Awilda Hernandez <ahernandez@cityofbowie.org>
Cc: ladymelissa@solace2you.org
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Letter for City Council On 2 - 21-2023 Meeting. Keep Pointer Ridge Elementary School open and close Tobacco Store Opening

Dear Bowie City Council:

In support of the Civic Engagement Committee of the Collington Station HOA, Inc. and its President and Board of Directors, I seek your help and support in keeping Pointer Ridge Elementary School open and the 24/7 Tobacco Stores closed.

Bowie needs to help sustain a safe, healthy, and viable community and community life for our children and our future. We know that one cannot do that by closing neighborhood schools and opening tobacco shops. That type of action is UNACCEPTABLE.

While there are other policy matters that may require attention, these two are critical at this moment:

1. Opening of tobacco shops; and
2. Closing of Pointer Ridge Elementary School.

As our elected officials we count on you to take the responsibility and the duty to regulate and legislate laws and rules that protect and promote the well-being of our citizens. We want you to help us do just that. And we know that all citizens impacted will persuade and convince their neighbors to stand against this action to harm our community.

The Tobacco Store has to go. It sends the wrong message and degrades our community.

Sincerely,
Melissa Richardson
Bowie Resident Since 1995

Sent from my Galaxy

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Awilda Hernandez

From: hallmilly <hallmilly@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 4:38 PM
To: Carolyn Fifer
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: FW: The Tobacco Store has to Go! (Citizen Participation)

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Milly Hall <hallmilly@aol.com>
Date: 2/21/23 3:28 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: tadams@cityofbowie.org, ahernandez@cityofbowie.org, hgardner@cityofbowie.org, dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org, mesteve@cityofbowie.org, rndebumadu@cityofbowie.org
Cc: Milly Hall <hallmilly@aol.com>
Subject: The Tobacco Store has to Go! (Citizen Participation)

Dear Mayor Adams, and Bowie Council members,

It has come to my attention that a 24/7 tobacco shop has been permitted to open in the Pointer Ridge Shopping Center. This is **UNACCEPTABLE**.



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It is your duty to revoke this permit must be revoked immediately. I am requesting that you use the legislative powers invested in your position to do so today.

Your Constituent Voter and Taxpayer,

Milly Hall
14404 Dunstable Court
Bowie Maryland 20721
301-275-2490

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Awilda Hernandez
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 6:37 PM
To: Carolyn Fifer
Subject: Fwd: {EXTERNAL}: Retirement proposal for Judge Adams

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Mears <dmears@cityofbowie.org>
Date: February 20, 2023 at 3:52:04 PM EST
To: Awilda Hernandez <ahernandez@cityofbowie.org>, Alfred Lott <alott@cityofbowie.org>
Subject: Fwd: {EXTERNAL}: Retirement proposal for Judge Adams

FYI

Daniel Mears - dmears@cityofbowie.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: Norman Hendrickson <norman1956@verizon.net>
Date: February 20, 2023 at 3:39:15 PM EST
To: Daniel Mears <dmears@cityofbowie.org>
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Retirement proposal for Judge Adams
Reply-To: Norman Hendrickson <norman1956@verizon.net>

Sir,
When I read the agenda for this weeks City Council Meeting, I was disturbed to find that there is a proposal to spend city funds to celebrate the retirement of a District Court judge, whose only connection to Bowie, is being the wife of the mayor. Judge Shellia Adams has no other connections to our fair city other than being Mayor Adams wife.

Norman Hendrickson
Psalm 56:3-4

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