



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, August 14, 2023, in Room 243 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 (arrive 8:03p.m.), Councilmembers Estève, Gardner, Hawkins, Truesdale, and Woolfley (virtual), City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan (joined virtually at 8:18 p.m.), City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

City Clerk Hernandez stated that three comments were received via email and are attached for the record.

1. Nedrea Scott – Spoke about safety concerns in the City.

PRESENTATIONS:

Councilmember Gardner motioned to adopt Proclamation P-13-23 Recognizing Random Acts of Kindness Club. Mayor Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Gardner presented the proclamation to the club representatives present.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-In:

1. Councilmember Woolfley motioned to appoint Ms. Julie Gordon as a member of the Education Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Councilmember Esteve motioned to appoint Ms. Nedrea “Bee” Scott as a member of the Board of Elections for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Mayor Adams swore in Ms. Gordon and Ms. Scott to their respective committees.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu commented that she is working with staff to send letters to certain shopping centers in the City about the maintenance of their properties.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott did not have a report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

No items presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Renaming of Nash Woods Park – Mr. Joe Meinert, Planning Director, spoke with representatives of M-NCPPC in regard to renaming the park. Currently M-NCPPC has a policy which is under review for updating. The new proposed policy is more restrictive and will not allow for parks to be named after individuals. If Council so wishes, staff could proceed under the current policy and see if it will be accepted by M-NCPPC.

Council concurred to have staff prepare a letter to the County for consideration of renaming Nash Woods Park after former Senator Douglass J.J. Peters.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Transportation Priority List – Mr. Ridwan Coker, Transportation Specialist, gave the staff report and reviewed the City's list of priorities. Mr. Coker stated that he will prepare new letters to send to the County and the State with Council's recommendations. The City's highest transportation priorities continue to be MD 197, MD 450, and Church Road.

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu has heard many concerns from citizens in District 4 about the lack of WMATA ridership because it takes so long for the buses to get to their destinations. Mr. Meinert responded that there are initiatives for better bus services.

Councilmember Esteve commented on the funding for Rt. 197 improvements which have been in the books for years and yet nothing has been accomplished. He would also like to request that sidewalks be extended to Sandy Spring Park on 7th Street and Chestnut Road.

B. Adoption of Resolution R-48-23 Approving the Draft FY2025-2028 (HUD FY2023-2027) Consolidated Plan and FY2024 (HUD FY2023) Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program – Mr. Jesse Buggs, Grants Director summarized the resolution. The City of Bowie receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through an entitlement. The City of Bowie's Consolidated Action Plan for Housing and Community Development (Plan), Fiscal Year 2024-2028 will analyze housing, human services, and non-housing community development needs throughout the City, identify and prioritize community needs, and include a strategy to address those needs

Public Hearing:

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

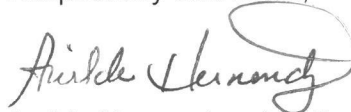
Councilmember Esteve motion to adopt Resolution R-48-23. Councilmember Truesdale second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. City Council Legislative Priorities – The City Council would like to establish Legislative Priorities for the forthcoming legislative session. Council will provide more input to staff by August 21st.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu motioned to adjourn to closed session under the statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(1): "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; §3-305(b)(3): "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto". Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 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, MMC
City Clerk

DATE: Monday, August 7, 2023

TO: Awilda Hernandez, City Clerk
City of Bowie, Maryland

FR: Mrs. Terry Nuriddin
15201 Johnstone Lane, Bowie, MD 20721

RE: V. Citizen Participation, August 7, 2023 Bowie City Agenda:
We Are Denied Virtual¹ Meeting Opportunities; Are We Not Taxpayers?²

Cc: Tim Adams, Mayor
Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem & District 4 Councilmember Roxy Ndebumadu
Henri Gardner, At-Large Councilmember
Jarryd Hawkins, At-Large Councilmember
Michael Esteve, District 1 Councilmember
Dufour Woolfley, District 2 Councilmember
Clinton Truesdale, Sr., District 3 Councilmember
Public Files

Hi. This is Terry Nuriddin of Collington Station. I hope all is well for you and yours.

I am requesting the Bowie City Council support for the implementation of hybrid City Council Meetings and hybrid Prince George's County Council Meetings.

We Are Denied Virtual Meeting Opportunities; Are We Not Taxpayers?

By limiting citizen participation to in-person only, an important aspect of civic engagement is hindered, is denied. Government virtual meetings allow seniors with underlying conditions, such as ourselves, to participate in government affairs from the comfort of our homes. Others, too, such as young Mothers; those with disability or mobility issues; caregivers; and even those who do not drive, could possibly benefit from virtual civic engagement. And given climate challenges and high gas prices, virtual meetings should be embraced as a **wonderful citizen interacting tool**.

The technology is available. Just recently, we welcomed Mayor Adams to our July 2023 HOA hybrid meeting. Some were at the Clubhouse; some were on travel; and others were home. Yet, we had a **wonderful citizen interaction**.

Interestingly, some Maryland politicians insist that voters should not have to vote in-person.³ One could surmise that these politicians perceive voting as the extent of public civic engagement; but actually, **representative democracy *just begins with the vote***.

I request your support for hybrid City Council Meetings and hybrid County Council Meetings.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

¹ Includes hybrid concept.

² Reminiscent of subscription ("Am I Not A Man And A Brother") on Wedgewood Slave Medallion by abolitionist Josiah Wedgewood in 1787 and later a concept version was used by Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree) in her abolitionist speech "Ain't I A Woman?" in 1851.

³ Voters are encouraged to vote online or by mail.

Awilda Hernandez

From: Patrice Murray <littlemurray9@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Mayor Tim Adams; Roxyndebumadu Postmaster; Henri Gardner; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Jarryd Hawkins; Clinton Truesdale
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Citizen Participation in City Council meetings

To Mr. Tim Adams, Mayor
Ms. Roxy Ndebumadu, Mayor Pro Tem
Council Members
Henri Gardner
Jarryd Hawkins
Michael Esteve
Dufour Woolfley
Clinton Truesdale

I am Patrice Murray, a Bowie resident residing in Collington Station, before you tonight in support of hybrid City Council meetings.

My concern is the limitation of Citizen Participation in the City Council meetings. As I prepared to attend the City Council meeting tonight, I thought better of venturing out due to the expected severe weather. Given my concerns, which are that the average tax-paying Bowie resident is not able to participate in the City Council meetings unless they are able to come in person to the meeting, the fact that I choose not to attend with the threat of severe weather speaks volumes to my point.

I find it odd that the Council members are able to attend and participate in the Council meetings virtually when they are not able to attend in person when the average Bowie citizen can not.

I submit to you that there are a number of citizens who might be unable to attend the meetings in person who would otherwise be active in the business of the City.

Please consider supporting the implementation of hybrid City Council meetings, which would allow a greater rate of participation in city business.

Patrice Murray
Jerimiah Lane
Bowie, MD 20721

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Awilda Hernandez

From: John P. <john.papagni@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 10:48 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Fwd: Transportation Priority Requests and Old Town Bowie

I'd like the below comments included in tonight's meeting record and shared with the Council.

Thank you,

--

John Papagni
13027 6th Street
Bowie, MD 20720
410-563-2661
john.papagni@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John P. <john.papagni@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Aug 13, 2023 at 5:51 PM
Subject: Transportation Priority Requests and Old Town Bowie
To: Michael Esteve <mesteve@cityofbowie.org>

Dear Councilman Esteve:

Thank you for highlighting the planned August 14 City Council meeting with County and State officials in your Bowie News and Events email. As you know, maintenance and improvements to MD 564 in Old Town Bowie, and related bicycle and pedestrian safety enhancements have been a longstanding community concern.

Old Town Bowie has a number of great community assets including the Huntington Community Center, Town Green Park, the new 10th Street Park and the nearby Sandy Hill Project, currently under construction. However, cyclists and pedestrians interested in traveling between these locations will encounter barriers including missing and damaged sidewalks, and roadway with little or no shoulder, making travel hazardous.

It is vital that City, County and State of Maryland stakeholders include bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements as part of any planned maintenance and roadway improvements on MD 564.

Again, thank you for sharing information about Monday night's meeting. I look forward to learning more about local roadway improvements, and opportunities to engage in the planning process.

Sincerely,

--

John Papagni
13027 6th Street
Bowie, MD 20720
410-563-2661
john.papagni@gmail.com

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**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING ("CLOSING STATEMENT")
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

This form has two sides. *Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.*

1. **Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: 8-14-23; Time: 9:14; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Neubauer Seconded by Gardner;
Members in favor: All Aye; Opposed: _____;
Abstaining: _____; Absent: _____.

2. **Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).**
This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1) ☒ "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) ☐ "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3) ☒ "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4) ☐ "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5) ☐ "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6) ☐ "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7) ☐ "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8) ☐ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9) ☐ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10) ☐ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11) ☐ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12) ☐ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13) ☐ "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14) ☐ "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." (15) ☐ "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) ☒ 1	Personnel	Personnel Evaluation
§3-305(b) ☒ 3	Land Acquisition	
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		

4. This statement is made by Jonathan J. ARS, Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

- For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:

Time of closed session: 9:30

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): (1) Personnel (3) Land Acquisition

Members who voted to meet in closed session: TA JH HG ME DW C TR N

Persons attending closed session: Adams Gardner Hawkins Estevé Woolley Truesdale Ndeburadu Meinert Levan Lott Mears

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (1) (3)

Topics actually discussed: _____

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

- For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104): Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____