



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, September 18, 2023, in 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, Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu, Councilmembers Estève, Gardner (arrived 8:06 p.m.), Hawkins, Truesdale, and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Adams requested to move New Business Item C – City's Traffic Calming Policy Discussion to the October 2nd Council meeting.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

City Clerk Hernandez stated that 2 comments were received via email and are attached for the record.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu commented on her support of the City sponsoring after school programs for children in the City.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott commented that staff is hard at work in implementing the objectives in the FY 2024 budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Gardner motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Adoption of Resolution R-52-23 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie to Accept the Quote of CDI, LLC, for CrowdStrike Falcon Anti-Virus Software and Authorize the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement for CrowdStrike Falcon Complete. Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Emergency Ordinance O-11-23 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024, As Embodied in Ordinance O-5-23, to Appropriate Funds for the Following Projects and Purchases: An Additional \$28,100 for an Aerial Lift Truck for Parks and Grounds; An Additional \$28,400 for Upfitting of Thirteen (13) Replacement Police Vehicles; An Additional \$100,800 for Automated Speed Camera Program Services; and to Appropriate \$162,200 for the Well #5 Equipment Purchase – City Manager Lott summarized Ordinance O-11-23.

Public Hearing:

1. Leslie Kaunitz – Spoke in support of the ordinance.

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

Councilmember Woolfley motioned to adopt Ordinance O-11-23. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Mentoring Through Athletics Grant Program – Ms. Lori Cunningham, Acting Assistant Director of Community Services summarized the ordinance and resolution. City Council tasked the City staff with creating guidelines for a grant and funding program for Mentoring Through Athletics. Emergency Ordinance O-12-23 proposes allocating \$25,000 from the City's unappropriated fund balance to amend the Fiscal Year 2024 budget. This allocation will provide the necessary funds for the City Council to award the grant. Resolution R-51-23 aims to direct the City Manager to enter into a Grant Agreement with Mentoring Through Athletics to implement the grant described in the agreement.

Public Hearing:

1. Sue Livera – Spoke against the way this funding was done.
2. Stephen Wehrenberg – Spoke against the way funding is being allocated.
3. Leslie Kaunitz – Commented that the program should be funded by the County and not the City.
4. Ashley Montgomery – Program Director is in support.
5. Meredith Kaunitz – Spoke in support of the program.
6. Amanda Wright – Spoke in support of the program.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu asked City Attorney if there is anything in the City Charter or City Code specifically applying to funding of grants. City Attorney Ruff responded that she is not aware of any. City Manager Lott responded that if there was one, it would be in the City Code not the Charter. Council establishes what the criteria would be for any grants that Council would like funding for.

Councilmember Esteve stated that he has no issues with the program, just the way it was presented and the process that was taken for the funding.

Mayor Adams motioned to amend Ordinance O-12-23 striking the Whereas, Section 12 "Procedure for enacting ordinances," of the City Charter provides that an ordinance cannot be adopted at the meeting at which it is introduced, except that in cases of emergency determined by the council, the waiting period requirement may be suspended by the unanimous vote of the members of the Council who are present, and introducing it as only an Emergency Ordinance that will be adopted at the next

Council meeting in October and become effective that night. Councilmember Hawkins second the motion. Motion passed 5-2 (Esteve, Woolfley). No action was taken on Resolution R-51-23.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Interfaith Coalition of Bowie – Councilmember Esteve commented that the group withdrew their request to come before Council.

B. Streetlight LED Lightbulb Replacement – City Manager Lott commented that several residents have complained about streetlights with LED bulbs that are too bright and would like them changed. Staff is working on being able to dim the brightness and redirect the lights.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Ndebumadu motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting and move to close session under the statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(7): "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice". Councilmember Truesdale second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 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: The Black's <rdbwish1@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 6:07 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Speeding in saddlebrook west.

I really do not know if this going to make any difference but I will try again. Please listen when I say that claiming needs to be done on River Park Road. The street loops around the entire community and it is a free for all. I have ask for Bowie to put the solar signs left and right mid way. One was placed by the pool and indeed it got people attention and they slowed down. As soon as it was removed it is back to a free for all. Someone is gonna get hurt or worse. When you all do your surveys it is not at the correct times. It has to be a all day process. The motorists also turn into the community and floor it. Why can't we get the claiming items without giving up our first born. The people that are concerned are not lying. Just because you do not see it does not mean it's not happening. And the percentage you need to get approval is outrageous. The process is outrageous. The people that do not agree are the ones speeding. If you go to slow they try to pass you on a residential street. I and our hoa have been begging for this. I have lived here 22 years and gets worse every year. I'm thru begging now I'm blaming. If someone looses a child, a family member etc remember how many times we have tried to remedy the situation only to be met with red tape.

Concerned neighbor Renee Black

Sent from AOL on Android

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Awilda Hernandez

From: LYT <lthompsonbiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:31 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie Traffic in the E Section

Good day,

I am sending this message in response to the speeding and other traffic issues in Bowie.

When Mayor Tim Adams took office he held listening sessions across Bowie to hear the citizens concerns in the city. I attended the session at the old City Hall building and expressed my concern for the traffic along Mitchellville and Excalibur Roads. The session was held pre-pandemic and the situation has gotten even worse. These road ways are continually unsafe for pedestrians, especially children. Numerous times I have watched children attempt to cross the street to catch the school bus or to visit friends. The rate of speed most cars travel along these roads make it hard for me as an adult to cross, so one can only imagine how hard it is for children. Cars running up on the sidewalk near Mitchellville and Excalibur has to make it hard for seniors to simply come out for exercise. I have legally been in the crosswalk at Mitchellville Road and cars have continued to coast through the intersection almost hitting me.

As I travel through Bowie the rate of speed and lack of awareness from drivers makes me want to stay home or take care of business in other parts of the county or even Annapolis. The City must be beyond the point of coming up with a plan. The planning phase was when I mentioned it several years ago during the listening session. It's time to act. The act must be more than a non-working speed limit board, which has since been removed near the Walmart. The act must be more than Bowie Police allowing people to drive erratically passed them. The act has to be full engagement as the city/county have approved the Mill Branch Project, housing at the Bowie Town Center. We do not have the adequate resources to support the increase in any of the areas where new housing/businesses are being established. Grocery stores being moved to where new housing is being built which will create more food deserts across the county/city, overcrowding in schools (yes the city can press the county to bring more schools with all of the building occurring in Bowie), growth in south Bowie that is not bringing any real viable business solutions only more fast food, and safety in the city is very low. While I voted in favor of the police department I think it's time for the department to be absorbed into PG County Police Department.

I truly pray and hope the Mayor, Mayor Pro Temp, City Council and other officials will use this as an opportunity to truly take time to repair and restore Bowie to the once great, beautiful city that it once was.

I look forward to seeing the changes forthcoming in the very near future.

Enjoy your day.

Leslie Thompson

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https://us5.proofpointessentials.com/index01.php?mod_id=&mod_option=gitem&report=type&syspam&k=&payloadS616c7465645f5fe883d165bac53b45f7a326654958d40e8418c00f13deab48951c0e19ce059857459e9a9d4b65ed7f6e31da5b709497238e2334492c5fa3da1880bfd21432b32cd67881cfef467e4fc41bb5b5a85b897a7e36492d95715ed5099c81f5700f51bbdb866f95279cc319d5e07cb7f36f64ed76d1c6299f9a6f7f2e3eb3ef949bf1869058672282762d17e22e7dbeff5043aa316d9b6c5c720cb2&mail_id=95065871-3pJmxgSWi1tQ&r_address=tyclerk%40cityofbowie.org

Awilda Hernandez

From: william boyer <william62_99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 3:20 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: After school program

We support it!! Wm and Mary Ann Boyer

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Heather Hart <heatahart@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:12 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Support of the After school Program

Dear City Clerk,

I am a City of Bowie resident writing to support the creation of an after-school pilot program for the 2023-2024 academic year that will support 120 children from 3rd through 8th grade. I urge the Bowie City Council to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program. We would like to see stipulations set to ensure the success and advise Council to begin lobbying Prince George's County and our General Assembly to fully fund larger after-school programs for City of Bowie residents.

We need these programs in order to continue to provide for City of Bowie families. Families are in need now. This program provides immediate relief, helps keep Pointer Ridge Elementary open, and supports single parent households. I encourage the council to vote yes to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program.

Sincerely,
Heather Hart-Ali
Bowie Resident

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Mel Haft <melvinhaft@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 4:46 PM
To: cityclerk
Cc: Michael Esteve
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: DC \$52,000 Program Grant

What would be the details of what is to be taught? Seems shadowy, meaning not fully transparent. And I agree, first priority given to Bowie grants. Shelf it for now.

Mel Haft
Whitehall

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Awilda Hernandez

From: mlsmitheq.law@protonmail.com
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 2:12 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Sept 18 Council Meeting - comments

I am writing in opposition to the last minute and extravagant grant request for \$25,000 for an "athletic- mentoring program" at Pointer Ridge Elementary. This application is suspect in the amount sought, the deliberately 12th hour submission, the total lack of explanation as to the origin of and connections this "group" may have with any member(s) of the Council or their families (or the City of Bowie), and the fact that the Council is even willing to consider this line-jumping request to the exclusion of other Bowie organizations that follow the rules in requesting taxpayer subsidies for their endeavors. As a taxpayer, I am opposed. As a voter, I have serious reservations about the judgment of any Council members who support ramming through this boondoggle.

M L Smith
12317 Tilbury Ln
Bowie MD 20715

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Amanda Wright <alwright4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 3:43 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Budget Amendment - MTA After School Program

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing again to support the creation of an after-school pilot program for the 2023-2024 academic year that will support 120 children from 3rd through 8th grade. I urge the Bowie City Council to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program. We would like to see stipulations set to ensure the success and advise Council to begin lobbying Prince George's County and our General Assembly to fully fund larger after-school programs for City of Bowie residents.

Families are in need now. This program provides immediate relief, helps keep Pointer Ridge Elementary open, and supports single parent households. I encourage the council to vote yes to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program.

Sincerely,
Amanda Wright

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Kyla Johnson <kylanicolej@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 4:30 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Mentoring Through Athletics After School Program

Dear City Clerk,

I am a City of Bowie resident (District 4) writing to support the creation of an after-school pilot program for the 2023-2024 academic year that will support 120 children from 3rd through 8th grade. I urge the Bowie City Council to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program. We would like to see stipulations set to ensure the success and advise Council to begin lobbying Prince George's County and our General Assembly to fully fund larger after-school programs for City of Bowie residents.

We need these programs in order to continue to provide for City of Bowie families. Families are in need now. This program provides immediate relief, helps keep Pointer Ridge Elementary open, and supports single parent households. I encourage the council to vote yes to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program.

Sincerely,
Kyla

Kyla J. Rittenhouse
kylanicolej@gmail.com
(301)385-9442

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Bettye Demps <covingtoncondoassoc2013@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 4:55 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: After School Program

Dear City Clerk,

I am a City of Bowie resident writing to support the creation of an after-school pilot program for the 2023-2024 academic year that will support 120 children from 3rd through 8th grade. I urge the Bowie City Council to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program. We would like to see stipulations set to ensure the success and advise Council to begin lobbying Prince George's County and our General Assembly to fully fund larger after-school programs for City of Bowie residents.

We need these programs in order to continue to provide for City of Bowie families. Families are in need now. This program provides immediate relief, helps keep Pointer Ridge Elementary open, and supports single parent households. I encourage the council to vote yes to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program.

Sincerely,
Bettye J Demps

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Kellee Leo <kelleeleo16@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 6:23 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Re: Supporting Mentoring Through Athletics After-school Program - City Council Hearing Today

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing to support the following agenda items listed on today's City Council Hearing:

Mentoring Through Athletics After-school Program.

Mentoring Through Athletics After-school Program provides academic support, mentoring, positive youth development, sports, and recreation to approximately 100 children in Prince George County ages 8-14, supporting students in the 3rd to 8th grade. We need these after-school programs to continue to uplift and empower the investment of skills in the community and provide meaningful services for all ages throughout Bowie. I encourage the council to vote yes to invest in the children of our future community and approve these programs!

Mentoring Through Athletics After-school Program is a high-quality afterschool program, that has been shown to improve school attendance, academic achievement, and attitudes toward learning by not just supporting the students but ensuring that the families' well-being is supported as well.

Please consider supporting the Mentoring Through Athletics After-school Program, so our young people will continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

Kellee L. Leo
[Kelleleo16@gmail.com](mailto:kelleeleo16@gmail.com) email address
(202) 368-7307 cell number

Awilda Hernandez

From: brenee mont <breneemont@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 6:34 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: After school program

Dear City Clerk,

I am a City of Bowie resident writing to support the creation of an after-school pilot program for the 2023-2024 academic year that will support 120 children from 3rd through 8th grade. I urge the Bowie City Council to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program. We would like to see stipulations set to ensure the success and advise Council to begin lobbying Prince George's County and our General Assembly to fully fund larger after-school programs for City of Bowie residents.

We need these programs in order to continue to provide for City of Bowie families. Families are in need now. This program provides immediate relief, helps keep Pointer Ridge Elementary open, and supports single parent households. I encourage the council to vote yes to approve the budget amendment ordinance that allocates \$25,000 to the program partner in order to fund this program.

Sincerely,
Brenee' Ellis

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Awilda Hernandez

From: Ta-Keisha Smith <smithta3198@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 6:36 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Mentoring Through Athletics

Dear City of Bowie Council,

Please accept this email as my support of Mentoring Through Athletics (MTA) and their initiative to begin an after school program in the City of Bowie. Coach Ashley Montgomery and his staff have been very instrumental in my youngest son's life. My now 9-year-old son has been playing soccer with them for more than a year, and I have seen him grow (mentally, emotionally, and academically). With the assistance and encouragement of Coach Ashley and the rest of the MTA staff, my son has achieved a level of self-confidence that I was not sure he would get, considering his father is absent from his life. My son was named Student Athlete of the Year last year and shows great confidence on the field, which transferred to his academic abilities and performance in the classroom.

MTA truly believes in mentoring the youth (boys and girls) of today to become upstanding citizens and adults of tomorrow. They foster teamwork, resilience, confidence, and leadership. To have an afterschool program in the City of Bowie will truly be an asset to Bowie, Maryland and Prince George's County.

Best regards,
Dr. Ta-Keisha Smith (MTA - Soccer Mom)

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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: 9/18/23; Time: _____; Location: City Hall CH 182;
Motion to close meeting made by: Ndebunadu Seconded by Trvesdale;
Members in favor: Esteve, Woolfley, Ndebunadu, Adams; Opposed: Gardner, Hawkins, Trvesdale;
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) ☒ 7	To consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice	
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		

4. This statement is made by Samuel J. Adams, 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: 9:46 PM

Place: City Hall CH181

Purpose(s): _____

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Esteve, Woolfley, Ndeburadu, Adams, Gardner, Hawkins, Truesdale

Persons attending closed session: All

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: _____

Topics actually discussed: Proposal from GovSense

Actions taken: Resolved to accept offer 25K + 36K + 4K

Each recorded vote: yeg (Adams, Hawkins, Esteve, Woolfley, Ndeburadu, Truesdale) 10:05

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

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____