



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, December 4, 2023, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Woolfley, Councilmembers Brady, Estève, Ndebumadu, Rogers, and Truesdale, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

City Clerk Hernandez commented that one comment was received via email and is attached as part of the record.

1. Leslie Kaunitz – Urged Council to complete the hiring process of the new Police Chief.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams thanked staff for the wonderful tree lighting event that was held this past weekend.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

No report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Adoption of Resolution R-70-23 Regarding Variance Application BV-1-23 A Request by Mike and Lauren Laguna for a Variance to Validate Existing Lot Coverage at 39.6% at 1302 Pennypacker Lane When, According to the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance, Lot Coverage in the RR Zone Shall Not Be More Than 30% at 1302 Pennypacker Lane; B) Approval of New Records Supervisor Position Within the Police Department. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Environmental Advisory Committee – Updates and Priorities - Chair, Abby Snyder briefed Council on the Midwood Lane Stormwater Pond Landscaping and some of the committee's FY24 priorities which includes increasing the tree canopy, expanding the food waste program, and supporting the County plastic bag law that goes into effect January 1, 2024.

The committee is recommending adopting updated stormwater landscaping requirements to increase native trees, shrubs, and pollinator plants around the city which will also help with increasing the tree canopy in the city. Another option is upgrading the City's Plant One Tree On Us program.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley thanked Ms. Snyder and the committee for the plantings which are environmentally and aesthetically pleasing.

B. Bowie Ice Arena Design Development Presentation – Representatives from JLG Architects briefed Council on the comprehensive design work which includes floor plans, site plan and views of the interior and exterior of the proposed ice arena. Bidding and contractor procurement tentatively starting in early May 2024 with an estimated project cost of \$29,113,246. A Completed Schematic Design phase was completed in early October 2023 and a public stakeholders meeting was held on November 15, 2023, and a second one is scheduled for January 2024. Construction documents should be completed mid-April 2024.

Councilmember Esteve asked what the rate of return will be at this new site. Acting Community Services Director, Nick Spurgeon responded about 70%, the cost of maintenance of the current arena is going higher and higher.

Councilmember Brady asked what the cost savings is of prepping the building now for multi-rinks versus just a single rink. Mr. Spurgeon responded it would be about a couple of thousand dollars.

Council thanked staff for their presentation.

C. Accountability, Transparency and Performance Reviews Discussion – Councilmember Ndebumadu would like to know how and what has caused the shortfalls on major projects based on previous years and suggested that during the budget discussion process, there could be more details on shortfalls of major projects whether completed or not. A brief summary that can be easily accessed and read by the taxpayers.

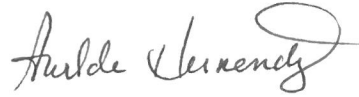
Finance Director, Mr. Byron Matthews stated that the City has always met all transparency requirements per GFOA, also the City auditors provide the information.

City Manager Lott will work with staff to possibly add or be more descriptive on objectives/results as well as on the introduction letter from the City Manager. Budget worksessions could be longer if Council would like to direct more questions to the department heads on their projects.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley 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". Councilmember Esteve second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Awilda Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: Monica Roebuck <roebuckmac@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:31 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie Ice Arena

Good afternoon Awilda,

I wanted to forward you my comments on the ice arena for the record. I'm a little under the weather so I will not be able to attend the meeting in person. Please forward my comments to the entire council. I see the ice arena is on the agenda. Thank you

--This is a follow up to my earlier email, I'm not sure if you saw it so I am sending it again. I look forward to your reply. Thank you!

To: Mayor Adams and City Councilmembers

Re: Bowie Ice Arena

Greetings to Mayor Adams and the new City Council of Bowie. Congratulations on your upcoming term in office. This brief missive is regarding the proposed ice arena. I recently attended the ice arena stakeholders meeting and I want to share my thoughts on this very important issue. Ice is an important amenity for many City residents. This is something that many families and children in Bowie enjoy. There are hockey teams and also outside patrons who use the ice arena on a regular basis. However, the current proposal of 1 sheet of ice would be a replica of the current Allen Pond rink, costing approximately 10 million dollars. In 2018, an ice rink was approved to be built for 2 sheets of ice in order to meet the demands of the ice community and to expand the usage. So unfortunately, the proposed ice arena will not meet the demand for the number of users interested, which include the city residents, and those from the surrounding area. **I highly recommend that the Council consider a new proposal to build a multi-use facility to include a two sheet ice arena along with courts to maximize the usage to the residents and the potential profit for the City.**

A multi-use facility has many advantages that you should consider. First, The City of Bowie is an affluent city with almost 50,000 people and a facility of this kind would be a suitable fit. I realize this type of building is a major investment which is why we need to explore the possibilities beyond one sheet of ice. **The City is facing serious financial decisions in the next budget cycle and we need to be very careful about how these tax dollars are being spent.** The courts can be used for a variety of sports including volleyball, basketball or pickleball. Since the Bowie Gymnasium is aging and this also needs to be replaced, I think a multi use facility combining both sports in one location would be ideal.

I realize that the current ice arena is in disrepair and needs to be refurbished as soon as possible, but that needs to be addressed another way. If a new facility is built we must think of the future and a building that is expansive enough for potential growth and one that will attract all Bowie residents, not a replica of the Allen Pond rink. If you build 1 sheet of ice the City will need to build another one within 5 years later to accommodate everyone..costing the city even more money, with rising inflation. I had a chance to speak with the developer after the meeting and he confirmed the limitations of building a 1 sheet arena and that it would not meet the needs of the City. I was also disappointed that the cost of the project was not disclosed which leads me to believe the cost is much more than we think. Although there is space to expand, in my opinion this project should not be done in stages. The blueprint should include everything needed from the beginning. Also, you should strongly think about other plans and proposals. **As with anything you should review at least 3 proposals before making a decision of this magnitude.**

In closing, I think a 1 sheet ice rink is doomed to fail from the beginning and will cost more money in the end. It does not meet the needs of the City and will be over capacity when doors open. My recommendation is to consider the future 30-40 years from now by building a state of art multi use facility with ice, courts and an eatery and possibly a track. I recommend that you consider two more proposals and visit the sports and learning complex in Landover or the family life center in Upper Marlboro, which is part of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden. These are two good examples of buildings that we can pattern our multi use facility after. Building a state of the art facility would be an investment in our city and an asset for the community for many years to come. I look forward to working with you to ensure that a facility that is inclusive to our entire community is built. We are "OneBowie and OneCity". **I would like to know your position on this matter and I request a response at your earliest convenience on this very important matter.**

All the best to you and your family for a happy holiday

Monica A. Roebuck

"Success isn't always about greatness, it's about consistency."

Cell 301-706-8623

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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: 12-4-23; Time: 9:58; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Woolfley Seconded by Estevc;
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 matters	
§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: 10:10 pm
 Place: City Hall
 Purpose(s): (1) Personnel Matters
 Members who voted to meet in closed session: TAD, DW, ME, DW, CT, RW
 Persons attending closed session: Adams, Brady, Rogers, Esteve, Wolfley, Tinsdale, Mabeumadu, Levan
 Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (1)
 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: _____