



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, March 4, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:04 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 (arrived 8:18 p.m.), Rogers, and Truesdale, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

1. Councilmember Esteve moved to appoint Ms. Keila Foster to the Arts Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
2. Councilmember Esteve moved to appoint Ms. Gina Winchester to the Community Outreach Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
3. Councilmember Truesdale moved to appoint Mr. Brandon Bowers to the Community Recreation Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
4. Mayor Adams swore in all the appointees to their respective committees.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Rogers recognized Women's History Month.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported that staff is finalizing the proposed FY 2025 budget for introduction next month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Esteve motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of February 5, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of Testimony Letter re: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget; C) Introduction of Ordinance O-2-24 Amending Bowie City Code, Chapter 22 "Streets and Sidewalks", Article I "In General" to Clarify That Persons May Not (1) Erect Obstructions Within City Rights-of-Ways, (2) Spill Materials or Certain Liquids on City Rights-of-Ways, (3) Permit Grass, Shrubs or Trees to Grow Into or Over Sidewalks so as to Obstruct the

Safe Passage of Pedestrians and (4) Damage City Curbs, Driveway Aprons or Sidewalks; and to Clarify the Responsibilities of People Who Violate These Restrictions; and Increasing Fines for Violations of Chapter 22, Article I. Councilmember Truesdale seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Ordinance O-1-24 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 and Ending June 30, 2024, as Embodied in Ordinance O-5-23, and Amended by O-11-23 to Appropriate Funds for the Purchase of a Pickup Truck for Community Services and to Increase the Appropriation for the Emergency Operations Center. Finance Director Matthews summarized the ordinance.

Public Hearing:

Since there was no one signed up to speak, Mayor Adams declared the Public Hearing to have been held.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adopt Ordinance O-1-24. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

New Business:

A. Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) Update – Ms. Danette Nguyen, Managing Director, and Mr. Francisco Cartagena, Program Manager briefed Council on the centers' programs and services provided for Bowie businesses and entrepreneurs; to include counseling, training, and guidance on different types of funding programs. The center continues to grow their programs and has had a 7% increase in the number of clients counseled compared to last year. The City of Bowie has appropriated funding for MWBC since 2016.

Councilmember Ndebumadu asked how they are connecting participants to funding. Mr. Cartagena responded that they work closely with vetted SBA lenders and assist the participants with face-to-face meetings and provide guidance.

Mayor Adams thanked them for their presentation.

B. Maryland Technology Development Corp. (TEDCO) – Mr. LeMaile-Stovall, CEO for TEDCO briefed Council on the resources they offer. TEDCO provides funding, resources and connections for technology geared entrepreneurs.

Mayor Adams thanked Mr. LeMaile-Stovall for his presentation.

C. Financing Options for the Bowie Ice Arena – Ms. Jennifer Derickson, VP of Davenport & Company LLC presented Council with financing alternatives to fund the Ice Arena. The City could consider a Direct Bank Loan or a Competitive Public Bond Sale for financing alternatives. They each have pros and cons but ultimately their recommendation is to go with the Competitive Public Bond Sale which would produce the lowest cost of funds for the City and provide the most flexibility in terms of debt amortization for the Ice Arena.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley asked when will the project go out to bid. Mr. Spurgeon, Community Services Director, responded that it probably would be in the April-May timeframe. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley then asked how long it will take for the bond sale to be finalized. Ms. Derickson responded about three months.

City Manager Lott stated that more than likely the awarding of the contract would be in the August-September timeframe and bond negotiations should be finalized in the June-July timeframe.

Mayor Adams thanked Ms. Derickson for her presentation.

D. Pointer Ridge Shopping Center Update – Mr. Nick Spurgeon, Community Services Director and Ms. Jamie Braun, Code Compliance Manager briefed Council on code violations history at the Pointer Ridge Shopping Center. The shopping center has been under new management since December of 2021. Since then, there have been 11 violation cases open under the City's jurisdiction and 4 complaints under County authority (DPIE).

Councilmember Ndebumadu asked what the status of the complaints with DPIE is. Ms. Braum responded that they have been addressed and resolved.

Councilmember Ndebumadu then asked who handles the parking situations at shopping centers. Ms. Braum responded that the City does not regulate parking at commercial shopping centers.

Both Councilmembers Esteve and Ndebumadu would like to have DPIE come before Council for a briefing on their process for code violations.

Mayor Adams thanked Mr. Spurgeon and Ms. Braum for their presentation.

E. Memorial Day Parade Plans for 2024 – Community Services Director, Mr. Nick Spurgeon, briefed Council on two options for this year's parade route. Due to the upcoming construction of the self-storage units behind Marketplace Shopping Center at Sage Lane, will be closed to traffic. This area has traditionally been used for dispersing large groups and floats, as well as accommodating larger vehicles. Staff is proposing two options to reroute the Memorial Day parade for this year.

Option 1 Walmart to Bowie Town Center – The parade would begin at the Walmart parking lot, to Excalibur Road, cross Mitchellville Road, to Fred Robinson Way and conclude at the review stand in front of Bowie City Hall.

Option 2 Bowie High School Annex to Stonybrook Drive – The parade will extend from Bowie High School Annex to Sussex Lane and will conclude at the review stand at the corner of Sussex Lane and Stonybrook Drive.

Staff is recommending Option 1; Walmart to Bowie Town Center. The proposed route has been used for parades by Bowie High School and Bowie State University in the past. There is ample parking available at both ends of the parade route.

Council concurred to proceed with Option 2; BHS Annex to Stonybrook Drive, in order to continue to provide the sense of community that the parade brings.

F. Bowie Strategic Plan Discussion – Council discussed several different strategies for planning and developing the Bowie Strategic Plan. They ranged from a bus tour through all the districts, team building activities, involvement of residents, committee members, and using a facilitator for structure.

Council concurred to schedule a retreat and strategic plan session and have staff assist in obtaining a facilitator, space and possible transportation if they decide to do the City tour. Council also requested copies of the last strategic plan that was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Truesdale seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

 MKH

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk