



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, May 6, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 Estève, Rogers, Brady, and Truesdale; City Manager Lott; Assistant City Manager Mears; City Attorney Levan; Assistant City Clerk Hartig; and Staff.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Francisco Cartagena, Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) – Spoke about the MWBC's Shop Local and Incubator program. The MWBC is looking forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the City Council. Per the prior request of Councilmember Estève, Mr. Cartagena listed the businesses the MWBC has in the City of Bowie.

PRESENTATIONS:

Councilmember Truesdale led the presentation of gift card donations to the victims of the Woodland Lakes Condominium fire on March 25, 2024. Mr. Troy Davis from Regency Furniture presented a check for \$17,500 that will go to the families. Councilmember Truesdale thanked Mayor Adams and Safetech for the donations of gift certificates.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Estève mentioned Old Bowie residents had been experiencing a feral cat problem, and thanked City Staff for their efforts in addressing the issue. City Manager Lott said he will pass the residents' appreciation along to staff.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott shared that the City Staff's primary focus has been working on the budget and getting it ready to go for adoption. City Manager Lott commented that staff has been seamlessly delivering services otherwise.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of March 4, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of March 18, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; C) Adoption of Proclamation P-5-24 Proclaiming May 5 through May 11, 2024, as the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week in the City of Bowie; D) Adoption of Proclamation P-6-24 Proclaiming May 17, 2024, as Bike to Work Day in the City of Bowie; E) Adoption of Proclamation P-7-24 Proclaiming the Week of May 5-11, 2024, as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week in the City of Bowie; F) Adoption of Proclamation P-8-24 Proclaiming International Compost Awareness Week May 5-11, 2024, in the City of Bowie; G) Adoption of Resolution R-15-24 Accepting a Bid Proposal for Pin Oak Village Stormwater Pond Improvements Project with SMI Services, LLC in the Amount of \$704,217.75; H) Adoption of Resolution R-16-24 Awarding a Contract to Stratified, Inc. for the Supply and Installation of Replacement Vault Doors and New Guard Rails at the Water Treatment Plant and Well Sites in the Amount of \$22,325.00; I) Adoption of Resolution R-17-24 Approving the Facilities Ground Lease Agreement Between the City of Bowie and Dish Wireless, LLC. at 3106 Mitchellville Road and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Agreement; J) Adoption of Resolution R-20-24 Approving an Agreement Between the City And the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 140; K) Adoption of Resolution R-21-24 Accepting the Proposal from Total Environmental Concepts, Inc. for the Bowie Racecourse and Training Center, Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) in the Amount of \$273,699.42. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY 2025 Budget, CIP, and Real Property Tax Rate – Finance Director H. Byron Matthews and Assistant Finance Director Lola Ogunremi shared the tentative changes to the proposed FY25 budget. Mr. Matthews commented that the tax rate for FY25 will remain unchanged.

Public Hearing:

1. Connie Carter, Rustic Hill Drive – Requests the Ice Arena project be called off.
2. John Kogun, Westview Forest Drive – Asks that the budget includes a percent change in amount from the prior year for each line.

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

Councilmember Estève questioned the \$90,000 decrease to the Railroad Museum, and Mr. Matthews shared that the original funding was coming from the fund balance, and now it is being paid for by a grant.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve O-4-24. Councilmember Estève seconded. Councilmember Brady asked for clarification regarding what vote was needed at this time during discussion before voting. City Attorney Levan clarified that Council was only setting the Real Property Tax Rate at this meeting. After hearing no further discussion, Mayor Adams called for a vote to set the tax rate (to not include approving O-4-24). Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Amendment to Prince George's County Water and Sewer Plan (23/W-03, Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries) – Mr. Joe Meinert, Planning and Sustainability Director, summarized the details of the request and shared that staff recommends approval of the plan to the County.

Mr. Midgett Parker, legal counsel for the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries Church, presented to the Council the Church's water and sewer plan proposal. Mr. Parker shared that the church is on a 12 acre site on Church Road and 2 WSSC water lines go through the property. To move forward with the Church's renovation plan, the property needs to be reclassified from W-5/S-5 to W/4/S-4, which will be having a public hearing with the Prince George's County Council on May 7, 2024.

Public Hearing:

1. Deborah Coleman, Lakeford Lane – Spoke against the construction of the church.
2. Niaomi Carrington-Hoffman, Sweet Emily Court – Spoke against the proposed remodel of the church.

Mr. Parker shared that traffic calming will be included in the preliminary plan submission, and that should the Church receive the necessary approvals to move forward with the renovations, construction is 1-2 years away; the water and sewer category change must take place before any plans are submitted. Mr. Parker encourages community involvement in this process.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley questioned Mr. Meinert if there are any upcoming plans for that section of Church Road. Mr. Meinert shared that the Capital Improvement Project program does not include funding for the Church's section of the road, and that there are no current prospective developments in that area.

The Church came before Council in 2009 regarding renovations wanting to be made and Council was not in support. The previous plan was for a 2,000 member congregation, and the current plan is for 800 members. Traffic concerns were a factor in the 2009 decision. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley again has concerns about safety and traffic in the area, which to him outweigh the potential benefits. Councilmember Estève commented that traffic on Church Road is not a new concern and doesn't want the Church to feel singled out. Councilmember Brady posed questions about the current size and membership of the church; the current building is approximately 5,000 square feet with about 400 members.

The Project Manager for the project shared that there will be a traffic and environmental assessment completed if the project moves forward, and copies of the studies will be provided to the City.

Councilmember Brady asked what a typical schedule of services is, to which was shared that there is one Sunday service and a Thursday morning meeting. Councilmember Brady asked Staff if the Church can make modifications to Church Road, and Mr. Meinert shared that an assessment of needs will show what the applicant can do. Councilmember Brady and Councilmember Rogers openly disclosed that they had a conversation with Mr. Parker about the property the previous Saturday.

Councilmember Rogers commented on her concern regarding the safety of drivers and pedestrians in that area.

Councilmember Truesdale asked for clarification on why the anticipated congregation size in 2009 changed from 2,000 to now 800, to which the Church responded that 800 is a more realistic number. Councilmember Truesdale echoed safety concerns, suggesting maybe the County can look into the unfinished area of Church Road. The Church's Pastor shared that the proposed new building would negate the need for the use of the Church's smaller building on the other side of the road.

Mr. Parker stated that new leadership at the Church makes this project different from 2009, and the church is committed to working with the community during this process.

Mayor Adams thanked Mr. Parker and the Church members for attending. Mayor Adams asked if flooding had been addressed in that area, to which Mr. Meinert shared that he is not aware. Mr. Meinert shared that Prince George's County makes the final decision on whether the water and sewer plan is amended because the City of Bowie does not have land use authority, and that typically conditions aren't part of water and sewer amendments.

Mayor Adams asked that a condition be added that the County is responsible for road improvements to that area of Church Road. Mr. Meinert shared that such a request would be in the budget or transportation priority list, but ultimately Council can put what they would like in the letter to the County.

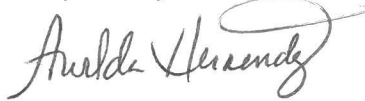
Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned against recommending approval of reclassifying the property from W-5/S-5 to W/4/S-4. Motion died.

Councilmember Brady motioned to recommend approval of reclassifying the property from W-5/S-5 to W/4/S-4. Councilmember Rogers seconded the motion. Mayor Adams asked for an amendment to Councilmember Brady's motion to include language in the recommendation letter that the City requests that Prince George's County ensures that the necessary actions are taken to improve the safety of Church Road as soon as possible. Councilmember Brady accepted the amendment. Councilmember Rogers seconded the amended motion. Motion passed 4-2 (Woolfley, Estève).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 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