



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, May 20, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:07 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, Truesdale, and Ndebumadu (virtual, joined at 8:22 p.m. and left at 9:25 p.m.); City Manager Lott; Assistant City Manager Mears; City Attorney Levan; Assistant City Clerk Hartig; and Staff.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Francisco Cartagena and Danette Nguyen, Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) – Ms. Nguyen spoke about the MWBC's Shop Local Program and thanked Council for their support in their endeavors.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Asian and Pacific Heritage Month Presentation – Ms. Brittany Bunn, from the City of Bowie's Diversity Committee, shared a presentation recognizing Asian and Pacific American culture and achievements. She shared data on Asian Indian population growth in the U.S., the history of immigration of Asian and Pacific Americans to the U.S. and encouraged residents to visit the City of Bowie website to learn more about this heritage month.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley moved to appoint Ms. Kara Hunt to the Board of Personnel Appeals for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu not present).

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Estève motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Adoption of Proclamation P-9-24 Celebrating Memorial Day 2024 in the City of Bowie; (B) Adoption of Resolution R-18-24 Approving an Easement for Old Town Investment Group, LLC to Locate a 150 Square Foot Shed on City Property and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Easement; (C) Adoption of Resolution R-23-24 Awarding a Contract for the Purchase and Installation of a New Hardscaped Entrance Sign at MD Rte

197 & Kenhill Drive; (D) Adoption of Resolution R-24-24 Accepting a Proposal and Authorizing a Contract to Loring Consulting Engineers for Consulting Services for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy; (E) Introduction of Ordinance O-5-24 Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Real Property Owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Known as Part of the Tall Oaks Community Park in Bowie, Maryland Consisting of 56.33 +/- Acres for a Public Purpose, and Declaring That Real Property Owned by the City of Bowie Known as the Cora Bowie Property, Consisting of 61.41 +/- Acres is Surplus Property and Authorizing its Conveyance to the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission in Exchange for the M-NCPPC Property Identified Above. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu not present).

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Amended Ordinance O-4-24 Approving and Adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024, and Ending June 30, 2025, and Adoption of Amended Resolution R-12-24 Adopting a Capital Improvements Program for the Fiscal Years 2025-2030.

Mayor Adams asked to table the adoption of Amended Ordinance O-4-24 and Amended Resolution R-12-24 to a later date. Mayor Adams questioned staff on when the special meeting could take place. City Manager Lott responded that a meeting notice needs to be posted 24 hours in advance, so the meeting could take place as soon as Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Mayor Adams would like staff to put in writing more information on the 18 million left over from the previous Ice Arena bond, to include what Capital Improvement Projects the money was allocated to, as well as what money may remain. City Manager Lott said that staff can prepare that document if Council wants it.

Councilmember Estève asked if staff is able to discuss tonight where that money went. City Manager Lott responded that they are able to. Councilmember Estève posed the question to Council if they would be open to hearing the explanation at this meeting. Mayor Adams would prefer that the information was in writing as an attachment to the Ordinance to show how the money was spent on CIP programs.

Councilmember Estève asked staff if they have a written record of this information. Finance Director Matthews shared that this information is detailed in the Comprehensive Financial Report, as well as the annual budget document. Mr. Matthews shared how much of the bond money is being used for Capital Improvement Projects in the FY25 budget, and Mayor Adams shared that he would like a breakdown of what specific projects the money was allocated to by the next day. Mr. Matthews shared that info was provided in the FY23 budget.

Mayor Adams moved to table the adoption of Amended Ordinance O-4-24 and Amended Resolution R-12-24. Councilmember Brady shared that there can be no discussion after a motion to table according to Robert's Rules. City Attorney Levan concurred with Councilmember Brady.

Staff shared that there are scheduling conflicts with the use of Council Chambers and staff availability.

Councilmember Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-5 (Brady, Estève, Rogers, Truesdale, Woolfley).

Councilmember Ndebumadu shared that she is attending the International Council of Shopping Centers conference in Nevada and believes it is unfair to move forward with adopting the budget this evening since she is not present in-person.

Councilmember Rogers asked for clarification on the expected outcome of having the adoption delayed to a later date and shared that she would like to know the CIP information as well. City Manager Lott shared that a document with the detailed CIP information can be provided tomorrow.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley requested that a discussion on the CIP programs and their spending occur at the June 3, 2024, meeting. City Manager Lott said that can be done.

Mayor Adams reiterated that he wants transparency for the residents of Bowie before the budget is passed. He would like a written summary, so the residents do not need to search for this information themselves.

Councilmember Brady took exception to Mayor Adams' comment that those that do not support tabling are not being transparent with residents. Councilmember Brady commented that after reviewing the CIP Program funding at the June 1 meeting, there can be supplemental changes to the budget if need be, and the budget adoption should not be delayed this evening. Mayor Adams reiterated to the Council that he wants additional transparency before the budget is passed, not after.

Councilmember Ndebumadu commented that she would like the financial clarity before the budget is passed, that South Bowie Revitalization be added in as a budget objective, and that she would like Economic Development to contract with a marketing firm to market the City of Bowie.

Councilmember Truesdale thanked Staff for providing the numbers regarding the Ice Arena and that he too would like additional transparency with residents.

Councilmember Rogers commented that she believes every Councilmember wants transparency, and that Council has had the opportunity to discuss the Ice Arena, but it did not happen. Councilmember Rogers shared that the budget can be changed if need be at a later date, and that she is disappointed that this discussion has become something that it didn't need to be.

Mayor Pro Tem shared that the Council has been through the deliberative process already, and he opposes pushing the adoption to a later date because it then creates an urgency. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley shared that there has been transparency and that there should be a conversation about the Ice Arena Bond at another meeting without delaying the budget adoption.

Councilmember Ndebumadu reiterated she would like the budget to be adopted at a later date to adequately represent District 4 in the process since Councilmember Ndebumadu has not been able to participate in all of the budget deliberations.

Mayor Adams shared that time should not be a factor in passing the budget and that transparency should be at the forefront. City Manager Lott shared that staff is prepared to act in whatever way the Council would like.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adopt Amended Ordinance O-4-24. Councilmember Estève seconded the motion. Councilmember Ndebumadu proposed two amendments to Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley's motion: include a budget objective for the Revitalization of South Bowie and allocate \$50,000 for a City-wide marketing project under Economic Development. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley accepted both amendments. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adopt Amended Ordinance O-4-24 with the addition of \$50,000 for marketing the City and a budget objective for the revitalization of South Bowie. Motion passed 4-3 (Adams, Ndebumadu, Truesdale).

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adopt Amended Resolution R-12-24. Councilmember Estève seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3 (Adams, Ndebumadu, Truesdale).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Resolution R-22-24 Adopting the FY2025 Annual Action Plan and Proposed Projects for the Community Development Block Grant Program – Grants Writer Kay Starr presented the Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant funding program that we annually receive funding from through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ms. Starr summarized the work that the Grants Office does, as well as spoke about the current, future, and past/on-going grant programs the City is involved with.

Councilmember Brady questioned how the City is reaching low and median income families, who may not have internet access, to let them know that these programs are available.

Ms. Starr shared that the Grants Office posts communications by posting ads in the Bowie Town Center, at bus shelters, flyering throughout the City, faith communities, property management and homeowner associations.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley thanked the Grants department for their hard work. He questioned the status of the recapitalization project in the Kenilworth section.

Assistant Manager Mears shared that it has gone out for bid and there is a preconstruction meeting in the coming week.

Public Hearing:

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

Councilmember Estève motioned to adopt Resolution R-22-24. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu not present).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Ndebumadu not present). The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Awilda Hernandez'.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk