City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, July 1, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Adams, Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley, Councilmembers Brady, Estève (virtual), Rogers, and Truesdale, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Adams moved New Business, Item A Fire Station 39 Discussion to under City Boards and Committees. Councilmember Truesdale seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Frank Elsen – Spoke about concerns of neighbor's bamboo growing and spreading onto his property.
2. Del Billings – Has concerns with the staffing changes at Bowie Fire station #39.

PRESENTATIONS:

Police Chief, Dwayne Preston presented departmental awards to the following individuals for their actions which led to the rescue of a 15-year-old youth and his dog from a pond near City Hall. Sergeant Matthew P. Titman #067 with the Distinguished Service Award, Lieutenant John R. Knott #012 with the Life Saving Award and Communications Specialist III, John R. Rivera #C821 with the Life Saving Award.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments and Swearing-In:

   1. Councilmember Brady motioned to appoint Ms. Alexis Gbemudu to the Economic Development Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).

2. Mayor Adams motioned to appoint Ms. Alejandra Londono Gomez to the Education Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
3. Mayor Adams swore in Ms. Gbemudu and Ms. Gomez to their respective committees.

B. Reappointments:

1. Councilmember Brady moved the reappointment of Les Kaunitz to the Public Safety Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
2. Mayor Adams moved the reappointment of Nancy Franklin, Carl J. Robinson and William Schmitt to the Administrative Review Board for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
3. Councilmember Truesdale moved the reappointment of Robert W. Day, Sr., Lisa Frison, Terry Rogers, Jr., Carl J. Schuettler and Ronald G. Skotz to the Advisory Planning Board for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
4. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley moved the reappointment of Gabrielle Davison and Joseph S. Wright, III to the Arts Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
5. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley moved the reappointment of Bonaventure Akinlosotu, Mary Ellen Winlund and Joseph Wright to the Community Outreach Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Adams seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
6. Councilmember Truesdale moved the reappointment of Carrie Weaver-Bridges to the Community Recreation Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
7. Councilmember Rogers moved the reappointment of Elveeda Dixon, Kone Faulkner, Jessica Fucile and Tiffani Scales to the Diversity Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.
8. Councilmember Brady moved the reappointment of Adrienne Bigelow-Lewis, Veronica Fountain, Billy D. Louis, Yolanda Muckle, Michael Oleru, Eddie Pounds and Christopher Rizzi to the Economic Development Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Truesdale seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
9. Mayor Adams moved the reappointment of Zachariah Lowe and Nadji Kirby to the Education Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Rogers seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
10. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley moved the reappointment of Alexandra S. Harry Nappier, Karin Taschenberger and John R. Teasdale to the Environmental Advisory Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
11. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley moved the reappointment of William Olukoya to the Financial Advisory Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).
12. Councilmember Rogers moved the reappointment of Michelle Balfe, Linda Cooper, Howard R. Dobson, Maysen Gore-Duran, Elena M. Wisler and Joshua Wooten to the Green Team Executive Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.
13. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley moved the reappointment of Richard Bleach, JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs and Kenneth Wenzel to the Information Technology Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Rogers seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.
14. Councilmember Brady moved the reappointment of Delmer F. Billings, Ronald E. Gill, Jr., William C. Grayson and Jacqueline M. Rhone to the Public Safety Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Truesdale seconded the motion and it carried 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fire Station #39 Discussion – Prince George's County Fire Chief, Tiffany Green briefed Council on the staffing changes that occurred at Bowie Fire Station #39. The department has a staffing shortage and career firefighters have been required to work overtime to cover 253 vacant positions, causing firefighters fatigue, health issues, and increased on-duty accidents and injuries. Fire Chief Green stated that the station will be manned by volunteer firefighters as best they can. Calls will also be handled by surrounding stations. The department has been authorized to hire 150 additional firefighters in Fiscal Year 2025.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley asked if the additional 150 hires above and beyond the allocated need or to get the number needed. Fire Chief Green responded that the 150 is about 80 above the allocation needed, so the 150 will bring them above and help reach the overall County requirement of 1,124.

Councilmember Rogers encourages the Fire Chief to continue the engagement with the City on the progress of the staffing.

Mayor Adams thanked Fire Chief Green for her briefing.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams encouraged residents to have a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott did not have a report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of May 6, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of May 20, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; C) Adoption of Resolution R-36-24 Authorizing the City Manager to Engage a Certified Public Accountant for the Annual Audits for Fiscal Years 2024-2026; D) Adoption of Resolution R-45-24 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to KCI Technologies, Inc. for Task Order/RFP #11-01 in the Amount of $375,198.34 in Accordance With the Master Contract Approved on January 7, 2019; E) Adoption of Resolution R-46-24 Accepting Bid to Provide Services of Biosolids Hauling, Management and Utilization from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Esteve did not vote).

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Request for Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) Retail Business Incubator Program Funding – Councilmember Truesdale commented that himself and several of his colleagues visited the incubator in Rockville and had a chance to speak with Mayor Ashton about the program. They were very impressed with the program.

Councilmember Truesdale motioned to award a grant funding to MWBC in the amount of $140,000 in Fiscal Year 2025 to set up and operate the incubator program in the City of Bowie. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Rogers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Esteve did not vote). The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie on August 5, 2024.