



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:02 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, Rogers, and Truesdale (arrived 8:15 p.m.); City Manager Lott (virtual); Assistant City Manager Mears; Assistant City Clerk Hartig; and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Les Kaunitz – Spoke about his view of the treatment of the City of Bowie by Prince George's County and the need for transparency at the County level. Mr. Kaunitz would like for Prince George's County to provide the City with financial information regarding the return on investment for taxes paid to the County.

PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-In:

1. Councilmember Rogers motioned to appoint Mr. Miguel Rios to the Green Team Executive Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
2. Councilmember Rogers motioned to appoint Ms. Addie Khanu to the Education Committee for a 2-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Adams swore in Mr. Rios and Ms. Khanu to their respective committees.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Rogers shared a statement on strategic planning; a copy of the statement is attached.

Councilmember Brady shared that along with Mayor Adams and Councilmember Ndebumadu, he attended Friendship Academy's first day of school, and he also attended the opening of Pointer Ridge Elementary School's Autism Wing with Mayor Adams. Councilmember Brady shared the news that the Old Bowie Town Grille closed its doors on August 31, 2024, and he expressed sentiment that the establishment will be missed, but he is looking forward to having Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity use the building as a mentoring facility. Councilmember Brady shared that many of the Council members will be attending the International Council of Shopping Centers conference, and he is hoping to attract many businesses to Bowie.

Mayor Adams wished everyone a "Happy Grandparents Day", which falls on September 8, 2024.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Assistant City Manager Mears reported that the early trash pick-up time (6 a.m.) for the summer months will continue through September. Mr. Mears also spoke about the change for the Bowie International Festival to be a stand-alone event, which will take place on September 14, 2024. Mr. Mears reported that the survey that was sent out to Bowie residents to aid in the Council's strategic planning received a strong response, which will be used by both Staff and Council for planning purposes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve Consent Agenda item: A) Approval of June 28, 2024 Special Council Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of August 5, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; C) Adoption of Resolution R-56-24 Waiving the Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the City Charter, for Good Cause Shown, to Allow the City to Enter Into a Contract with Commercial Carpets of America, Inc. for Flooring Replacement; D) Introduction of Ordinance O-8-24 Amending Chapter 26 "Zoning," Article II, Sec. 26-48 "Final Decision of City Council" of the Code of the City of Bowie to Clarify the Timing of Actions Required of the City Council Regarding Recommendations of the Advisory Planning Board. Councilmember Truesdale seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Ordinance O-7-24 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025, as Embodied in Ordinance O-4-24, to Appropriate Funds for the following Projects and Grants: an Additional \$122,000 for the Public Arts Bowie Sign Project, \$58,500 for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, Additional Grant Funding to the Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) Totaling \$120,000, and Funding for the Emergency Operations Center in the Amount of \$237,500.

Councilmember Estève commented that he is pleased to hear that the Public Art sign at the corner of Kenhill Drive and Rte. 197 is moving along, and he is looking forward to seeing it progress.

Public Hearing:

1. Les Kaunitz, Rambling Ln – Asked questions about the function of the Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) and expressed frustration over bureaucracy at the County level

deterring businesses from coming to Bowie. Mr. Kaunitz would like the MWBC to share monthly reports with the City that show what their grant funding is being used for.

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

Mayor Adams agreed with Mr. Kaunitz about wanting monthly financial reports from the MWBC and shared that the purpose of the MWBC is to give opportunity to women's businesses that historically haven't had the opportunity to start up. Mayor Adams stated that the City needs to have the self-determination to obtain Land Use authority to attract the businesses Bowie would like.

Councilmember Truesdale shared that the City has asked the MWBC for the metrics that Mr. Kaunitz is wanting, and he clarified that the MWBC is open to everyone, not just women. Councilmember Truesdale shared that the City of Rockville has had success with the MWBC model, and a third of their funding will go to training and counseling.

Councilmember Estève motioned to adopt Ordinance O-7-24. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSED 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; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals,' and (7) "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice." Councilmember Estève seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.


Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie on September 16, 2024.

STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

During the FY 2024-2025 Bowie budget development process, I requested a budget objective for a Strategic Planning initiative. Strategic Planning is critical for municipalities for the following reasons:

- a. Strategic Planning helps municipalities define a clear, long-term vision for the community. It sets out the goals and objectives that **guide decision-making** and ensures that all actions taken "**align**" with the broader vision for the municipalities future.
- b. Municipalities often operate with limited resources, including budgets, personnel and time. Strategic planning allows **prioritization of projects/initiatives** and the allocation of resources more efficiently, ensuring that the most critical needs of the community are addressed.
- c. Through strategic planning, municipalities can assess the current state of public services, identify areas for improvement, and develop plans to enhance service delivery. This leads to better outcomes in areas such as development, public safety, sustainability, and transportation (to name a few).
- d. A Strategic Plan can outline "**strategies**" for **economic growth**, attracting businesses, and creating jobs. It can help municipalities identify opportunities for development, improve infrastructure, and foster an environment conducive to economic prosperity.
- e. Strategic planning often **involves input from residents, businesses, and other stakeholders**. This process helps build a **sense of ownership and community engagement**, as people see that their voices are being heard and their needs are being addressed.
- f. A strategic plan helps municipalities **anticipate potential challenges and risks**, such as natural disasters, economic downturns, or demographic changes. By planning ahead, municipalities can develop contingency plans and adapt more effectively to changing circumstances.
- g. A strategic plan provides a **framework for measuring progress and holding municipal leaders accountable**. By setting clear goals and benchmarks, municipalities can track their performance and report on their successes and challenges, promoting transparency and trust with the public.
- h. Strategic planning **encourages collaboration** among municipal leaders, different departments, and committees. It helps ensure that all parts of the government are **working toward common goals and that efforts are coordinated and not duplicated**.
- i. Strategic planning allows municipalities to **incorporate sustainability** into their long-term vision, ensuring that growth and development occur in a way that preserves resources for future generations. This includes planning for environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic viability.

- j. Strategic planning can help municipalities **stay ahead of legal and regulatory changes**. By anticipating future requirements, municipalities can ensure they remain compliant with laws and regulations avoiding legal issues.

In closing, Strategic Planning is a critical tool for municipalities to **guide growth, improve services and create a thriving and resilient community**.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this with you.

Wanda Rogers,
Bowie City Council
Member At-Large

**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: 9-3-24; Time: 8:30; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Woolfley Seconded by Esteve;
Members in favor: TAWRDB MEDNET; Opposed: _____;
Abstaining: _____; Absent: Neleburadu.

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	City Manager performance evaluation
§3-305(b) ☒ 7	Consult with legal counsel	Threat of legal action
§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: 8:35pm

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): (1) Personnel (7) Consult with legal counsel

Members who voted to meet in closed session: T. Adams, Rogers, Brady, Estevé, Woolfley, Truesdale

Persons attending closed session: Adams, Brady, Rogers, Estevé, Woolfley, Truesdale, Lott, Ruff, Mears

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (1) (7)

Topics actually discussed: Legal action - City Manager Personnel

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

- For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104): Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____