



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, October 21, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, Councilmembers Brady, Estève, Ndebumadu (arrived 8:33 p.m.), Rogers, and Truesdale, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Les Kaunitz, Rambling Lane – Comments attached for the record.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Police Chief Preston recognized the promotions of Captain Liberati as the City's Deputy Police Chief and Sergeant Saunders as Captain.
- B. Ms. Mary Ellen Winlund, Chair of the Community Outreach Committee, spoke on the importance of raising awareness on Domestic Violence.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-In:

1. Councilmember Rogers motioned to appoint Ms. Krystle Kime to the Green Team Executive Committee as a Regular Member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Adams swore in Ms. Kime to the committee.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Truesdale commented that the Interfaith Coalition Group received a grant to help the residents that were displaced by the fire in their building earlier this year. He also participated as a member of the Farm and Agriculture Committee from Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in a farm tour exploring agriculture practices.

Councilmember Esteve commented that he has received great comments from residents stating that they are really enjoying the different City events that have been held this year.

Mayor Adams congratulated HUD on their 50th Anniversary and thanked Mr. Jesse Buggs for the work he has accomplished with them..

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported on the major system failures the ice arena had this past weekend causing it to be closed. Staff is working on 3 possible outcomes. Finding the parts needed which is difficult since the system is so old, rebuild it, or find a controller comparable to the one we have that would work with the system currently in place.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Esteve motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of October 7, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Resolution R-67-24 Approving the Award of the City's Community Outreach Committee FY25 Grants; C) Adoption of Resolution R-68-24 Approving the Award of the City's Arts Committee FY25 Grants; D) Adoption of Resolution R-69-24 Approving the Award of the City's Education Committee FY25 Grants; E) Adoption of Resolution R-70-24 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 Lewis Tree Service for Street Tree Trimming in City Right-of-Ways; F) Adoption of Resolution R-71-24 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie and Awarding a Contract to Visu-Sewer East, LLC in the Amount of \$200,000 for Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation, by Piggybacking a Frederick County Sanitation Authority, DBA Frederick Water (Virginia) Contract; G) Adoption of Resolution R-72-24 Accepting Bid Proposal for Drainage Swale Maintenance from Sunny Acres Landscaping, Inc. in the Amount of \$50,000; H) Adoption of Resolution R-73-24 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc. for Task Order/RFP#3-18 in the Amount of \$29,583.29 in Accordance With the Master Contract Approved on October 31, 2018; I) Adoption of Resolution R-74-24 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie to Accept the Quote of CDI, LLC for CrowdStrike Software, and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement with CrowdStrike. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Chief Preston briefed Council on the department's activities. The department currently has 14 sworn vacancies and 5 civilian vacancies, calls for service are on par from last year at this time, and an increase of about 70% in commercial burglaries. The department has hired a vendor to help with

marketing and recruitment efforts. Community outreach has been going well, Citizens Academy as well as the RAD classes will resume in 2025.

Deputy Chief Liberati presented the results of the Stop Sign Camera Pilot Program which were placed in 5 different locations throughout the City. Out of the 2,718 recordings, 1,491 would have been violations.

Councilmember Brady asked how do these cameras work, are they images, videos? He would also like to see this incorporated for right turns on red. Deputy Chief Liberati said they are pictures of tags, as well as video which will ultimately be the determining factor of the violation.

If Council decides to proceed with this program, they will have to work with the County on legislation for it.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION:

Councilmember Esteve motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting and go into Closed Session under the statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(3): "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto," and §3-305(b)(7): "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice." Councilmember Rogers seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.


Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie on November 4, 2024.

I took advantage of the opportunity to attend the Economic Development Committee meeting in October. I have to say it was an eye opener. The City of Bowie is working to gain more businesses to support the citizens of the locality. Also, businesses add to the revenue needed to keep the city running well and to provide a good path forward. At the meeting I heard comments by just about everyone who are business operators within the city

The complaints regarded the PG County Department of Development, Permitting and Enforcement (DPIE) and the way the department handles permit requests and how it operates. What I heard was that DPIE costs a business an additional \$40,000 a year with delays regarding permits and approvals. That is a big deal when it comes to opening and operating a business. One has to sell a lot of candy bars to pay for that.

Another complaint is that DPIE does not have a specific operative plan that guides one through the permitting and approval process. It's almost like each step in the process is determined at the time when the process is in play. The other issue is that DPIE is insensitive to timely processing and that presents a costly problem for the applicant. DPIE will have applicants make numerous trips to the county office and many times they determine there are more requirements needed that were not disclosed at the beginning of the process. As I said before, it's like there is no defined process so one has to guess your best.

If the The City of Bowie is to gain more businesses and maintain what is already in place then changes must be made to the operation of DPIE. Currently DPIE is a business killer!

I suggest that a collaborative strategy be started to work with other localities in an effort to have PG County examine these issues and correct the operations of DPIE

We have a great city council here in Bowie and since the city is a large municipality in PGC, the council should make every effort to emerge as an organizer with other municipalities to rectify DPIE issues. As I understand it, there is a PG County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League that could be an entity to begin such an effort. Unfortunately, PGC moves slowly so I recommend starting as soon as possible in this effort.

I am not trying to destroy DPIE, just make it a value-added entity that serves PG County well.

**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: 10-21-24; Time: 9:15; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Esteve Seconded by Rogers;
Members in favor: All; Opposed: None;
Abstaining: _____; Absent: _____.

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) ☒	Real Property Acquisition	
§3-305(b) ☒	Consult with Legal Counsel	
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		

4. This statement is made by Samuel J. ARS, 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: 9:27

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): (3) Property Acquisition (7) Consult with legal counsel

Members who voted to meet in closed session: TAWR, DB, ME, CT, RN

Persons attending closed session: Adams, Rogers, Brady, Esteve, Truesdale, Mahumadu, Levan, Lott, Neary

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

Topics actually discussed: Race Track Road Property Acquisition

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

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

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____