City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, November 18, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:03 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 (virtual), Councilmembers Brady, Estève, Rogers, Truesdale (virtual) and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Larry Bratt, Archery Ct. – Stated a complaint against City Manager Lott in regard to a dispute at the Senior Center.
2. George Oyegoke, President of Woodmore Estates HOA – Spoke in opposition of the proposed extension of Dew Drive for the development of redeemed Christian Church of God, Victory Temple.
3. Les Kaunitz, Rambling Lane - Spoke about the issues the County is having on hiring firefighters.

PRESENTATIONS:

Diversity Committee member, Brittany Bunn read an excerpt on Native Indigenous American Heritage month.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

None.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Brady thanked staff for the Veteran's Day memorial service that was held on Monday.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported that departments have started working on the budget for FY 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Esteve motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of November 4, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Resolution R-77-24 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of the City Charter to Allow the City to Enter Into Contracts With Various Snowplow Contractors That May Exceed $25,000 in Aggregate Value; C) Adoption of Resolution R-78-24 Awarding a Contract to Warner Construction for the Supply and Install of a Pole Barn Cover at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Amount of $108,400; D) Adoption of Resolution R-79-24 Approving the Award of the City's Education Committee FY25 Grants; E) Adoption of Resolution R-80-24 Approving the Award of the City's Community Outreach Committee FY25 Grants; F) Adoption of Resolution R-81-24 Accepting a Proposal for Code Enforcement, Permitting and Licensing Software With Tyler Technologies in the Amount of $189,391. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Ordinance O-9-24 Re-Adopting the Code of the City of Bowie Consisting of Chapters 1 Through 28, Inclusive, With Amendments to Update References to State Laws and Regulations, to Update References to State, County, M-NCPPC and City Departments and/or Agencies, and to Make Other Minor Grammatical and Nonsubstantive Changes, and Authorizing the Publication and Updating of the Amended Code and the City Charter by General Code - City Attorney Levan summarized the ordinance noting that the amendments are to update references to State Law and to departments of the State and County that the City works with as well as grammatical and typographical corrections.

Public Hearing:

City Clerk Hernandez stated that no one signed up to speak and no comments were submitted via email for the Public Hearing of Ordinance O-9-24. Mayor Adams declared the Public Hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Esteve motioned to adopt Ordinance O-9-24. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Update on Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Staffing - Representatives of Prince George's County Fire Department updated Council on their efforts of recruitment. The department started a program with Bowie State University to engage students to join the Fire Volunteer Program, so far 41 applications have been received. For career firefighters they are still at a deficit of 82.

Councilmember Rogers asked what incentives are offered to the students that join the program. Fire Chief Green responded that they are offering housing and some tuition reimbursement for classes that are gear toward the profession.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley commented that the University of Maryland has programs that might be able to fit with this recruitment process. Volunteer Chief White stated that the College Park Volunteer Firehouse works closely with the University on this. They do their recruitment twice a year.

Mayor Adams thanked members of the department for the update.

B. Diversity Committee Membership Exception Request – Chair Tiffany Scales requested that Council consider waiving the committee membership residency requirement for committees to allow a Bowie State University student, Kevin Lopes Cruz, to join the Diversity Committee as a full voting member.

Councilmember Brady read Section 3(a) of Resolution R-50-22 Amending Resolution R-16-01 "Rules and Regulations of City Board, Commissions and Committees" where it states - All voting members appointed by the Council shall be residents or taxpayers of the City of Bowie, except that the City Council reserves the right to make a Board, Commission or Committee appointment that may not comply with the provisions of this resolution due to the unique requirements of the subject committee.

Council gave a consensus to allow Mr. Cruz to join the committee.

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 9:27 p.m.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie on December 2, 2024.