City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, April 7, 2025, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley, Councilmembers Brady, Estève, Ndebumadu (Arrived 8:12 p.m.), Rogers and Truesdale, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Ann Fleming, Grason Ln – Request for the City to fly a Pride Flag for the month of June as a sign of support for City's diverse community.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Adoption and Presentation of Proclamation P-6-25 Observing Restaurant Week April 21-27, 2025 in the City of Bowie – Councilmember Esteve motioned to adopt Proclamation P-6-25. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Council presented the proclamation to several restaurants that are participating in the inaugural Bowie Restaurant Week.
B. Adoption and Presentation of Proclamation P-7-25 Recognizing April 6 – 12, 2025 as Animal Control Appreciation Week in the City of Bowie. Councilmember Truesdale motioned to adopt Proclamation P-7-25. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Council presented a proclamation to City Animal Control Staff.
C. Members of the Green Team and Environmental Advisory Committees summarized events being held to commemorate Earth Month in the City.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

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CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-In:

1. Councilmember Esteve motioned to appoint Ms. Patricia Blake to the Community Outreach Committee as a Regular Member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Councilmember Truesdale motioned to appoint Ms. Angela Rocca to the Community Recreation Committee as an Alternate Member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Council appointed Mr. Randall Jordan to the Arts Committee at the March 17, 2025 meeting. Mr. Jordan was sworn-in to the committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley swore in the members to their respective committees.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Ndebumadu commented that she has been in talks with SHA about street clean-ups on Rt 214 and Rt 301.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott provided updates on staffing progress in certain departments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Esteve motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of February 3, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Proclamation P-8-25 Proclaiming April 2025 as Earth Month in the City of Bowie. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 4-0 (Rogers stepped out).

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce Grant Proposal – Mr. Darrell Carrington, Executive Director of the Chamber, provided financial information to Council for their grant request of $25,000 for a local and veteran-owned business directory and "Shop Local Bowie" marketing campaign.

Councilmember Brady motioned to award a grant for $25k to GBCC with requirements made by Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley of possible advancement of $5k and quarterly reports back to the City on status of project. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 (Rogers – not present to vote).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Auditor's Presentation of the FY2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Ms. Heather Briggs with CliftonLarsonAllen, noted that the City's Financial status is in good standing. Auditor's opinion on Financial Statements is an unmodified "clean" opinion. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified.

Council thanked Ms. Briggs and staff for an outstanding job at maintaining the financial status of the City.

B. Preliminary Plan of Subdivision, Freeway Airport (PPS-2024-021) - Mr. Rich Hall, Planning Director, summarized the plan which has been reduced from 509 dwellings to 297. The applicant has worked with area residents to develop a formal agreement. Development is outside of City limits, and no action was required by Council.

Mr. Robert Antonetti, with the law firm Shipley & Horne, representing the applicant, commented that they have worked closely with the residents of the area and covenants have been recorded stating that the maximum number of dwellings for the area is 297.

Councilmember Brady commended the applicant for working and listening to residents of the area and adjusting the number dwellings.

C. Pointer Ridge Swim and Racquet Club Grant Request – Representatives of Pointer Ridge Swim and Racquet Club briefed Council on their grant request of $24,778. The money will be going towards the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), two pool vacuums and filter bags for the upkeep and cleaning of the pool and to replace worn-out deck tables.

Councilmember Esteve stated that he has concerns with awarding this grant and would like staff to work out a plan for funding to support all pools in the City with a specific dollar amount or create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for joint usage of facilities.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley agrees with Councilmember Esteve to have staff work with PRSR for collaboration.

Councilmember Brady motioned to award the requested amount. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Council Discussion on funding for an Anti-Bullying Program in City of Bowie schools - Ms. Ciara Hosein briefed Council on the No Bullying Bear Foundation. Further discussion and possible action will be had at the next Council meeting.

E. Briefing on Eminent Domain - Planning Director, Richard Hall briefed Council on the steps of eminent domain. It has been permitted with compensation for a public purpose, typically for public works type of projects, especially transportation. Using it for community and economic development purposes is questioned by some and has reached verdicts by the Supreme Court. Staffs' recommendation is that it should be used as a last resort for acquiring land; there should be a strong and public plan where the need for acquisition is clear and justified; and while possible and potentially needed in some cases, proceed with caution.

Council thanked staff for the briefing.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION:

Councilmember Estève motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting and move to Closed Session under the statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(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, such as information that is related to passwords, personal ID numbers, access codes, encryption, security devices, or vulnerability assessments or that a governmental entity collects or maintains to prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices". Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie on May 19, 2025.

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: 4-7-25; Time: 10:46; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Esteve; Seconded by Brady;
Members in favor: All; Opposed: _____;
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) [15]	Cybersecurity	City's Cybersecurity
§3-305(b) [ ]		
§3-305(b) [ ]		
§3-305(b) [ ]		
§3-305(b) [ ]		

4. **This statement is made by** Timothy Jr. Ahlers**, Presiding Officer.**

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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: 10:57

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): 15 - Cybersecurity

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Rogers Brady Esteve Woolfley Truesdale

Persons attending closed session: Rogers Brady Esteve Woolfley Truesdale Ruff Peterson Hayworth Hughes Rivera Lott Mears

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: 15

Topics actually discussed: Cybersecurity

Actions taken:

Each recorded vote:

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

Place:

Persons present:

Subjects discussed: