City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, July 14, 2025, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley called the meeting to order at 8:06 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 Adams (virtual 8:15 p.m.), Councilmembers Brady, Estève, Rogers (virtual), Truesdale and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

None.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Bowie Diversity Committee member, Ms. Kena Faulkner, read an excerpt on French-American Heritage month.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments and Swearing-In:

1. Councilmember Estève motioned to appoint Ms. Tiffany Townsend to the Community Outreach Committee as a regular member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Councilmember Esteve motioned to appoint Ms. Henrietta (Awo) Osei-Anto to the Community Outreach and Diversity Committees as a regular member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Truesdale second the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley swore in Ms. Townsend to her respective committee. Ms. Osei-Anto was not present for the swearing-in.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Mr. Terrance Taylor a long time staff member of Congressman Hoyer's office.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott stated that staff is busy working on FY26 projects and continue to provide excellent service to the residents.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Adoption of Resolution R-48-25 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to KCI Technologies, Inc. for Task Order/RFP#11-01 in the Amount of $401,079.15 in Accordance With the Master Contract Approved on January 7, 2019; B) Adoption of Resolution R-49-25 Accepting Bid for Water Treatment Plant SCADA Implementation (Design/Build). Councilmember Estève second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. South Bowie Boys and Girls Club Grant Request for NIKE Basketball Camp – Ms. Carrie Bridges, from the South Bowie Boys and Girls Club provided information on the NIKE Basketball Camp grant request. It is a collaboration with Chase Your Dreams Academy and Ms. Sonia Chase. The camp will be for boys and girls ages 6 to 17 and will include a combination of scrimmage games, skills competition and will also introduce CYDA's core values of respect, integrity, teamwork, excellence and service. The amount requested is $2,100 and it will cover the registration of six Bowie children and will be held July 14-25 and August 11-15.

Councilmember Truesdale motioned to award a grant for $2,100 to South Bowie Boys and Girls Club to sponsor six Bowie children to attend the NIKE Basketball Camp held at the Bowie Gymnasium. Councilmember Esteve second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Elections – Board of Elections Chair, Ms. Yolanda Jones provided recommendations to Council for the 2027 election cycle. The Board recommends a return to paper ballots for all voters, not just absentee voters. This method aligns with procedures used in county, state and federal elections and has proven to be more efficient and user-friendly. Efficiency may allow consolidation to one polling site per Council district. The next recommendation was regarding polling location adjustments. Several current sites are no longer available or face ongoing concerns (Cornerstone Church, CCPC, Huntington Community Center, South Bowie Pool House). The Board recommends reducing polling places from eight to four, with one per district, pending accessibility review. After meeting with multiple vendors, the Board recommends continued use of electronic pollbooks and unanimously opposes full mail-in ballots for City elections.

The Board would like to adopt key election deadlines and policies for candidate filing period to be May 1 and closing 60 days before election day. Absentee ballot requests deadline to be one week prior to election day.

Their recommendation for electronic submittal of applications, forms and/or documents is as follows: candidate filing packets should be completed in person; campaign finance reports as well as absentee ballot applications could be submitted electronically. Regulations would need to be incorporated into the City Code. The next steps will be to review and update Chapter 6 – Election Code and possible redistricting of districts as the three new developments in the City continue to build.

Councilmember Brady stated that he likes the paper ballot recommendation. He also stated that during the last election the markings of the 100ft. threshold were difficult to see, he would like to have them be more visible for the next election.

Councilmember Esteve suggested the possibility of using Ascencion Catholic Church in Old Bowie as a polling location. He also stated that the Bard should highlight the use of Absentee Ballot for the elections.

Mayor Adams thanked the Board for their report.

B. Economic Development Discussion – Council discussed initial steps for the process of how to develop a strategy to build Economic Development in the City. Staff will work on a timeline for several work session meetings with Council and outside groups to accomplish the plan.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley 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)(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". Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland on September 2, 2025.