



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, February 2, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:04 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 8:08 p.m.), Rogers, Truesdale and Woolfley (arrived 8:50 p.m.), City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Lisa Martin – Copy of comment attached.
2. John Henry – expressed concern regarding snow removal performance and recommended conducting a public after-action report.
3. Lisa Martin – Spoke regarding snow preparedness, sidewalk snow removal responsibilities and suggested for the City to provide free salt to residents.
4. Martha Ainsworth – Representing the Sierra Club, thanked Council for prior support of the beverage container deposit bill and requested a renewed letter of support for the upcoming legislative session.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Fernando Castro presented the Diversity Committee's Black History Month recognition.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments and Swearing-in:

1. Councilmember Ndebumadu motioned to appoint Sean Nkem to the Information Technology Committee as a regular member for a 2-year term. Councilmember Truesdale second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Adams swore in Mr. Nkem to the committee.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Rogers reported attending a Black History Month celebration at Excel Church on February 1. She also presented a City proclamation honoring Kathy Hughes, founder of Radio One, recognizing her as an entrepreneur and media pioneer and the first African American woman to lead a publicly traded corporation.

Councilmember Ndebumadu noted receiving constituent concerns regarding sidewalk snow removal and reported that the City has begun outreach to homeowners' associations to encourage compliance with sidewalk snow removal requirements. She also announced plans to testify in Annapolis in support of HB 275 – Vehicle Laws: Electronic Vehicle Dealer Licenses.

Councilmember Truesdale offered appreciation for residents during Black History Month and emphasized the importance of safety during winter weather and expressed support for a follow-up report regarding the City's snow response.

Mayor Adams thanked City staff, contractors, police, and emergency personnel for their snowstorm response and encouraged residents to report streets still needing attention.

Mayor Adams announced that he is resigning as Mayor effective at midnight following his appointment to the Prince George's County Council and would be sworn in the following morning. Council presented a proclamation honoring his service since first being elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2023.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported on snow response which included 12-hour shifts over 10 days, trash collection resumed quickly compared to surrounding jurisdictions, streets continue to be widened and cleared, and an after-action report is recommended in March.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Estève motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of January 20, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Resolution R-15-26 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Three-Year Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft Through SHI; C) Adoption of Resolution R-16-26 Awarding a Contract for Phase 1, Part 1 Parking Bay and Salt Barn Demolition to D & D Contracting Services, LLC in the Amount of \$81,764.31; D) Introduction of Ordinance O-2-26 Amending Bowie City Code, Chapter 6 Elections to Remove Supplemental Registration Provisions and to Clarify That Registration Shall Be In Accordance With State Law, to Prohibit Write-In Candidates, and to Generally Clarify Election Processes and Procedures in the City. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Ndebumadu not present).

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Update from the Environmental Advisory Committee – Mr. John Teasdale, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) presented the Committee's annual update and

recommendations for consideration during development of the FY2027 budget. The Committee noted the City made significant progress over the past year in developing and adopting the new Environmental Action Plan, which establishes long-term environmental goals aligned with state mandates, regional initiatives, and long-term cost savings.

The EAC highlighted five priority recommendations: 1) Expanding curbside food waste collection for composting at the County composting facility; 2) Prioritizing HVAC replacement and other energy-efficiency upgrades in City facilities as outlined in recent energy audits and conservation strategy reports; 3) Encouraged continued expansion of the City's electric vehicle fleet and the supporting charging infrastructure; 4) Addition of Forestry Crew position to support the City's Environmental Action Plan goal of achieving a 50% urban tree canopy; 5) Developing a formal policy and staff training program for ecological landscaping on City properties using native plants.

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley thanked the Environmental Advisory Committee for the presentation and asked about opportunities for large-scale native plantings or meadow projects, noting the City has completed smaller pollinator gardens and educational projects in the past. He expressed interest in expanding to larger community planting efforts and engaging residents and youth in environmental stewardship.

Councilmember Estève asked about strategies to address an increase in residents requesting removal of trees from private property. He noted staff have seen more requests from residents seeking approval to remove trees and asked how the City and Environmental Advisory Committee can better educate residents about the benefits of tree canopy and tree planting programs.

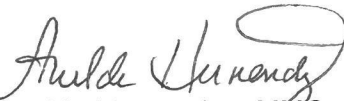
Mr. Teasdale responded that better education should be provided to residents on the benefits of trees.

Councilmember Rogers emphasized the importance of continued public education about tree canopy benefits and expressed support for expanding composting and sustainability programs.

Mayor Adams thanked Mr. Teasdale for his presentation and the work the committee has done.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Estève second the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.


Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland on February 17, 2026.

The Maryland Accessory Dwelling Units Act of 2025

HB 1466, The Maryland Accessory Dwelling Units Act of 2025, signed into law on April 22, 2025, requires local jurisdictions to authorize Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) on land zoned for single-family homes by October 1, 2026. The law aims to increase housing affordability and supply by allowing smaller secondary units (up to 75% of the primary unit's size) while limiting restrictive local regulations on, parking, and setbacks.

Key Components of HB 1466 (2025):

- **Purpose:** To address the state's housing shortage by facilitating the construction of ADUs (attached, detached, or interior) on single-family lots.
- **Implementation Deadline:** Local jurisdictions (counties and municipalities) must adopt ordinances to authorize ADUs no later than October 1, 2026.
- **Definition & Size:** Defines an ADU as a secondary unit on the same lot as a single-family home, not exceeding 75% of the size of the primary dwelling.
- **Restrictions:** Prohibits unreasonable restrictions on ADU development, including unreasonable setbacks, parking requirements, or fees.
- **HOA Limitations:** Restricts Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) from banning or unreasonably restricting the construction or rental of ADUs.
- **Effective Date:** The act takes effect on October 1, 2025.

The legislation applies to charter counties and Baltimore City, ensuring a more uniform approach to ADU development across Maryland to help homeowners, seniors, and caregivers.