



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, March 2, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Acting Mayor Woolfley called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

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

QUORUM:

In attendance were Acting Mayor Woolfley, Councilmembers Brady (virtually), Estève, Ndebumadu, Rogers, and Truesdale (virtually), Acting City Manager Mears, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Acting Mayor Woolfley announced one amendment to the agenda under New Business. The Washington Gas presentation was removed from the agenda due to scheduling conflicts related to emergency matters involving the presenters. The presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Margaret Gooden, Midsummer Lane - Addressed the Council regarding concerns about the proposed Hilltop construction project, including traffic, construction impacts, environmental effects, and limited public awareness of the proposal and upcoming community meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

None.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

None.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Acting Mayor Woolfley thanked Ms. Gooden for bringing attention to the Hilltop proposal and encouraged residents to attend the upcoming community meeting and communicate concerns to elected officials.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Acting City Manager Mears reported on attendance at the Bowie VFW Post 865 annual awards ceremony, where City employees Tyler Buchanan and Ryan Shifflet were recognized. He also announced the upcoming Bowie Speaks program hosted by the Education Committee focusing on school safety and supportive school environments, as well as the upcoming "Kitty Hall" pet adoption event at City Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Estève motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Adoption of Resolution R-32-26 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie to Allow the Purchase of Outdoor Furniture from Sister Bay Furniture Co., and Authorizing the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order in the Amount of \$167,014.50; B) Adoption of Resolution R-33-26 Awarding a Professional Services Contract to Frank R. Nero to Conduct a Study on Creating a Private Economic Development Corporation for the City in an Amount Not to Exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) Plus Expenses; C) Introduction of Ordinance O-3-26 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2026, as Embodied in Ordinance O-4-25 and Amended by Ordinances O-11-25, O-13-25 and O-1-26, to Appropriate Funds in the Amount of \$142,100 for a Network Connectivity Redundancy Project and Fiber Optic Network Expansion Project and to Appropriate \$67,600 to Replace Tasers for the Police Department and to Account for the Receipt of a Grant From Prince Georges County and Allocate the Grant Funds to Certain Services; D) Council Approval of a \$750 Donation to Support Community Outreach Efforts. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption 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 - City Clerk Hernandez summarized Ordinance O-2-26, explaining that the ordinance updates Chapter 6 of the City Code relating to elections in order to align the Code with Charter Amendment Resolution CAR-3-25 adopted earlier in the year.

City Attorney Ruff provided clarification regarding language related to unpaid campaign debts being deemed campaign contributions and outlined several options related to write-in candidate procedures used by other jurisdictions.

Public Hearing:

Acting Mayor Woolfley opened the public hearing. City Clerk Hernandez reported that no individuals signed up to speak and no written comments had been received. Acting Mayor Woolfley declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmembers discussed administrative challenges associated with write-in candidates, campaign finance reporting requirements, ballot access, and voter participation. Staff noted that the Board of Elections previously recommended eliminating write-in candidates.

Councilmember Ndebumadu raised concerns regarding vendor invoice delays and campaign finance reporting requirements. Discussion followed regarding possible options and impacts.

Councilmember Brady discussed the importance of maintaining write-in voting options, particularly in uncontested races, while other Councilmembers expressed support for the Board of Elections recommendation to eliminate write-in candidates due to administrative concerns.

Acting Mayor Woolfley summarized the available options before Council regarding write-in candidates and unpaid campaign debt language.

Councilmember Estève motioned to adopt Amended Ordinance O-2-26 removing the provision converting unpaid invoices into campaign contributions. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Prince George's County Innovation Workgroup – Report Submission and Appreciation - Councilmember Ndebumadu presented findings from the TEDCO Independent Innovation Work Group established through House Bill 306 to strengthen innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment opportunities throughout Prince George's County.

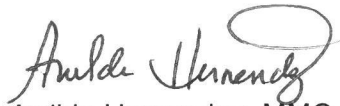
Councilmember Ndebumadu discussed the County's growing innovation ecosystem and highlighted Bowie's alignment with regional economic development strategies through the City's Master Plan, smart city initiatives, workforce development efforts, and partnerships with Bowie State University. She outlined key recommendations related to advanced manufacturing, technology, entrepreneurship, workforce pathways, and public-private partnerships.

B. Anacostia Trails Heritage Area PGC250 – Ms. Megan Bako, Executive Director of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, provided an overview of the organization's mission, programs, and partnerships throughout Prince George's County.

Ms. Bako discussed heritage tourism, public history initiatives, trail connectivity efforts, historic preservation opportunities, and upcoming activities associated with the United States Semi quinentennial and the countywide PGC250 initiative. She also highlighted ongoing partnerships and opportunities involving Bowie and surrounding communities.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Estève motioned to adjourn the regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.


Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland on May 18, 2026.