



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, April 6, 2026, in Council Chambers at City Hall. Acting Mayor Woolfley called the meeting to order at 8:05 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, Estève, Ndebumadu (arrived 8:09 p.m.), Rogers, and Truesdale (virtually), Acting City Manager Mears, City Attorney Ruff, City Clerk Hernandez and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Acting Mayor Woolfley motioned to move New Business Items B) Request for Council Approval – New Speed Camera Locations and D) Opportunities for County Funding to the next Council meeting. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Charles Hudson – Comment attached.
2. Sandy Abiletes - Addressed the Council regarding concerns involving assisted living homes within the City.
3. Dr. Kenya Coleman – Comment attached..
4. John Henry, Pond Meadow Lane - Addressed the Council regarding proposed municipal election reforms discussed at the March 2, 2026 meeting. Mr. Henry expressed opposition to implementing write-in ballot customization measures, citing concerns regarding unnecessary expenditures and administrative complications and proposed recall petition thresholds, stating that recall requirements should not be so high as to make recalls impractical.
5. Scott Vinning, Trinity Drive – Comment attached.
6. Jeffrey Cooper - Addressed the Council regarding the recent gas leak incident in the Woodmore Highlands community. Mr. Cooper stated that the incident should be treated as a public safety matter and recommended that the City formally request additional information from the Maryland Public Service Commission and Washington Gas.
7. Amy Posey - Addressed the Council in support of the Trainer Lane traffic safety concerns previously presented by Charles Hudson. Ms. Posey, accompanied by a Tulip Grove Elementary School student who bikes to school, requested expedited implementation of proposed traffic

calming improvements, including speed humps, three-way stops, and an additional crossing guard.

8. Michael Bridges, Dunwood Crossing Drive - Addressed the Council regarding the recent gas leak incident and expressed disappointment that the Washington Gas presentation materials lacked detailed information specific to the Woodmore Highlands incident.
9. Darius Statton, Dunwood Crossing Drive - Addressed the Council regarding the prolonged gas leak near his neighborhood. Mr. Stanton described repeated reports to Washington Gas regarding strong gas odors beginning in late December and expressed concerns regarding communication and follow-up during the incident.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Councilmember Brady motioned to adopt Proclamation P-1-26 Proclaiming April 12-18, 2026 as Animal Control Appreciation Week. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Acting Mayor Wolfley presented the proclamation recognizing the work of the City's Animal Control Officers and their contributions to public safety, animal rescue, and responsible pet ownership. The proclamation noted that Animal Control Officers responded to approximately 550 service calls in 2025. Staff members from the Animal Control Division were present to accept the proclamation.

B. Councilmember Rogers motioned to adopt and present Proclamation P-2-26 Proclaiming March 29, 2026 as Education and Sharing Day in the City of Bowie. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Acting Mayor Wolfley presented the proclamation to Rabbi Baron, recognizing the importance of education, moral character, and community service. Rabbi Baron thanked the Council and spoke regarding the significance of education, ethical values, and community responsibility during the Passover season and in recognition of the teachings of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

None.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Acting Mayor Wolfley reminded residents that the next Council meeting will include the swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Mayor and noted that the meeting would begin at 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the ceremony and the start of budget season.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Acting City Manager Mears provided an update regarding recent discolored water events within the City's water system, explaining that aging cast iron water mains and recent water main breaks, construction activity, and hydrant flushing have contributed to the issue. Although the water may appear discolored, testing confirms the water remains safe and meets all State water quality standards.

He also discussed upcoming hydrant flushing and valve replacement projects, as well as the City's ongoing water main rehabilitation program, including continued pipelining improvements and a proposed \$5 million investment in the upcoming fiscal year budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Estève motioned to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Adoption of Resolution R-34-26 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie and Awarding a Contract to Motive Technologies, Inc. in the Amount of \$14,256.00 for the Purchase of Fleet Management Technologies With Related Software Solutions, by Piggybacking a Sourcewell Contract; B) Adoption of Resolution R-35-26 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to KCI Technologies, Inc. for Task Order/RFP#11-04 in the Amount of \$75,099.48 in Accordance with the Master Contract Approved on January 7, 2019; C) Adoption of Resolution R-37-26 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to KCI Technologies, Inc. for Task Order/RFP#3-24 in the Amount of \$156,892.63 in Accordance With the Master Contract Approved on October 31, 2018; D) Introduction of Ordinance O-4-26 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, O-1-26 and O-3-26 to Appropriate Funds for the Following Projects: \$48,300 to Fund the Replacement of Vehicle #14 and \$125,000 for the Administration of the April 7, 2026 Mayoral Election; E) Approval of Letter to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission re: City of Bowie – Go Prince George's Preliminary Master Plan Comments. Councilmember Brady second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption 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 – Acting Mayor Woolfley summarized the ordinance.

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.

Councilmember Brady motioned to adopt Ordinance O-3-26. Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

B. Bowie Brighter Strategic Plan – Acting City Manager Mears presented the finalized Bowie Brighter Strategic Plan, summarizing the collaborative effort between the City Council, staff, and the community that began in 2024. He introduced the City's mission, vision, and core values, and recognized the "SPARK Team," goal champions, and initiative owners who will oversee implementation of the plan's 29 initiatives.

Staff representatives presented an overview of the five strategic goals and their associated initiatives. The Safe Community goal focuses on improving public safety through enhanced emergency communications, online reporting tools, crime prevention campaigns, and expanded use of technology, including drones and license plate readers. The Connected and Informed Community goal includes initiatives to increase resident engagement through expanded outreach, more accessible and engaging Council meetings, community pulse surveys, and enhanced communications.

The Sustainability goal includes implementation of the Environmental Action Plan, expansion of trails and wayfinding, native landscaping policies, smart city initiatives, energy efficiency projects, and expansion of the City's food waste collection program. The Responsive Service Delivery goal emphasizes

improving accessibility of City information, translating materials into Spanish, expanding customer communications, and utilizing customer satisfaction surveys to improve service delivery. The Staff Development goal focuses on employee recruitment, onboarding, training opportunities, leadership development, career pathways, performance evaluations, and succession planning.

Acting City Manager Mears advised that many of the initiatives have been incorporated into the proposed FY2027 budget and will be discussed further during upcoming budget work sessions. Council members thanked staff for their work and expressed support for continuing implementation of the strategic plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Washington Gas Operational Briefing – Representatives from Washington Gas provided an overview of the company's emergency response procedures, leak investigation process, infrastructure maintenance programs, and customer communication efforts following the recent gas leak in the Woodmore Highlands neighborhood.

Washington Gas representatives explained that public safety remains the company's highest priority and reviewed the response to the recent transmission line leak, noting that the leak was difficult to locate due to its location near the railroad tracks. Once identified, crews worked continuously over several days to safely excavate, repair, and restore the affected area. Representatives acknowledged residents' concerns regarding communication during the incident and stated that improvements to public notification and coordination with local officials are being evaluated.

The presentation also included an overview of Washington Gas' ongoing pipeline inspection and replacement programs, emergency response requirements for hazardous and non-hazardous leaks, and the importance of contacting 811 before excavation. Staff concluded with information regarding residential and commercial energy efficiency rebate programs, home energy assessments, and other customer assistance programs available to Washington Gas customers.

Following the presentation, the Council questioned Washington Gas representatives regarding the response to the Woodmore Highlands gas leak, the time required to locate the leak, communication with residents and elected officials, infrastructure monitoring, and emergency response procedures. Representatives explained that the leak resulted from a failed weld at the connection between a transmission main and a regulator line. Due to the location near the railroad tracks, the leak required additional investigation, fabrication of a custom repair sleeve, and approximately four days to complete repairs and site restoration.

Councilmembers expressed concerns regarding the initial response, communication with residents, and the difficulty residents experienced obtaining timely information during the incident. The Council requested that Washington Gas improve coordination with the City's Emergency Management staff, develop clearer communication protocols, and provide an after-action report summarizing the incident, response efforts, and recommendations for future improvements. Washington Gas acknowledged that communication could have been better, committed to strengthening coordination with City staff, and agreed to provide additional information regarding the incident and system reliability. Representatives also discussed the company's ongoing leak detection, infrastructure maintenance, annual inspections, and customer safety programs.

Acting Mayor Woolfley thanked them for the briefing.

C. Traffic Safety Discussion - Council discussed several potential improvements, including updating school zone signage and hours, installing additional directional signage, evaluating three-way stop

intersections, considering speed humps where appropriate, and reviewing the need for additional crossing guards. Council members also requested that staff evaluate traffic concerns in other areas of the City, including Rockledge Drive, and consider additional traffic calming measures such as speed cameras and enhanced signage.

Following discussion, the Council directed staff to evaluate the proposed traffic safety improvements, coordinate with the appropriate agencies, and return with recommendations for improving pedestrian and vehicular safety near Tulip Grove Elementary School and other identified locations.

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)(4): "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State". Councilmember Rogers second the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.


Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Approved by the City Council of the City of Bowie, Maryland on July 6, 2026.

Good evening Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley and members of the Council. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Charles Hudson. I am a Bowie native, an eleven-year resident of Trainor Lane, and the parent of a ten-year-old child.

I first came before you on January 20th to raise concerns about traffic safety on Trainor Lane, Traymore Lane, and Tulip Grove Drive—the streets directly surrounding Tulip Grove Elementary School.

At that time, I shared concerns that my neighbors and members of the school community have raised for years: excessive speeds, increasing traffic volume following school rezoning, and unsafe conditions during drop-off and pick-up. I also referenced the November incident in which a child was struck by a vehicle—an event that made clear that these risks are not hypothetical.

Since that meeting, I want to sincerely thank Mayor Pro Tem Woolfley for taking the time to meet with us in the neighborhood and personally observe traffic conditions during morning drop-off on two separate days, at different ends of Trainor Lane.

What we observed confirmed our concerns: high traffic volume in short timeframes, inconsistent stopping behavior, limited visibility due to stopped vehicles, and frequent interactions between cars and children navigating the area.

Following those observations, residents and members of the Tulip Grove Elementary community worked together to refine a focused and practical set of traffic-calming recommendations. I have provided a visual map and summary for the Council this evening.

We are respectfully requesting the following:

- **Updated street signage**, aligned with current school hours to improve clarity and enforcement
- **Installation of speed humps on Trainor Lane**, with consideration for additional measures on surrounding high-traffic streets
- **Designation of Trainor Lane as a one-way street during school hours**, to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion during drop-off and pick-up times
- **Installation of three all-way stops at the following intersections:**
 - Tulip Grove Drive and Trainor Lane
 - Trainor Lane and Traymore Lane

– Traymore Lane and Tulip Grove Drive

- **Addition of a crossing guard at Trainor Lane and Traymore Lane**, to provide consistent protection where it is currently needed

These are practical, proven, and relatively low-cost measures that can significantly improve safety in a high-risk, school-adjacent environment.

As a parent and a resident, I want to emphasize that this is about prevention. We now have years of community concern, a recent incident, and direct observation alongside a member of this Council.

With that in mind, we respectfully ask the City to move forward with implementing these measures **before the start of the 2026–2027 school year**, so that students, families, and residents can return in the fall to a safer environment.

We appreciate your time, your attention, and your continued commitment to the safety of Bowie's children.

Thank you.

Requested Traffic Calming Measures for Trainor Lane, Traymore Lane and Tulip Grove Drive

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 - Trainor Lane and Traymore Lane
 - Traymore Lane and Tulip Grove Drive
- **Addition of a crossing guard at Trainor Lane and Traymore Lane**, to provide consistent protection where it is currently needed



Awilda Hernandez

From: Dr. Kenya Coleman, LICSW, LCSW-C <kenya@wellnessineducation.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 11:39 AM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow-Up: Citizens Participation Remarks – April 6 Council Meeting

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

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Good morning Ms. Hernandez,

Thank you for your support in coordinating yesterday's City Council meeting. As requested, I am sharing a copy of my Citizens Participation remarks below:

There is a student at Bowie High School right now who was present during an armed robbery outside their school. Another who sheltered in place during a lockdown this past January. Another who watched a classmate get choked and robbed in the school hallway. These are not statistics from another city. These are our kids. And when the last police car pulls away and the metal detector gets wheeled back in — nobody is asking that child how they're doing inside.

My name is Dr. Kenya Coleman. I am your neighbor, a licensed clinical social worker, and the Founder of Kaleidoscope Wellness & Education Group. And I am here tonight because I have spent my career building the answer to that question — and I need this Council's help to get it to our children.

Every student who witnessed those events, every child who hid in a classroom during a lockdown, every young person who is afraid to walk to school — they are carrying something. Fear. Trauma. Anxiety. And most of them have nowhere to put it.

That is the gap I am working to close.

Kaleidoscope provides direct clinical services to students and families — individual and group therapy, parent workshops, and professional development for educators. We are a holistic provider. We meet children in the room, and we meet them where they are. One of the ways we do that is through the KSCOPE Wellness & Education App — a clinically grounded, culturally responsive platform that extends our reach beyond the therapy room, giving students, families, and educators access to mental health tools and licensed clinicians at 10 o'clock at night when no school counselor is available. We don't believe technology replaces human connection. We believe it extends it.

Here is what is important for this Council to know: we have done the work. Kaleidoscope is a registered vendor with Prince George's County Public Schools. The PGCPs Office of Research has granted us permission to conduct formal research on the app's efficacy using their students. The system has already said yes to us — on paper.

And yet, we cannot get a returned phone call. Emails go unanswered. Appointments are scheduled and not kept. The institutional door is open, but no one will walk us through it.

Closer to home, I applied for a City of Bowie education grant in collaboration with a local public school. That school was a willing partner through the entire application process. The grant was not approved — and I accepted that. What I could not accept was leaving those students without support. So I offered to implement the program at no cost to the school. That was months ago. Despite multiple follow-up attempts, we have not received a response.

I am not here tonight to complain. I am here because I refuse to stop showing up for the children of this community — and I am asking this Council to help remove the barriers that are standing between an already-vetted, Bowie-built solution and the students who need it most.

The City of Bowie has a Youth and Family Services Department whose mission aligns directly with this work. I am formally requesting that this Council facilitate an introduction between Kaleidoscope and the Director of that department, so that together we can explore how this tool can reach the youth and families of Bowie.

I would also ask that the Council consider how it might support connections between Bowie-based innovators and the private and religious schools in our city — schools that are deeply committed to their students but often lack the clinical infrastructure to address mental health needs. Kaleidoscope's full continuum of care — clinical services and technology together — can be a meaningful bridge for those communities as well.

Our children deserve more than lockdown drills. They deserve someone in their corner at 10 o'clock at night when everything feels like too much. That support exists. It has been vetted by the very system that won't return our calls. And it was built right here in Bowie — by one of your neighbors — for children who live on your streets.

I am asking this Council to help me get it to them.

Thank you.

I also want to take a moment to share my appreciation for the experience. Attending the meeting offered me a meaningful opportunity to witness civics in action—to observe the structure, the dialogue, and the intentionality behind the process. While I wish I had engaged sooner, I can say with certainty that this will not be my last time participating.

As shared in my remarks, my goal is to partner with the City to ensure that students and families in Bowie have access to timely, culturally responsive mental health support. I remain hopeful about the opportunity to collaborate and would welcome any guidance on next steps or appropriate points of contact.

Thank you again for your time and for the work you do to support the City's engagement with its residents.

Warmly,

Dr. Kenya Coleman, LICSW, LCSW-C
Chief Executive Officer

Awilda Hernandez

From: Scott D. Vining <wmataman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 8:35 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Scott D. Vining
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment's from Me On April 6, 2026

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender

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Hey there,

I'm just sharing this with you regarding my comment's on April 6, 2026:

Please 👤 See the Following:

Good Evening Everyone.

On February 17th 2026 I shared w the Council that Between January 8th 2026 & February 17th 2026 there were 36 Different occasions where the Neighborhood was hearing Loud Vehicles & Fast Drivers based on the Speed Sounds out on the Road....

Since February 17th 2026 to Current Date Through April 6th 2026 I can Share w/ The City Council that there's Been 153 Different Occurrence's on This Matter As Late As 1:32 AM..... Thank You For Your Time On This Matter !!!!

Respectfully,

Sent from Gmail Mobile
Scott D. Vining
3100 Trinity Dr.
Bowie, MD. 20715-3151
301-464-8401 (H)
301-785-2602 (C)

**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: 4-6-26; Time: 11:20; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Esteve Seconded by Rogers;
Members in favor: All Aye; 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) ☒	Business Location	
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		

4. This statement is made by *[Signature]*, Presiding Officer.

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: 11:30pm

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): (4) Business Location

Members who voted to meet in closed session: DW, WR, DB, ME, CT, RN

Persons attending closed session: Wootley, Rogers, Esteve, Trussdale, Nibumidu, Ruff, King, Mears, Brady

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (4)

Topics actually discussed: Relocation incentives

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

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

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____