



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, July 6, 2020 virtually. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Adams; Councilmembers Boafu, Esteve, Harrison, Ndebumadu and Woolfley; City Manager Lott; Assistant City Manager Mears; City Attorney Levan; City Clerk Hernandez; and Staff.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Pamela Booth – Comment attached.
2. Sara Spivey Roseman – Comment attached.
3. Peggy Brow – Comment attached.
4. Sarah Earwicker – Comment attached.
5. Angelle Lopez – Comment attached.
6. Jim Sichelman – Comment attached.
7. George Albaugh – Comment attached.
8. Keith Richards – Comment attached.
9. Terry Rogers, Jr., President, Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce – Comment attached.
10. Franklyn Matthews – Comment attached.
11. Dinah Kuhnert – Comment attached.
12. Erin Schuettler – Comment attached.
13. Cheryl Richardson – Comment attached.
14. Jason Seaton – Comment attached.
15. Kelly Seaton – Comment attached.
16. Sarah Schaefer – Comment attached.
17. Kim Derocher – Comment attached.
18. Robert Lively – Comment attached.
19. Citizens of District 1, District 2, District 3, and District 4 – Comment attached.
20. Christine Nickel – Comment attached.
21. Karen Geary – Comment attached.
22. Alexis Cunningham – Comment attached.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo made a motion to approve and reappoint for another 2-year term all the members on the City Committee Reappointments Memorandum dated July 2, 2020 from City Clerk Hernandez. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. For the Administrative Review Board, reappointments were William D. Boyer, Nancy Franklin, Carl J. Robinson and William Schmitt.
2. For the Advisory Planning board, reappointments were Lisa F. Avery, James A. Golato, Terry Rogers, Jr., Carl J. Schuettler and Ronald G. Skotz.
3. For the Arts Committee, reappointments were Holly Carton, Gabrielle Davison, Jeffery Minniear and Jacqueline Thompson.
4. For the Board of Personnel Appeals, reappointments were Steven A. Bowen and Lisa Henkel.
5. For the Community Outreach Committee, Mary Ellen Winlund was reappointed.
6. For the Community Recreation Committee, reappointments were John P. Fagan, Jr., Tony Nichols and Carrie Weaver-Bridges.
7. For the Diversity Committee, reappointments were Elveeda Dixon, Jennie Guilbaud and Tisha Hillman.
8. For the Education Committee, reappointments were Trasee C. Bradley and Julie Kelly.
9. For the Economic Development Committee, reappointments were Yolanda Muckle, Joan B. Pitkin, Lisa R. Ransom and Phyllis C. Thompson.
10. For the Environmental Advisory Committee, reappointments were Karin Taschenberger, John R. Teasdale and Stephen Wehrenberg.
11. For the Financial Advisory Committee, reappointments were William Olukoya and Rodney Yancey.
12. For the Green Team Executive Committee, reappointments were Michelle Balfe, Linda Cooper, Howard R. Dobson, Maysen Gore-Duran, Sue Livera and Joshua Wooten.
13. For the Information Technology Committee, reappointments were Richard Bleach, JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs and Kenneth Wenzel.
14. For the Public Safety Committee, reappointments were Delmer F. Billings, Ronald E. Gill, Jr., William C. Grayson, Bill Healy, Jill Hochman, Monica B. James and Jacqueline M. Rhone.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams thanked all the citizens of Bowie, the City Staff, and the Council for all their love, support and prayers during his family's time of loss.

Councilmember Harrison shared that almost 79% of households in Bowie have completed the 2020 Census. She is grateful for their support. The remaining 21% of households need to respond for Bowie to receive its full share of the billions of dollars in federal funding over the next decade.

Councilmember Harrison thanked Councilmember Ndebumadu for her partnership and leadership with NAI Michael to provide lunches, smoothies, and coffee to Bowie's hometown frontline healthcare heroes. They are eternally grateful for those heroes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Woolfley moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of May 4 Regular Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Resolution R-38-20 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie by a Two-Thirds Vote to Allow for the Rental of Leaf Collection Trucks and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract With Herc Rentals in the Amount of \$55,175; C) Adoption of Resolution R-47-20 Approving a

Climate Action Plan and Setting a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target for the City; D) Adoption of Resolution R-48-20 Accepting the Proposal for Miscellaneous Repairs and Painting of 3MG Water Reservoir Located at 3703 Media Lane; E) Adoption of Resolution R-50-20 Accepting Proposal for SWM Map Conveyance; F) Adoption of Resolution R-51-20 Accepting Bid for Maintenance of Street Light and Underground Street Light Cable; G) Adoption of Resolution R-52-20 Accepting Bid for On-Site (Mobile) Preventive Maintenance (PMI) and Reporting Services to the Fleet of Light, Medium, and Heavy-Duty Vehicles and Off-Road Equipment; and H) Adoption of Resolution R-53-20 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie by a Two-Thirds Vote to Allow for the Purchase of Three Chevrolet Volt Electric Vehicles and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement with Lindsay Chevrolet in the Mount of \$84,211.68. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Resolution R-37-20 Establishing the Bowie COVID-10 Business Recovery Assistance Program – Mr. John Henry King, Economic Development Director, stated that this resolution was originally presented to Council on June 15th and contained a broad plan and action for COVID-19 business recovery. Ordinance O-6-20 rendered this resolution an obsolete document so staff is recommending that Council vote no on this resolution and move to new business item, Resolution R-49-20 which is a new resolution incorporating the results of Council discussion from June 15th.

Councilmember Woolfley moved to reject Resolution R-37-20. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Resolution R-49-20 Establishing the Bowie COVID-19 Business Recovery Assistance Program – Mr. John Henry King, Economic Development Director, discussed this resolution which proposes a Bowie COVID-19 recovery assistance program. It was created at the request of Council through the Economic Development Committee. This new resolution is the result of an in-depth Council discussion on June 15th. The program includes assistance for individuals and families, and assistance for Bowie businesses. This is a more succinct resolution.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo moved to adopt Resolution R-49-20. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

B. Hall Station Annexation Discussion – Mr. Joseph Meinert, Director of Planning and Community Development, briefed Council on the topic, stating that the residents made the request for annexation. Mr. Meinert discussed the memo and information provided and pointed out that if this was annexed, there would be an entire area completely surrounded by City boundaries that is not part of the City of Bowie. This situation is not allowed by Maryland law so the boundaries of the annexation would need to be revised, as proposed in the staff memo. Mr. Meinert asked Council to consider requiring additional signatures on the annexation petition as they only have 25% of residents/registered voters who have signed the petition at this time. A discussion was had, and Council requested that this be brought back before them at the July 13 Council meeting with answers to the questions regarding tax revenue and services that would be provided by the City if annexed.

C. Ice Arena RFP Review and Selection for Public/Private Partnership – Council discussed the staff report and noted the difference in the costs for repairs of the ice arena between the study that was done in 2017 and the ones presented in the request for proposals today. Assistant City Manager Mears gave a presentation that answered some of Council's questions on the subject and stated that staff would like to have more information for getting the repairs that are necessary and to get a cost estimate.

Councilmember Harrison stated that she would not be supportive of any of the organizations who submitted an RFP as they are not providing anything that the City does not already provide. She stated that the residents have loudly spoken that they do not want a public private partnership. They want the ice rink to remain in City control.

Other Councilmembers also stated their concerns about public/private partnerships, and also discussed needing to look further into the projects that need to be done and working towards getting those actual cost projections.

Councilmember Ndebumadu stated she would like to continue to see involvement from the community.

D. Adoption of Resolution R-54-20 Creating an Ice Arena and Recreation Facility Task Force – Assistant City Manager Mears read the resolution aloud. Councilmember Esteve stated that the goal of the task force would be to determine the costs associated with repairing the ice arena and come up with a plan for moving forward. This resolution came about from resident input, Councilmember Esteve and Mayor Pro Tem Bofo.

Councilmember Harrison voiced concerns that there was not full involvement of the Council before bringing the resolution to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Bofo implored Councilmember Harrison to make any suggestions she would like to see for the resolution.

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to adopt Resolution R-54-20 with the following amendments: 1) change the period of appointment to one year; 2) delete Recreation Facility from the title of the resolution; 3) include under membership the addition of 1 staff member from the ice arena; and 4) reject the request for proposals presented tonight and proceed with staff recommendation that the City continue to operate the facility, including the necessary capital improvements, with existing staff. Mayor Pro Tem Bofo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Esteve questioned the motion and presented an amendment to the motion to include the process of selecting the task force member be the same format that is used for selecting regular committee members. Mayor Pro Tem Bofo seconded the amended motion. The motion passed 6-0.

E. Discussion on Proposed Bowie Youth Council – Councilmember Harrison summarized the proposal that was brought before Council by resident Tameeka Washington. She brought up the idea of whether the Youth Council should be a separate entity or operate under the Diversity Committee. Each district would have two representatives who must be in grades 6 through 12, Council would appoint 4 members and the rest would be selected by the committee themselves. They would be responsible for any policy matters affecting youth and would bring those before Council. They would be assisted by two mentors. A discussion was had on the GPA requirement as to it being 2.3 as opposed to 2.5. Councilmember Harrison wanted to allow those to participate whose GPA's are not indicative of their abilities. She wanted to make it less restrictive for participants. Council will review the proposal and provide comments to staff for creation of a formal resolution for Council adoption at a future meeting.

F. Discussion on Councils' actions towards Racism – Council discussed the potential changes and laws that Council is considering adopting in combating racism and supporting the Black Lives Matter initiative in the City. Mayor Adams stated that the things the Bowie Police Department is already doing, is being held up nationally as to how things should be done. Mayor Adams stated that the City should show that it stands behind those principles, the Police Department and show that the City is a place of

love and compassion for all of its citizens. Mayor Adams stated it should be codified that the City supports the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo stated a really good and productive protest and rally was held recently at City Hall including a number of groups and stated that this topic will be an ongoing discussion. He suggested Council invite the Police Chief and Deputy Police Chief to the Council Chambers to let residents know what they are doing on certain issues/where they stand and for residents to ask questions. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo also mentioned the accreditation process that the Police department is going through. Council commended their fellow councilmembers, the police, the staff, and community for their hard work and efforts.

Councilmember Ndebumadu stated she would like to see more opportunities for children in the city. She also discussed having Juneteenth celebrated as a paid holiday or having discussions and learning on that day about the history and meaning of the day. Councilmember Woolfley pointed out the great work that the Diversity Committee has done over the years. City Manager Lott stated that Bowie's police department is the most diverse he has ever seen. The previous management and the Chief have done an outstanding job representing the community. They are experts at community policing and have outstanding programs immersing them in the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo moved to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Awilda Hernandez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: pam373@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:50 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafu; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL};

CITY OF BOWIE RESIDENTS:

PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL ASAP <by 5pm today> ASKING THE CITY COUNCIL TO PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING 2 THINGS:

1. Keep their promise and build the new rink to not cost millions of dollars to the taxpayers of Bowie. At this point if you want ice or not - they need to uphold their contract to make things right for the taxpayers.

2. Please ask them to keep the current rink as CITY OWNED - CITY OPERATED! Let them know you DO NOT agree with a long term private partnership - costs will increase, public events will become less available etc.

2518 Kitmore Lane

Awilda Hernandez

From: Sara Spivey Roseman <sdrgnldy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:01 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL};

Please address at the City Council meeting tonight:

I AM ASKING THE CITY COUNCIL TO PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING TWO THINGS:

1. Keep their promise and build the new rink to not cost millions of dollars to the taxpayers of Bowie. They need to uphold their contract to make things right for the taxpayers.
2. Keep the current rink as CITY OWNED - CITY OPERATED! I DO NOT agree with a long term private partnership - costs will increase, public events will become less available etc.

Thank you,
Sara Spivey Roseman
12609 Kembridge Dr
Bowie, MD 20715

Awilda Hernandez

From: Peggy Brow <momof2manyhats@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:07 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafu; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie ice skating

Dear Bowie City Council,

Again asking that you live up to your promise of building the new ice arena or at minimum keep the old one Bowie owned and operated. By selling, you offer the chance of completely eliminating the sport of skating from Bowie. This is the only sport my daughter with special needs excels at. Maybe you can't/don't skate so it's difficult to understand. If at some point skating is no longer available you are forcing us to take our business out of the city we live in. May as well take our patronage of other businesses out of Bowie too if you can't support all people of Bowie. Is that what you are hoping for? Sell a facility and lose residents to other cities? Please consider all people and maintain ice skating in Bowie.

Thank you!
Peggy Brow
District 2B

Awilda Hernandez

From: Sarah Earwicker <stinkypig@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 4:26 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: City Council Meeting 7/6

Hello,

I was hoping this would be read at the City Council Meeting on 7/6.

I have been a long time resident of Bowie for the last 37 years, and I am writing about the Bowie Ice Arena. I am asking that the Council take the recommendation from the City Manager's report to keep the Ice Arena city-owned. If the City sells to a private corporation, the City will still be required to fund a significant portion of the repairs while relinquishing control. If the City has to pay for repairs anyway, we should be able to keep control of the Ice Arena. Please consider what will be best for our City and the residents, and that will be to maintain control of the Ice Arena by not selling to a private corporation.

Thank you,
Sarah Earwicker
Mont Clare Lane
20715

Awilda Hernandez

From: Angelle Lopez <orthoangelle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:18 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Bofo; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: City of Bowie Ice Area- For tonight's Meeting- Email from a Bowie Citizen

COUNCIL TO PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING 2 THINGS:

1. Keep your promise and build the new rink to not cost millions of dollars to the taxpayers of Bowie.
2. Keep the current rink as CITY OWNED - CITY OPERATED! I DO NOT agree with a long-term private partnership - costs will increase, public events will become less available etc.

My husband is a Bowie Hockey Alumni dating back to 1970's. We both have been raised in Bowie, He moved to Bowie in 1972 and I moved here in 1984.

Sincerely,

Angelle Lopez

Wright Orthodontics
(410)544-0072 Severna Park
(410)544-5916 FAX
www.orthowright.com

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Awilda Hernandez

From: james sichelman <spqr2k@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:38 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Michael Esteve; kstehmer; Lori Jones; Bill Schmidt
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: ICE ARENA AND RECREATION FACILITY TASK FORCE

Dear City Council Members & Mayor Adams,

I am writing to express my desire to be a member of the ICE ARENA AND RECREATION FACILITY TASK FORCE. I am a newly sworn-in member of the CRC and am a long time user of the Ice Rink, serving as a hockey parent for nearly a decade and a team manager for several years. Additionally, I am a 23-year resident of Northridge who has lived in the City for most of the previous 45 years. Though I am no longer participating in the Bowie Hockey Club due to the fact that my son has aged out of the program, I am presently serving as volunteer President of the Bowie High School Hockey Club, and expect to fulfill that role for as long as the team needs a volunteer.

As a new CRC member, I am not necessarily bound to or limited by their history or their recommendations for the Ice Arena. I do know, however, that there is at least one other member of the CRC who is willing to serve, who's judgement I trust. If I am not seen as a potential member, Karl Stehmer would do an excellent job looking out for the best interests of our children. As a hockey parent, however, I am intimately involved with the needs of the club and the shortcomings of the current rink, and feel that I would be a valuable member of this new task force.

What is not clearly understood by non-members is that at the youngest ages, the BHC is made up by a much larger contingent of city residents than the older ages. As the athletes age, they commonly move on to other sports or clubs, and the club membership takes on a much more regional character. Additionally, without a second sheet of ice, our teams are forced to share their ice with other teams, mostly due to the sheer size of club membership. This user-situation is extremely rare and serves to retard the growth of our players. As kids grow older and get more interested in serious competition, they look elsewhere, knowing that most Bowie teams just cannot compete with other regional clubs. This is a drawback that can only be remedied by a larger facility. I bring this up only because I am not sure that this has been properly articulated during the process that has resulted in cancellation of the new Ice Arena.

At any rate, it is clear that the PPP is either a poor or completely unrealistic alternative. I have read the City Manager's report and agree broadly with its findings. I would urge this council to reconsider their cancellation of the rink, and at the very least, suggest that agreeing to a PPP based on the proposals received would be a grave error, serving to compound the damage already inflicted on the users.

I do not write this message to lay blame or to tell you your business, but I do try to state my intentions and opinions so that they are clearly understood. If you feel that I would be a fit for this task force as a member of the CRC or a community advocate (and former user), at least you know where I stand on the issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jim Sichelman
Quintette Lane, Northridge, Bowie

Awilda Hernandez

From: GEORGE albaugh <albaughg@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:33 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Bofo; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Ice rink

I'm a City resident, I live in the M-section (Manship Lane). I support the City keeping the existing ice arena and shouldering the costs connected with its proper maintenance. You've already wasted millions of my tax dollars by pulling the plug on the new rink (don't yet know the total cost of that miscarriage of governance--the meter is still running). City ownership of the rink will keep the cost of skating down for city residents.

George Albaugh
12327 Manship Lane

Awilda Hernandez

From: Richards Family <loggerhead425@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:58 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Dufour Woolfley
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Ice Rink

Good Afternoon,

My name is Keith Richards and I reside at 2622 Kennison Lane, Bowie, MD. 20715. I am emailing you to request that you keep your promise and build the new ice arena. This contract needs to be upheld as to not waste anymore of my or my neighbors' tax money! Keep the ice rink CITY OWNED and OPERATED!

I am appalled at what this city council has done!

Good Day!
Keith Richards and Family

Good evening Mayor Adams, esteemed City Council, staff and Bowie citizens! On behalf of the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce we wish to express our profound gratitude for your inclusion of the Chamber of Commerce in the city's amended budget. With this infusion of financial support we look forward to instituting programs that will strengthen the ability of our small and microbusinesses to fend off the ravages that the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked upon this valuable city commodity.

Aside from 1983, the year of its founding, the Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce is facing the most critical and defining period in its long and illustrious history. In recent months as many of our local businesses have been forced to shutter they have faced revenue, income, job instability and credit challenges which has resulted in loss tax revenue to the city. This loss in business and sales tax revenue has actually increased the tax burden on our city's already challenged financial budget.

Our small and microbusinesses are operated by some of the most innovative, diverse and talented business owners anywhere. In many cases they chose to invest their life savings and creative energy to turn their dreams and passions into a critical component of the vitality of this great city. Their contributions are no less than astounding! We have come to love these businesses. We need these businesses to survive. They are important to us, and **YOUR** Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce, with your assistance, will be in a better position to help them be better able to deal with the crisis situation that they are struggling through.

The programs, webinars and resources that we will bring to bear will not only help them transition to open but we will arm them with the tools and knowledge so that they can stabilize and sustain their operations into the future.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful efforts to grant us the resources necessary to get our beloved businesses back on solid footing.

The Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce is OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Terry Rogers, President

Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce

Awilda Hernandez

From: Franklyn Matthews <franklynmatthews@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:32 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Bofo; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Keep the Bowie Ice Arena Operated By the City of Bowie

Dear Bowie City Council Members,

Here we meet again about the state of ice in our city. After reviewing the proposals that have been presented and some detailed search about the two accepted proposals, I hope that it is clear to the council that the only way to responsible proceed is with the city continuing to operate the ice arena. Although I am still very disturbed with how the new arena was abruptly stopped we must all move forward but let's do so with a decision that doesn't essentially eliminate ice in the city. Thank you in advance for making the most prudent and fiscally responsible decision.

Franklyn Matthews

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Awilda Hernandez

From: Dinah Kuhnert <dinahkuhnert@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:46 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Bofo; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Keep the Bowie Ice Arena Operated By the City of Bowie

Dear City Council,

I live in the M section of Bowie, behind Bowie High School. I would like to restate my desires about the Bowie Ice Arena. I desire that the City of Bowie continue to operate the Bowie Ice Arena, including necessary capital improvements, with city staff and that we do not enter into a PPP with any of the mentioned firms. None of the firms present a benefit for the City of Bowie. The full-time staff members have 92 combined years of specialized Ice Arena experience and the part-time staff have 90 years. Please keep the Bowie Ice Arena operated by the City of Bowie.

My family & I have enjoyed the Bowie Ice Arena for lessons as well as social time & exercise time in the past. We want the excellent staff, services, and other amenities to continue.

Thank you,
Dinah Kuhnert

Awilda Hernandez

From: mdmom05@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:20 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Letter for Council Meeting 7/6/20

Erin Schuettler
District 1

I am writing this letter to ask that you do not vote in favor of entering into a PPP for the Bowie Ice Arena. You have already devastated the ice community by pulling the rug out from beneath them regarding the Iceplex. Now you are tightening the screw on them by wanting to bring in a company from outside our community to run our ice rink. These companies have zero loyalty to our community. Since some of the council-members have given one of the reasons to stop the Iceplex was the amount of money the city would have to give to support it every year. If you move forward with the PPP for the ice rink, I will request that the council start looking into a company that they can enter into a PPP to run the City Gym and the new courts you want to build on Church Road. You all know the numbers, the City Gym loses a lot more money every year than the ice rink does. So if the council votes for the PPP for the ice rink, then they need to start to figure out how to enter into PPP(s) for ALL the facilities that loses money.

The two proposals are still asking for the City to supply the money for capital improvements. The improvements to the ice rink that are needed per the report submitted by the City staff in 2017 would cost \$22,400,000.00. The mayor stated in his response that he posted on Facebook on 5/19/20 after canceling the Iceplex that Black Bear Sports Group, an industry expert informed him that it would cost approximately \$3,000,000.00 for the repairs. Why would the Mayor take advice from the largest and closest competitor to our Ice Rink? BBSG had too many reasons to count to want to shut down the Iceplex project. It would be like taking advice from Walmart about building a newer and better Target. How is \$3,000,000.00 going to be enough to repair and/or replace the site issues, parking lot, metal panels, structural system, roof, mold removal, refrigeration slab, locker rooms, restrooms, sprinkler system, HVAC system and electrical? Their proposal is still stating \$3,000,000.00 for the repairs. They gave an example of improving Piney Orchard which was built in 1991 to our 1971. Out of the 15 ice rinks that they have purchased in the last 5 years they have been in business, all but 3 of them were built in the 1990s, 1 in 1975 with a remodel in 1985, 1 in 1984 and 1 in 2003. So I am not sure they are experts in rehabbing rinks that were built in the early 70s, or how they can be experts when you have only been in business for 5 years. The City will lose programmatic control for our resident-based programs. We will lose a staff with 92 combined years of specialized Ice Arena experience.

Please do not vote for this PPP.

Awilda Hernandez

From: Cheryl Richardson <cheryl.richardson85@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:07 PM
To: Timothy Adams; Rosann Ndebumadu; Adrian Boafo; Henri Gardner; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Ingrid Harrison
Cc: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Letter for tonight's meeting

Good afternoon,

I understand that letters about the ice arena issue will be shared tonight. Here's mine below.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Richardson

Dear City Council,

My name is Cheryl Richardson and I live in District 1. I have been a City of Bowie resident for 35 years.

I do not agree with a public private partnership for the Bowie Ice Arena. One of my very realistic concerns is that a private partner will not care to keep ice sports and recreation affordable. One of the two bidders, Murry Gunty/Black Bear Sports Group, has already shown he will capitalize whenever opportunity presents. Their ice rink, Piney Orchard, recently was the first ice rink in the area to open when the state was starting to allow select businesses to reopen. Do you know what they did? They took advantage of that fact and charged \$65 for a two-hour stick and puck session. For a family like mine with three kids, that's a \$195 cost. That's outrageous and unacceptable.

Yesterday I sent the council and the city staff a very long and detailed email explaining why both RFP applications should not be considered. To recap some of those key points:

1) Murry Gunty/Black Bear Sports group skillfully crafts their answer to section 4.1, stating: *The respondent has no prior civil or criminal litigation beyond ordinary course insured civil litigation none of which is material, and neither the respondent nor it's personnel have been judged guilty in such litigation in the past 10 years. There have been some financial settlements by the respondent and affiliates in which no guilt has been admitted in order to avoid the cost of litigation.*

The use of the words "none of which is material" catches my attention. Who are they to determine what is material here? The fact is, all business matters related to Mr. Gunty, regardless of industry, are relevant here as it speaks to his character as a businessman. Also, his one company, SuperShuttle, closed down recently and there is litigation pending between Transdev on Demand, Inc., and Blackstreet Capital Holdings, over the terms of the transaction.

Also, when I read the last sentence of their answer, I interpret it to mean: "The respondent and its affiliates had some legal troubles that had they gone to court, would have been found guilty and probably would have been negatively impacted financially, so we settled instead."

2) Another skillfully crafted sentence is this one: "In addition, an affiliate of the respondent, without admitting responsibility, voluntarily accepted an administrative order from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission." Deeper research here showed unregistered broker-dealer activity, undisclosed OPO fees, unauthorized use of fund assets, and using fund assets to make political contributions are just a few of the concerning issues that took place.

3) Jack Vivian is one of John Burley/Everything Ice's partners. He's currently involved in a legal issue with ISI. His management company was evicted from the Taylor Sportsplex in Michigan, also a city owned facility like the Bowie Ice Arena, for owing the city back rent and utility payments.

4) Leon Lekai is the president of The 11 Group, another partner mentioned in the Everything Ice application. His business has changed names several times. Past newspaper articles on Mr. Lekai have expressed concerns with diverting funds, refusing to account for funds, lying to board of directors, and breaching contract. Another article discussed how he failed to pay contractors timely for work that had been completed at the St. John Ice Arena and Fitness Center.

If you need more information, I encourage you to really review all the sources on my original, lengthy email that goes into significant detail about all of this.

Based on this information, neither group is a good fit and should not be considered for a PPP with the Bowie Ice Arena.

I agree with the City's first recommendation to keep the existing ice arena under City ownership and management.

According to their document, "the Bowie Ice Arena operates under a high level of cost recovery as compared to other resident centered recreation services," and "the Bowie Ice Arena currently operates at less than (330k) net loss (FY19) making it the least expensive significant recreational service offered by the City, behind the playhouse."

Based on this information, the council should choose to invest in the current facility, not offer it for a PPP.

The facility has been in the city for 50 years. It operates under a high level of cost recovery. It's generated a lot of positive PR for the city. It's kept ice sports and recreation affordable. It's considered the least expensive significant recreational service offered by the city (second to the Bowie Playhouse).

Keep the ice arena under city ownership and management. We've had 50 phenomenal years with this exceptional facility. Let's make some investments and go for another 50 years, at least.

And let's move on once and for all. Keep the ice arena under city ownership and management, and let's stop having discussions about PPPs and RFPs.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Richardson, District 1

Awilda Hernandez

From: Kelly Seaton <seaton9083@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:36 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Letter to be read at meeting

Can you please have this read at tonight's meeting?

Thank you,
Jason Seaton

Good evening,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns with the current plans for the City of Bowie Ice Arena.

I am a 17 year resident, and plan on continuing to raise my family here, it is our hometown, and we love it.

However, recent events that have occurred in regards to the ice arena, have me greatly concerned about the future of my city.

The waste of taxpayer money was obviously a great concern, and we requested answers to some basic questions. None of which have been answered. There should be transparency, and if you vote, either in favor or against, you should be able to explain, to some extent, your reasoning. Especially when millions of dollars are in question.

When the project was cancelled, I honestly didn't think that things could get worse for the ice community, apparently I was wrong. It is my understanding that there is interest in selling/leasing the rink to be privately owned and operated. This would be disastrous. Ice sports would become unaffordable for many, and the community programs that are offered, like lessons and summer camps, would cease to exist.

We are a middle class family and the only way my son can experience hockey, is because of the affordability of a city run facility.

Once it is sold to a for-profit organization, we will be priced out.

Please don't forget about the ice community.

Thank you for your time.

Jason Seaton
District 2

June 29, 2020

Good evening,

I am asking for you to take into consider the effects a private partnership would have on Bowie and residents like myself and my children.

My son asked if he could go to a "stick and puck", which is just a hockey pickup or practice session, at Piney Orchard (Black Bear Group owned), I told him OK, and that I would drop him off. Seeing as we normally pay about \$10 bucks for a stick and puck session at Bowie, I never thought about the price.

Well...after going online to register him, I was in shock. \$65 dollars for a two-hour session. \$40 for a one hour. Needless to say, I had to inform him that we couldn't pay that kind of money. He was upset, as he hasn't been on the ice in over 3-months, but he understood. Unfortunately, and I didn't tell him this, but if Bowie is no longer a community run facility, we will be priced out of ice sports altogether.

We are a middle class family, that work very hard to provide. My husband takes any side job possible to pay for hockey as it is. When the ice arena is sold and prices go up, hockey will no longer be an option for my child.

The Bowie Hockey Club has made it affordable for kids to enjoy and try ice hockey. A sport that a lot of kids are priced out of. Without a city run facility, I believe a lot of people will be forced to abandon the sports they love.

Shouldn't ALL kids be given the opportunity to explore all types of sports? Sports are so important for children and their development. My son, until he found hockey, was socially inept and had zero self-esteem, in part to all of the failed sports he had tried. When he started playing hockey, that changed. He excelled in it, his self-esteem shot up, and he made friends. As a Freshman at Bowie High this past year, he was proud to play for his school. That too will no longer be an option for him, seeing as they currently practice at the Bowie Ice Arena. Having this outlet has been vital to his development, and to be perfectly honest, I'm not sure where he would be without it.

Additionally, you will be taking away the other community programs, such as affordable summer camps and public skating and lessons. Something that is affordable and has been offered in this City for over 50 years.

As if stopping construction wasn't enough, now we are going to sell off the rink to be run for profit, at the cost of Bowie residents. This isn't what Bowie is about, or at least I didn't think so, until now.

Please do what is right, for everyone.

Kelly Seaton
Current District 2 Resident
Lifelong Bowie Resident

Awilda Hernandez

From: turtlebug212@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:22 PM
To: cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Meeting 7/6 - Please Read

Dear City Clerk, Council, and Staff,

I know you are probably sick of seeing my name on these emails – however I feel the need to continue so you know we are not just going to go quietly into the night!

I am writing to ask you PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE reconsider building the IcePlex on church road. The amount of taxpayers waste that is going to occur is insane and uncalled for. It isn't even about ICE anymore its about the right thing to do. If at this point we can not convince you of that morally correct thing to do then at least PLEASE keep the current Bowie Ice Arena as a CITY OWNED AND CITY OPERATED facility. It has been in the city's recreational activities for 50 years and it should remain as such. Again first and foremost I would love fr you to make the ICEPLEX as the first choice but please at minimum keep the current rink a city facility.

Furthermore – please please please under no circumstances no not allow the Black Bears Sports Group to get their claws in our community. It would be the WORST possible decision – even more so than stopping the IcePlex construction.

Thank You for your time and PLEASE do right by your residents

Sarah Schaefer
District 2B Resident

Awilda Hernandez

From: Kim Derocher <kimderocher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Adrian Bofo; Awilda Hernandez; cityclerk; Dufour Woolfley; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Public info; Rosann Ndebumadu; Timothy Adams
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Re: PLEASE SAVE THE BOWIE ICEPLEX

Good evening Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council, et al

My name is Kim Derocher and I am a City of Bowie resident of 50 years. My husband and I decided to stay in Bowie and raise our family because of everything Bowie has to offer. I have been proud to call Bowie our home. We currently reside in District 3, on Ark Court.

We have been following the ice rink issue very closely since the inception of the project many years ago.

I am respectfully requesting that you review the TRUE and ACCURATE data released by the city staff regarding the ice rink and other entertainment/sports facilities in the City.

The city will not benefit from a Public Private Partnership for the Ice Rink Please keep the rink CITY OWNED AND OPERATED.

Thank you,
Kim Derocher
15902 Ark Cout
BOWIE

On Mon, May 18, 2020 at 6:21 PM Kim Derocher <kimderocher@gmail.com> wrote:

Good evening Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council, et al

My name is Kim Derocher and I am a City of Bowie resident of 50 years. My husband and I decided to stay in Bowie and raise our family because of everything Bowie has to offer. I have been proud to call Bowie our home.

As I know you will have many testimonials, I would like to make this message short. Please vote to support and continue the work on the new Ice rink. To shut the project down will cost nearly as much as the amount we have already put into it. The capability for the new facility to make money for the city has been documented over and over.

Please support the ice rink. Our kids deserve what they have been promised

Thank you

--

Kim-Marie Derocher
Phone 301-233-0645
Fax 1-423-376-0164

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Kim-Marie Derocher
Phone 301-233-0645
Fax 1-423-376-0164

ROBERT LIVELY
COMMUNITY RECREATION COMMITTEE, RETIRED

SUBJECT: BOWIE ICE ARENA.

I wish to submit the following brief comments pertaining to the Bowie Ice Arena.

1. PPP:

I am adamantly opposed to entering into a partnership with a private firm. These firm's primary focus is on profit and protection of their bottom line. Once the public entity enters into such an agreement, it relinquishes control of its public owned resource to the private partner, and the public sector loses any control over operational costs, user fees or user requirements. One need look only to transportation PPPs in the region – I395 out of DC, US66 out of NVA or the Dulles Toll Road – to see where these do not work in the public's best interests.

2. Non-Residents:

Talk of not allowing non-residents is of concern to me, and I believe may show a lack of understanding of not only skating activities, but also of team sports in general.

a. Team Skating. It is impossible to conceive any scenario in which team skating, whether ice skating teams or hockey teams, can participate in any type of league play by denying non-resident teams onto the Bowie ice for games or competitions.

Also, to deny any team from including a non-resident(s) on their roster may well result in *denying* the resident members of those teams the ability to field a team. We have had years of experience in addressing this issue with team sports, and controls have been developed and implemented to successfully manage such situations. It must be recognized that there will be those who attempt to "game the system", requiring that stringent controls are in place and are enforced.

b. Recreational Skating. General Admission for use of the ice arena for recreational skating has always included a fee structure by which non-residents pay a higher price for skating. Non-resident users will NOT deny the use of the rink to Bowie residents, and further, will eliminate a higher source of income.

3. Alternate use of facility. That "Recreation" has been included in the title of the proposed task force causes me to pause and wonder if there are those who think that the Ice Arena should be considered for some recreational activity OTHER than skating – such as basketball. I hope that this is not the case.

This ice rink was built in 1971, and there has not been a single sheet of ice added for the benefit of this user group. When Fox Hill Lake stopped freezing over many years ago, the City lost its only occasional outdoor sheet of ice.

Now compare this to basketball resources. In 1996, when that 10-year Recreational Master Plan was written, there were basketball courts in three community centers in the city and *nearly 30 outdoor courts*. In the time since, consistent with that master plan, a new multi-court gymnasium has been built, and a second one is being planned – on the site where the first new sheet of ice in 20 years was to have been added!

ROBERT LIVELY
3809 IDLE COURT, BOWIE, MD 20715
301-262-3880

ATTACHED: VOLUNTEER CREDENTIALS

Awilda Hernandez

From: Milly Hall <hallmilly@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:56 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Milly Hall
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Thank you for Being Fiscally Responsible
Attachments: stop-the-24-million-dollar-ice-arena (1).pdf

July 6, 2020 Citizen Participation: Please read names after our thank you message. Carrie Bridges has summited the 418 people that signed the petition to cancel this contract, sends thanks.

Good evening Mayor Adams, Mayor Pro Tem Council member Adrian Bafoa, Council member Dufour Woolfley Diestrect 2 and Council member Roxy Ndebumadu District 4. The financial decision that you made on Wednesday May 21, 2020, to cancel the \$25 million dollar contract with Costolo was the responsible action to make for all of the citizens of Bowie. We appreciate you for doing your homework/due diligence and looking out for the well being of Bowie and it's citizens.

Kindly,

Respectfully from District 1, District 2, District 3 and District 4

Respectfully submitted by Concerned Citizens of District 1, District 2, District 3 and District 4. Please read names:

Carrie Bridges
Milly Hall
Michael Brown
Destini Collins
JoAnn Marshall Hobbs
Robin Choice-Woodson
Melissa Richardson
Karen Williamson
Brenda James
Barbarol James
Darryl Brown
Vikki Brown
Sonia McClain
Kevin Doby
Puria Jackson
Viola Underdue
Gail Elkins
Maceio Choice
Monica Roebuck
Jasmin S. Hall
Aaliyah Jackson

John McCoy
Nicole Belle
Lin McGill
Michele Howard-Lawson
Dominique Choice
Richard Alexandra
Greg Green
Narvell Hall
Jacqueline Herbon
Craig Herbon
Thomas Proctor
Velma Jackson
Cassandra Brooks
Patricia Verdun
Chris Lawson
Denise McKenny

Awilda Hernandez

From: Christine Nickel <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: The Bowie Skating Community Needs Your Support

Awilda Hernandez,

Dear Members of the Bowie City Council,

My name is Christine Nickel and my 4 daughters skate on the Herbert Wells Figure Skating Team. I am writing to ask you to please keep the Bowie Ice Arena in public hands.

For years, my family has both competed and taken lessons at the Bowie Ice Arena. Our private coach (who is a Bowie resident) will often meet us there to teach my children and encourage their love of skating. Our coach used to be able to teach my children at many rinks in the area, but currently she can only teach us at Wells and Bowie. Let me explain why – it turns out that she does not have the expensive credentials that would allow her to teach at the privately run rinks. You may not be aware of this, but there are two main tracks in ice skating. USFS programs are more competitive, expensive, and elitist. ISI programs are more family friendly and affordable. Currently both our programs at Wells and your programs in Bowie operate as family friendly ISI programs - programs that have room for skaters of all ages and whose price tags are within reach. There used to be more ISI programs in the area, but they are slowly being eroded as private owners realize that it is more profitable to run an expensive elitist program. I fear that if you turn the rink operation over to a private vendor, the ISI program at Bowie will also disappear. And with it, the access to skating which is currently granted to the average person in Bowie, will become limited to only those whose pocketbooks are large enough to pay the bill. As the mother of 4 skaters whose husband is in the Navy, we greatly appreciate that Bowie is affordable and we consider it our skating second home. Please don't turn over operation of the rink to a private entity that will focus on their bottom line and not what is best for the citizens of your community.

Christine Nickel
nickellc@aol.com
106 Rosewood Dr
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1621

Awilda Hernandez

From: Karen Geary <klgeary@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 5:58 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: To be read at tonight's City Council Meeting, July 6, 2020

Mayor Adams, City Council and staff,

My name is Karen Geary and I lived in District 2 of Bowie for over 23 years. Please keep the Bowie Ice Arena City Owned and City Operated. I don't agree with allowing a long term private partnership as costs will almost certainly go up, current valuable staff could be let go and public events and access could become an issue. The Ice Arena has been a wonderful amenity for the City of Bowie for almost 50 years now. There were over 19,000 PAID admissions to the current rink last year. Why give that up?

It's bad enough that the plans for the new IcePlex were cancelled even after showing that it would be the ONLY amenity in Bowie to be able to turn a profit! It's unfair for council members to say that the Ice rink does not serve the entire resident population of Bowie. Every amenity does not have to serve the entire population. The current rink serves not just the Bowie Hockey Club and Bowie ISI Team, it serves thousands of paid admissions for recreational use, again over 19,000 in one year!! I don't use the Senior Center, the Dog Park, existing courts, skatepark etc, but that doesn't mean they are any less valuable. The entire reason I chose to live in Bowie was the wide range of amenities the city has to offer. Someday I may use the Senior Center, someday I may use the dog park or courts, it's nice to know I have options. To say an amenity isn't worth having because EVERYONE doesn't use it is unfair and plain ridiculous. If the City Council is saying that our amenities have to serve the "entire resident population" why isn't the gym, senior center, etc turning a profit? Because not EVERYONE is using them! If each amenity has to serve the ENTIRE population, then I guess we will have to stop funding every amenity in Bowie.

Why is the Ice community being held to different standards that other groups in Bowie aren't? The Ice Rink was only given \$300,000 in subsidies last year compared to almost \$800,000 for the current gymnasium. Ice Attendees already pay 67% of operational costs, where the courts only pay 16%. Why is the Ice Arena held to different standards?? Why is this council willing to WASTE \$8Million of MY Taxpayer money with nothing to show but a pile of dirt? Studies given to the previous council showed the new iceplex could turn a profit. I suggest that council start reviewing past documents and council minutes and stop wasting Bowie citizen's taxpaying dollars and treat all groups with the same fair standards!

Karen Geary

Awilda Hernandez

From: Alexis Cunningham <alexisiman@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:54 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Rosann Ndebumadu
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Tonight's City Council Meeting

Hello,

Many cities have supported African Americans who've been victims of police brutality and painted Black Lives Matter on streets. Seeing how we live in a predominantly African American County and Bowie is also a predominantly African American city, it would be nice if our city could also paint Black Lives Matter on a main street.

I am a lifelong resident. What can we do to make that happen or is this already in the works?

Sent from my iPhone