



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, September 21, 2020 virtually. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Adams, Councilmembers Bofo, Esteve, Gardner (Arrived 8:09 p.m.), Harrison, Ndebumadu and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Adams made a motion to move Item B Indoor Court Facility, under New Business to discuss first before any other agenda item. Councilmember Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-5 (Bofo, Esteve, Gardner, Harrison, Woolfley).

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Asia Denise Nicholson – Comment attached.
2. JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs – Comment attached.
3. Carrie Weaver-Bridges – Comment attached.
4. Kristina Stanley – Comment attached.
5. Milly Hall – Comment attached.
6. David Oni – Comment attached.
7. Several Families from Bowie – Comment attached.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Harrison reminded residents to fill out the Census as the deadline is approaching in 9 days and also to register to vote. Councilmember Ndebumadu commented that in the intersection of Rt 214 and Jennings Mill Drive, SHA will be installing split signal phasing in the coming weeks.

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo commented that the Ice Arena Task Force as well as other committees that have vacancies will be filled shortly, Council is in the process of conducting interviews as well as making appointments to those committees.

Councilmember Woolfley recommends that Earth Year be extended for another 6 months or so in order for the Environmental Advisory Committee to be able to accomplish the activities that had been planned.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to approve items A) Approval of Resolution R-70-20 Accepting a Proposal for Emergency Rental Assistance Program Administrator for the CARES Act HUD CDBG-CV Program; B) Approval of Resolution R-72-20 Accepting Bid Proposal for Street Repair; C) Approval of Letter to M-NCPPC re: FY 2022 Proposed Budget. Mayor Pro Tem Bofo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Development Policies – City Planning Director Joe Meinert summarized the proposed policies for Land Use and Economic Prosperity in reference to the Master Plan. Copy attached.

Councilmember Woolfley asked if there is a way to strengthen the policy in regard to the viewshed on the Jesuit Property so that it can remain as rural agricultural designation and not a high-density area for development. Mr. Meinert responded that the best way of controlling it would be to down zone the property and put it back to the rural tier.

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo would like to continue to revitalize the commercial office spaces strategically.

Mr. Meinert will summarize the remainder of the policies in the next few meetings and will have them open for residents to submit comments. Once all comments have been received, the department will finalize and prepare a resolution for Council's final approval in early 2021.

Councilmember Esteve commented that in the area of the racetrack property it is well known by the surrounding neighborhoods that it remain as green open space.

B. Indoor Court Facility – City Manager Lott summarized the staff report. At the May 18 Council meeting, Council directed staff to repurpose the existing Church Road site for a multi-generational indoor court facility. The following week, the 2021 Budget was adopted with \$300,000 allocated for design & engineering for a small, single court, facility at the Route 197/golf course site. The smaller facility option at the golf course was a continuation of direction from the fall of 2019 yet appears to conflict with the motion from the week before. Staff is seeking clarification on which indoor sport options to pursue, so effort is not duplicated in more locations than intended.

Mayor Adams would like to hold off on this project until after the pandemic is over and see where the City stands financially before spending the large amount of dollars.

Councilmember Woolfley likes the Church Road site for the project and would direct staff to select this site and do a much smaller facility. He is also willing to hold off until a future date for construction due to COVID.

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo is not sure the Rt. 197/golf course is the area for it, nor is Church Road. Would it be possible to look at what NAI Michaels is proposing and see if there is a chance for a partnership with them on the construction of a court facility.

Councilmember Harrison would like to see a comparison of both the partnership vs. city owned and what the cost savings would be.

Councilmember Ndebumadu agrees with colleagues to hold off on the project and look into a partnership.

Councilmember Gardner does not support the partnership with a developer.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo moved to have staff meet with representatives of NAI Michaels Co. and/or third party they are working with, to explore options of partnering on development of courts in the South Lake development with no commitment and table the design and engineering phase until next budget cycle. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3 (Adams, Gardner, Ndebumadu).

Councilmember Harrison made a motion to reassess the courts design and engineering phase in February. Councilmember Ndebumadu seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Resolution R-73-20 In the Effort of Advancing Racial and Intersectional Equity – Council had a consensus to discuss this item as well as Ordinance O-7-20 at their retreat on September 26.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting and move to close session Statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code, State Government Article, §3-305(b)(3): To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

From: Asia Denise Nicholson <asianicholson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 12:35 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: MERGE THE INDOOR GYM AND GOLF COURSE

My name is Asia Denise Nicholson, and I am a 23 year old lifelong resident of Prince George's County, MD.

Specifically, the Bowie / Mitchellville area.

I believe that it is essential that we build this gym for our youth in Prince George's County because of the life that springs forth from the community that thrives within sports in this area. (See *In The Water* Documentary for proof). I was saddened when "Run N' Shoot" left the area, for it was an environment of healthy sportsmanship between our Black youth and Black community leaders.

I also think we need to merge the indoor gym and the golf course. This would be a great way to establish socio-economic equality and introduce Black people from different districts and backgrounds how to appreciate the culture of one another.

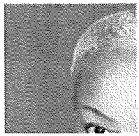
I have been lucky to unlearn so much prejudice about my own culture when I, a 14 year-old Mitchellville teen, got a job at a Fairmont Heights homeless shelter and began to appreciate the authenticity and overall pursuit of purpose of those who didn't come from the same financial cushion as I did yet still treated me like we had known each other for years. Unfortunately, many of my peers won't get to experience the same story lest we maintain a culture of division.

I noticed that the golf fund is MUCH higher than the gym fund. If the county wanted to ONLY appeal to the aesthetic of PG County Black Wealth and upper-class lifestyle, then the message is clear. *That* is a clear

example of credit redlining and promoting elitism within our own Black community and apparent "utopia" of Black wealth that Pg County prides itself on.

There is a history of financial-based elitism due to redlining and underfunding many communities within the culture of PG County that could be resolved if we got rid of some of these credit-based zoning areas and began to merge communities.

Thank you,



Asia Denise Nicholson
Film Producer / Documentary Filmmaker, Media Basia, L.L.C
301-318-6941 | asianicholson@gmail.com
simplebasia.com
she/her/hers



Awilda Hernandez

From: JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs <jhobbs@exclusys.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: jhobbs@exclusys.com
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Citizen's Participation Letter

Hello Awilda,

I hope you are staying safe and healthy during these times.

Below is a statement that I would like to have read during Citizen's Participation at Council's meeting tonight.

I appreciate all that you do for the City of Bowie
Please let me know if you have any questions,

Regards,
JoAnn

Citizen's Participation

Good evening Mayor Adams, Council members and City Staff,

I am writing in support of Ordinance 0-7-20, introduced in the September 8, 2020 Council meeting, and I respectfully request that Council adopts and enact the ordinance. This Ordinance is not on the agenda for the Council meeting on September 21, 2020 – what happened?

In the same meeting Resolution R-68-20 was introduced and there was a discussion regarding redundancy between the Ordinance and the Resolution. There is one key distinction between the two – the Ordinance takes immediate action and call for immediate changes now to address Black Lives Matters (“BLM”) concerns within the City of Bowie, whereas the Resolution is a plan for a future time.

For example, the Ordinance calls for appointing a citizen review board, reviewing and changing policies to promote equal housing, education, employment opportunities and improve the health and well-being of all person in the city are all actions that can be taken now.

I submit that Ordinance and Resolution complements one other and they should not be mutually exclusive. Enact the Ordinance and the initial steps identified in the Ordinance. Council should hold themselves accountable. Black Lives Matter and we all know that there are changes that could be achieved without being overly analyzed – simply make the changes. Being a black female, I know and understand that the basic changes society could make to accept all people does not need a strategic approach, it is the same principles for accepting non-black and brown people.

However, the longer-term strategy of “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion” should be address as a holistic approach, but it requires a cultural transformation. With the current racial climate Council must show that they understand the concerns of BLM and that the citizens deserve to see immediate actions and results while we simultaneously transform our thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors. Council stated that they would have meeting

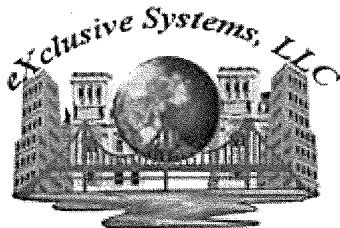
with the residents to discuss the Resolution, however I have not been privileged to any such meeting. Council also stated that they would have a strategic planning session to discuss the Resolution – what is the outcome of the planning session – is it documented anywhere for the residents to review? If these steps were not completed how can Council proceed with voting on the Resolution tonight?

Again, I respectfully request that Council take-action now, adopt and enact Ordinance O-7-20.

As a side note can Council explain why Resolution R-68-20 is now R-73-20 and why Ordinance O-7-20 is not on the agenda?

Regards,
JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs
District 3 resident

JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs
eXclusive Systems, LLC
P.O. Box 518 | Bowie, MD 20718
O: 800.303.2779 | C: 301.538.5677 | F: 301.218.6337
E: jhobbs@exclusys.com
W: exclusys.com



Building bridges for global business solutions

Stay Fit...Stay Healty...Stay Strong...Stay Well

Awilda Hernandez

From: My Name <carrieswb@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 5:12 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Citizen Participation-Ordinance 0-7-20

Good Evening!!

This letter is in support of Ordinance 0-7-20, introduced in September 8, 2020 Bowie City Council meeting and I am respectfully requesting that the Bowie City Council adopts and enact the ordinance. This Ordinance is not on this evening's agenda for September 21, 2020.

Carrie
301-332-6028
"Love one another...always"

Awilda Hernandez

From: Kristina Stanley <kdstanley@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie Ice Arena

Good evening,

I am writing in regards to the Bowie Ice arena. First I would like to once again state how disappointed I am that the new rink was cancelled stating City funds were unavailable due to Covid 19. If the City of Bowie did not have funds for the Ice Rink which were previously put aside, why and how do they all of a sudden have funds for an indoor basketball court which will also be used by non-city residents?

I am a City of Bowie resident and I do not support this at all. Build our Ice Arena as promised, if you still insist on taking that away then our old rink needs to be fixed as promised. My son has found his passion at the Ice rink, as a hockey player he has had such a positive experience at the Ice rink. From the kind staff whom helped him learn how to skate which was difficult for him with motor delays to the volunteer coaches and all city of Bowie staff members that we have come in contact with at the arena have been nothing but helpful, kind, and dedicated to the children. Please provide the task force to start to improve the much needed repairs on our ice arena.

Thank you,

Kristina Stanley Bowie 20715

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Awilda Hernandez

From: Milly Hall <hallmilly@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 6:03 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Citizen Participation

Citizen Participation - Hope all is well.

Good evening Mayor, City Council members and City Staff,

I'm submitting this letter in support of the proposed Ordinance that Mayor Adams introduced on September 8, 2020 during the City Council meeting. The community has been patiently waiting on further discourse on Ordinance 0-7-20 as Mayor Adams at that same meeting stated that the council would take immediate action to address the importance of Black Lives Matter in the City of Bowie in the form of a citizen's review board to further review policies currently in place. Can you please explain why this Ordinance isn't on this agenda and furthermore why we haven't seen or heard any discussions in regards to it?

On June 6, 2020 at the Bowie Community Vigil at Allen Pond Amphitheater several speakers spoke on the issue of Black Lives Matter including members of this very council. Did you forget about that emotional event, like it never took place? I would be disheartened to think that the words spoken that day were meaningless. We cannot have leaders that are afraid to have a direct conversation and take action on the challenges so many of our black and brown residents face on a daily basis. I am requesting that Council take accountability and take-action now to adopt and enact Ordinance O-7-20.

Thank you,

Milly Hall

Awilda Hernandez

From: david oni <daveoni@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 6:45 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Fw: Citizen Participation

Dear Council Members

Citizen Participation

Good evening, I have 2 requests this evening.

- 1.) Council please take-action now, adopt and enact Ordinance O-7-20.
- 2.) Council please explain why Resolution R-68-20 is now R-73-20 and why Ordinance O-7-20 is not on the agenda?

Thank you,

David Oni

Dear Mayor Adams and Council Members,

On October 6th it will be 3 months since you adopted Resolution R-54-20, Creating An Ice Arena Facility Task Force. At the July 6th council meeting it was stated the task force would be created in 30 days.

While we have patiently waited the 50-year-old Bowie Ice Arena continues to suffer mechanical and electrical failures since reopening in July. The Bowie Ice Arena staff do an excellent job maintaining the rink, but they cannot do anything about the mechanics of the facility that are in desperate need of some renovations and repairs. There is no money in the budget for renovations or repairs currently.

The Bowie Ice Arena is open and follows all the CDC, state, county and city guidelines for COVID-19. The facility reaches maximum allowed capacity for each event since they reopened in July. Since the Governor's mask mandate, everyone wears a mask while on the ice now. We are following the rules and guidelines to keep the rink staff, skaters and parents safe.

We see from your consent agenda for tonight's meeting that approval for a letter to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning chairman is requested. In this letter you offer comments regarding their FY 2022 proposed budget and request them to review and consider several issues of importance to the City of Bowie and its residents. A Multi-Generational Community Recreational Center is listed at the top recommending construction of this center. The City's indoor facility analysis in 2013 is referenced. Ice sports were also included in the 2013 indoor facility analysis which the Bowie IcePlex addressed but that was cancelled on May 19 because of COVID-19 per Mayor Adams. The letter requests that indoor aquatics be included as well as basketball courts. What about the ice community?

Also, on the consent agenda is the Indoor Court Facility. City staff present options for the new Indoor Sport Facility at Route 197/golf course site and Church Road. Why would the Church Road site be repurposed for an Indoor Court Facility when Mayor Adams stated Church Road cannot handle the traffic? Why would you spend money on an additional court facility with COVID affecting the city revenues?

Mayor Adams promised the ice community a state-of-the-art facility and we are still waiting. The Bowie Ice Arena staff continue to do an amazing job keeping the facility operating and open, but we need some significant renovations as soon as possible.

Please provide an update on the Ice Arena Facility Task Force and repairs and renovations to the Bowie Ice Arena. Also, can you please provide an update on the total amount of money that has been paid to cancel the Bowie IcePlex project? Is it close to \$11M as we projected and stated on May 18-19, 2020? You must use the bond funds from the Bowie IcePlex to repair and renovate the Bowie Ice Arena as the City gym isn't in a desperate state of repair? We think the best option is to restart the Bowie IcePlex project.

You should not move forward with other recreational capital projects until you make a financial commitment for the Bowie Ice Arena. Thank you Awilda for reading this letter. Stay safe and healthy!

The Schaefer Family, 2B District, Bowie Maryland 20715

The Schmidt Family, Bowie Maryland 20715

The Seaton Family, Bowie Maryland 20715

The Young Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Jarrett Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Gould Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Christiansen Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Derocher Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Fuller/Faison Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Roberson Family, Bowie Maryland 20721
The Coriell Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Eady Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Frawley Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Gunn Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Geary Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Nolte Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Haugh Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Helm-Kurz Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Henry Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Klein Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Meadows Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Murphy Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Salvato Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Achimovic Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Namasaka Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Soi Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Poznanski Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Pridmore Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Quader Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Rice Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Roberts Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Schurer Family, Bowie Maryland 20716

The Sichelman Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Sullivan Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Smith Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Gonzalez Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Gedrich Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Calabrese Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Blackford Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Kitchen Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Cipolla Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Healy Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Wheeler Family, Bowie Maryland 20720
The Wilson Family, Bowie Maryland 20716
The Wright Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Zuckerman Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Howard Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
The Richardson Family, Bowie Maryland 20715
Joseph, Julie, Jackson, James and June Turpin, Bowie Maryland 20715
Lionel and Deanna Williams, Bowie Maryland 20721

**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: 4-21-20; Time: 4:04; Location: City Hall;
Motion to close meeting made by: Beafo Seconded by Harrison;
Members in favor: TAMEI H A B D W R N; 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) ☒	Acquisition of real property	
§3-305(b) ☒	Consult with legal counsel	
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		
§3-305(b) ☐		

4. This statement is made by Samuel J. Adams, 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: 11:11 pm

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): (3) Acquisition of property (7) Consult with legal counsel

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Adams, Harris, Estevé, Woolfley, Drafó, Ndeburu

Persons attending closed session: Adams, Harris, Estevé, Woolfley, Drafó, Ndeburu, Levan, Lott, King, Mars

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (3) (7)

Topics actually discussed: Acquisition of property, Consult with attorney - small cell

Actions taken: Continue with small cell litigation; engage real estate broker

Each recorded vote: _____

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

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____