



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, October 4, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, Harrison, Ndebumadu (logged in at 8:13 p.m.), and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

City Clerk Hernandez stated that 6 comments were received via email and they will be included as part of the record. (Comments attached)

1. Hugene Fields, Kappa Alpha Psi – Thanked Council for the proclamation Proclaiming October 4, 2021 as BMAC Kappa Alpha Psi Day in the City of Bowie. Senator Ron Watson also presented a Proclamation to them.
2. John Thomas, Crofton Resident – Spoke in support of keeping the golf course open.
3. Emerald Golf Representatives Nathan Powell, Shirley Fletcher and John Huber - Commented on the lack of professionalism from City staff on the process of the golf course management contract negotiation.
4. Toni Adams, Grason Ct. – Spoke in support of keeping the golf course open.
5. Femi Fawehinmi, Heatherstone Dr. – Spoke in support of keeping the golf course open.
6. Rick Foster, Megans Chance Ct. – Spoke in support of keeping the golf course open.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Swearing-in of New Bowie Police Officer - Mayor Adams swore in Police Officer Devon Brown to the Bowie Police Department.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo made a motion to appoint Mr. Langston Clay to the Public Safety Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner, Ndebumadu – did not vote). Mayor Adams swore in Mr. Clay to the committee.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams thanked staff for the work done at the Bowie International Festival on Saturday, October 2.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Proclamation P-22-21 Proclaiming the Renaming of 15901 Excalibur Road to 15901 Fred Robinson Way; C) Adoption of Proclamation P-23-21 Proclaiming October 2021 as Energy Efficiency Month in the City of Bowie; D) Adoption of Resolution R-59-21 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc. for Whitemarsh Park Phase 3-Design Parking Lot Area B in Accordance With the Contract Approved on October 12, 2015; E) Adoption of Resolution R-60-21 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of the City Charter to Allow the City to Enter Into Contracts with Various Snowplow Contractors That May Exceed \$25,000 in Aggregate Value; F) Adoption of Resolution R-61-21 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to KCI Technologies, Inc. for Task Order/RFP#1-09 in Accordance with the Master Contract Approved on October 31, 2018; G) Adoption of Resolution R-62-21 Accepting Bid for Replacement of Underground Street Light Cable; H) Adoption of Resolution R-63-21 Authorizing the Issuance of a Purchase Order to Brudis & Associates, Inc. for Task Order/RFP#3-11 in Accordance with the Master Contract Approved on October 31, 2018; I) Adoption of Resolution R-64-21 Accepting Bid Proposal Submission of Coursera for the City's Pilot Workforce Training Program; J) Adoption of Resolution R-65-21 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61" Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement with Utility, Inc. to Provide Body Cameras for the Police Department; K) Introduction of Ordinance O-6-21 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 and Ending June 30, 2022 to Appropriate Funds to Award a Contract to the University of Baltimore Jacob France Institute for the Preparation of an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan. Councilmember Harrison second the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner, Ndebumadu – did not vote).

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Ordinance O-5-21 Amending Bowie City Code Chapter 2, "Administration", Article II, "Personnel System", Division 7, "Benefits – Leave, Insurance, Retirement, etc.", Section 2-55, "Holidays" to Add Juneteenth National Independence Day to the List of Holidays for City Employees – City Attorney Levan commented that this ordinance needs to be adopted in order to allow the additional day which stemmed from a bill signed by President Biden establishing Juneteenth National Independence Day as a federally recognized holiday.

Public Hearing:

Since there were no comments submitted and no one signed up to speak, Mayor Adams declared the Public Hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Esteve made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-5-21. Mayor Pro Tem Boafu second the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Gardner – did not vote).

B. Bowie Golf Course Management – Assistant City Manager Mears summarized the staff report. On July 14, 2021 Council directed staff to proceed with contract negotiations with Emerald Golf Management for the operation of the golf course, the City presented its draft agreement to Emerald. In

turn the City received a revised agreement draft from Emerald which rejected all of the provisions sought by the City Council and included numerous new provisions which were less favorable to the City than their original proposal. After limited back and forth between the City and Emerald, the City was presented with a 'best and final' offer from Emerald Golf Management on September 23, 2021. Their final offer still does not include the majority of terms sought by the City of Bowie and retains conditions less favorable to the City of Bowie than what was originally provided in their response to the RFP. Since the 'best and final' proposal from Emerald does not meet the conditions sought by the City, staff recommends the City Council vote to reject the Emerald proposal.

Councilmember Esteve stated that the Council is committed to keeping golf in the City, the only issue is the management which has been done previously by an outside group, not City employees. He asked staff what the current status of the course is. Assistant City Manager Mears responded that they are working with Bowie Golf Management with asset/equipment transition. The City has also hired grounds work crew to upkeep the grounds so that it hopefully can reopen soon.

Councilmembers Harrison and Ndebumadu commented that it was unfortunate that the City and Emerald Golf could not come to an agreement; Council is trying to do the right thing for the City and the residents tax dollars.

Councilmember Woolfley made a four part motion: 1) To direct staff to allow Emerald Golf Management until October 8 to accept the City's terms; 2) Move forward with negotiations with Indigo; 3) In parallel, make all practical efforts to open the facility for use, using the 1099/contractors and staff to the extent possible; 4) Should negotiations not prove fruitful, move forward with operating the golf course with City staff. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Councilmember Harrison asked if Councilmember Woolfley would consider amending his motion by striking step number four. Councilmember Woolfley agreed to remove step number four in the motion at this point but it could be addressed later if need be. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Police Department Update – Chief Nesky announced the sad news of the passing of PFC James Sullivan today. PFC Sully as he was lovingly referred to, worked the midnight shift for the department.

Chief Nesky then briefed Council on the department's activities from the last six months. The department is currently staffed at 51 officers, they are short 16 officers from what the department is authorized. They are making all efforts to recruit new officers. The crime trends continue to be theft from autos and robberies. The department continues to encourage residents to lock their vehicles at night and not leave any valuables in them that are visible. Community outreach has been going well, the department continues the Coffee with a Cop sessions and have seen an increase in attendance from residents. They also have attended several HOA meetings to answer any questions they might have. Overall the department is doing well.

Councilmember Woolfley stated that he has concerns with the low staffing levels; does the department need to put other non-pressing activities on hold to alleviate the patrolling efforts. Chief Nesky responded that they are not at that level yet. Councilmember Woolfley then asked what the status of the speed cameras was with the new legislation that became effective. Chief Nesky responded that they are working with Conduit to get the best pricing.

Mayor Adams thanked Chief Nesky and the entire department for their efforts in keeping Bowie safe.

October 4, 2021

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Awilda Hernandez', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: Veronica Wheeler <veronica.wheeler@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 9:15 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie Golf course

There needs to be immediate action to save the golf course. This is a community golf course that impacts many of us in the Bowie area! Letting this lapse shows a lack of proper planning!

Veronica Wheeler
12729 Millstream Dr, Bowie, MD 20715
Resident

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Blessings, Veronica Sent from Gmail Mobile

Awilda Hernandez

From: mary galleher <marygalleher@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 12:15 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie Golf Course

I am not a golfer but know many in our city who really enjoy having an opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy this sport. Please find a way to come together and reopen the golf course. Than you.

Sincerely,

Mary Galleher

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Awilda Hernandez

From: Jeanette Roke <jnroke@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 2, 2021 5:16 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Golf Course

I moved to Belair Greens as it abuts Bowie's Golf Course. With all the furor concerning the gross loss of green space in this county and rampant building with only 1 percent of taxes going to the environment I am appalled. Let us stand up to keeping Bowie one of the best 100 places to live in the USA. Our bond rating of AAA shows how this is part of the what makes us a great place to live nationwide.

Finding a new management should be top priority .

Jeanette Roke
7106 Westwind Drive
Bowie

Sent from my iPhone

Awilda Hernandez

From: gunner111482@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 12:50 PM
To: cityclerk; Golf
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie Golf course should stay open

To whom it may concern,

I am the mom of a medically Complex 8 year old little boy named Braxton. We live in Bowie. My son was told by his doctors that because of his medical conditions he cannot play most sports. This past Summer my son found a new love for a sport he is actually allowed to play! His golf coach is Ross Gelfo. I cannot say enough great things about Ross! He has been so patient and kind with my son. My son enjoyed his lessons all through the Summer and especially enjoyed the PGA Juniors camp. The golf course is less then 5 minutes from my home and I cannot imagine the sadness my son and the residents of Bowie will feel if this golf course is taken away! My son golfs regularly at Bowie Golf Club with his father, Uncle and Grandpa. I hope you all will come to an agreement at the meeting tomorrow that is best for the residents of Bowie. COVID has taken a lot away from many people and golf is one of the things that my son can do without having any health concerns or fears of catching the virus. We are all hoping and praying that you make the right decision. Also, just a suggestion but if it is funds that you need I am sure a go fund me page would make a lot of money. I myself would donate and I know a ton of Bowie residents who would also donate money to help keep the golf course open.

Thank you,
Crystal Barr-Stork

Awilda Hernandez

From: Bruce Milam <bmilam@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 10:54 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Golf Course Closing

Dear Mayor of Bowie and the City Council

The Golf Course is a tremendous asset to the City of Bowie and an excellent Covid Safe recreation. Golf on the Bowie Course is enjoyed by people of all ages from all walks of life. Just last week while I was at the course a Boy Scout troop was finishing a round and a local High School team finished a competition with another school in the region. Each time I use the course and practice facilities I see several retired citizen's of Bowie both male and female maintaining their physical health on the course. Last week at the driving range a high school student was warming up for a match while a mother looked on while her middle schooler improved his swing. The Bowie Golf Course is a fantastic asset for the community. This closure situation must be resolved quickly.

It is hard to tell from the news snippets whether one or both parties are at fault in the stalemate. The art of negotiation seems to be lost today. What I do know is that Bowie Golf managed by a small private company has been managed very efficiently vs the courses managed by public employees in the county. Simply put, the customer service is much better. With the inflation today a business person would be a fool to agree to a price capped contract. The business needs the flexibility to manage their finances and maintain a profit margin. A contract is a marriage and the success of each party is closely tied to the success of the other. The golf course closure coupled with the termination of the new ice arena contract leaves the impression that this administration is anti recreation.

First the course should be opened as soon as possible and second the city should subsidize golf for those under 18 years old similar to an after school program to reduce crime and improve quality of life. It is time to figure this out and move ahead. The Bowie Golf Course is a tremendous asset to the community and supports health and well being please reopen as soon as possible.

M. Bruce Milam

Awilda Hernandez

From: Timothy Adams
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 1:50 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Fw: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie golf course

Regards,
Timothy J. Adams
Mayor, City of Bowie
Ofc: (301)809-3029
"One City One Bowie"

From: Keith Strong <drkts@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Public info <publicinfo@cityofbowie.org>; Timothy Adams <tadams@cityofbowie.org>; Adrian Bofo <abofo@cityofbowie.org>; Ingrid Harrison <iharrison@cityofbowie.org>; Michael Esteve <mesteve@cityofbowie.org>; Dufour Woolfley <dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org>; Rosann Ndebumadu <rndebmadu@cityofbowie.org>
Subject: {EXTERNAL}: Bowie golf course

Dear Bowie City Council,

I understand there is a problem with the awarding of the contract to manage to Bowie Golf course which has resulted in its closure. Hopefully this closure is temporary. Local golfers have lost 3 major courses in the last 2 years (Glenn Dale, Patuxent Greens, and Cross Creek. The Paint Branch course is also under threat. With most of the local golfing \$\$ already going to Montgomery County where they have 13 municipal courses (compared to PGC's three), the loss of yet another course would be a disaster for N. PGC.

I urge to bring this issue to a rapid conclusion lest you lose its regular patrons and throw the maintenance, cafeteria, and golfing staff out of their jobs. Once lost it is hard to rebuild a team.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Keith T Strong.