City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, October 1, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Girl Scouts from several Bowie troops led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Polangin, Councilmembers Brady, Gardner, Marcos, Trouth, and Turner; City Manager Deutsch, Assistant City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, Members of the Staff, the Press and the Public.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Councilmember Turner asked to amend the Consent Agenda moving Item J to New Business Item D.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

A. Ms. Jodi Evans, Youth Advisory Board Member for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, spoke about holding an event in the City to promote healthier kids "Run and Walk for Kids" on April 26, 2013 at Allen Pond Park.

B. Ms. Anita Moore spoke in opposition to installation of BGE Smart Meters.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin read Proclamation P-16-12 – Establishing October 11, 2012 as Day of the Girl in the City of Bowie to Girl Scouts representing several troops within the City. Ms. Nancy Branch Director of Bowie Youth Services received the proclamation and will present the girls with copies. Councilmember Brady made a motion to adopt Proclamation P-16-12, Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-in – Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to appoint Ms. Isabel W. Poccurull to the Bowie Heritage Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

B. Mayor Robinson swore-in Ms. Lynette Washington to the Administrative Review Board for a 2-year term and welcomed her.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Robinson mentioned the Bowie International Festival being held on Saturday October 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Allen Pond Park

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Deutsch reported on the following: 1) Distribution of remaining recycling carts is complete; all households now have received them.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Marcos moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items A) Approval of September 18 Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of Proclamation P-15-12 – Establishing Wednesday, October 3, 2012 As Walk to School Day in the City of Bowie; D) Approval of letter to BGE; E) Approval of Resolution R-78-12 - Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirement of Section 61 of the Charter of the City of Bowie and Authorizing the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order in an Amount not to Exceed $20,675.00, to the Washington Business Journal for Advertising in the Washington Business Journal and the Baltimore Business Journal; F) Approval of Resolution R-79-12 – Accepting Bid for the Surface Preparation and Painting of the Exterior of the Lime Silo at the Water Treatment Plant; G) Approval of Resolution R-80-12 – Accepting Bid for the Supply and Installation of a Solid State Reduced Voltage Starter at Well #3 Located at 2803 Spangler Lane; H) Approval of Resolution R-81-12 – Approving a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fee Financial Hardship Exemption Program for Residential Customers; I) Approval of letter to Public Service Commission. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Mike Fowler, Mr. Rob Gould and Mr. Mike Butts from BGE presented to Council updates on questions that were raised at the September 18 meeting about smart meter installation notices, their safety, and privacy issues. BGE will be hosting an open house meeting on October 4th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Kenhill Center to provide citizens more information about smart meters. BGE representatives stated that they will not be selling customer information to anybody, they will not control energy usage, and the meters are ANSI (American National Standards Institute) approved.

Councilmember Turner asked how the citizens are being informed about the open house forum. Mr. Gould stated that it was posted on the BGE website.

Councilmember Trouth stated that health information from World Health Organization does not coincide with testimony from Dr. Valberg included in presentation. Mr. Gould responded by stating that the report from World Health Organization refers to radio waves mainly emitted from cell phones.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin asked if there will be a fee assessed to individuals if they choose to opt-out of installation for health reasons. Mr. Gould responded that the Public Service Commission is still discussing what will be done in these instances.

Councilmember Gardner asked if BGE would be willing to further delay the installation of the smart meters in the City until all citizens have received proper notification. Mr. Gould will confirm status of notifications and provide an answer.

Councilmember Marcos stated that Bowie has a large number of senior citizens that do not have access to internet, how is notification reaching them and would they consider doing a special mailing to them or consider having a open forum at the Bowie Senior Center. Mr. Gould stated that they are setting up a meeting at the senior center.

Mayor Robinson thanked BGE for the additional information provided this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bowie Green Team Proposed Action Plan – Members of the Bowie Green Team Executive Committee presented to Council a 3-Year Action Plan as required by the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program. The plan is the last piece of the City's application. The plan recommended by the Green Team includes 27 actions in 2013, 19 actions in 2014 and 6 actions in 2015. Some of the actions presented are: expanding the Farmer's Market, promote walking and biking, pesticide/fertilizer workshops, green business certifications.

Public Hearing:

Since there were no speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing to have been held.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin asked the Committee if they have an idea of what the fiscal resources needed is. Ms. Becky Sunday stated that they have been informed of the budgeting process and the Committee will provide all the information needed.

Councilmember Turner asked staff if they have done an evaluation of the action plan. Mr. Joe Meinert, Bowie Planning Director responded that an in-house group "Municipal Green Team" has reviewed the plan presented tonight and is working closely with the Green Team in all aspects, including fiscal impacts.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin made a motion to approve the Bowie Green Team Executive Committee 3-Year Action Plan. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. SBTDC/PTAP Briefing – Ms. Denise Warner, Director of Procurement Technical Assistance Program made a brief presentation to Council on the services provided by PTAP to local businesses.

Mr. Kyle Bayliss, Regional Director Capital Region of Small Business & Technology Development Center made a brief presentation to Council on services they provide for small businesses.

Councilmember Turner asked how the City of Bowie compares to other municipalities in the area of the same size. Mr. Bayliss stated that he has only compared Bowie to the City of Rockville and their numbers are a little higher than Bowie.

Councilmember Marcos asked how their organization markets themselves so that people know they are out there. Mr. Bayliss said that they are not allowed to use grant funding to market so they do it all through resource marketing and word of mouth.

C. Detailed Site Plan #DSP-94011/06 – Mr. Frank Stevens, City Planning Staff member described the site that is located at 16461 Excalibur Road (the former Tia's restaurant property). The applicant, Frederick Road Realty II, LLC, is seeking the City's approval recommendation for the purpose of constructing a 2-story, 15,000 sq. ft. medical office building on a 1.57-acre site zoned C-S-C. Staff recommends approval of Detailed Site Plan #DSP-94011/06 with conditions 1-9 on staff report being addressed.

Public Hearing:

Since there were no speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Trouth asked why staff did not agree with the recommendation from BAPB to add another handicap accessible parking.

Mr. Stevens responded that currently there are 2 proposed handicap spaces which will give a total of 5 spaces, 2 van accessible and 3 vehicle accessible.

Councilmember Brady asked what is currently on lot 4 of the property. Mr. Stevens said it is a parking lot. Councilmember Brady then asked if in the future something can be built there. Mr. Stevens replied yes but that it will also need to go through all the steps for approval.

Mr. Dan Lynch with McNamee, Hosea, Jernigan, Kim, Greenan & Lynch, P.A. representing the applicant is in agreement with the recommendations from staff for the additional handicap parking spaces.

Councilmember Turner asked how many offices will be in the building. Mr. Lynch said it will probably be 4 to 6 tenants.

Councilmember Trouth made a motion to approve Detailed Site Plan #DSP-94011/06 with the recommendations from staff and the addition of one more handicap parking space making it 3 van accessible and 3 vehicle accessible. Councilmember Turner seconds the motion and it carried unanimously.

D. Approval of letter to M-NCPPC – Councilmember Turner would like to add in the second paragraph a mention about the possible acquisition of the Racetrack property.

Councilmember Brady does not feel that it needs to be mentioned in this letter since it refers to FY14 budget constraints.

Consensus vote of the additional wording in the letter to M-NCPPC was 6-ayes, 1-nay.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Awilda Hernandez, CMC
City Clerk