City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, February 4, 2013 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:

Mayor Robinson 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.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Lynn Beiber, 5000 Rochester Lane, spoke in reference to BGE Smart Meters.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-in – Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to appoint Ms. Jacqueline M. Brooks-Rhone as an Alternate Member to the Bowie Board of Personnel Appeals for a 2-year term. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to appoint Ms. Tope Ogunrinu as a member of the Bowie Board of Supervisors of Elections for a 2-year term. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Mayor Robinson swore in Ms. Brooks-Rhone and Ms. Ogunrinu to their respective committees and welcomed them.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Deutsch had no report at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of Proclamation P-1-13 – Recognizing February 2013 as "Black History Month"; B) Approval of Resolution R-10-13 – Accepting Bid Proposal for Consulting Services for the Five Year HUD

CDBG Consolidated Plan FY 2014-2018. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Ordinance O-1-13 – Mr. Robert Patrick, City Finance Director, briefed Council on the Supplemental Appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. Some of the appropriations were for replacement of a police vehicle, providing additional prevention counseling at the Youth Services Bureau, unscheduled replacement of wastewater pump located at the Bowie Playhouse, close-out costs for the Church Road Park restroom and concession stand facility.

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 made a motion to adopt Ordinance O-1-13 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center Briefing – Mr. Joe Meinert, City Planning Director introduced Ms. Joanne Throwe who briefed Council on the City's stormwater management program and their plan for public outreach phase. The City was selected in 2012 as one of two Maryland communities that receive direct technical assistance at no cost to the City. The funding comes from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Watershed Assistance Collaborative. The next step in the plan is to engage local businesses and residents by conducting outreach activities. The Center has developed informational materials for upcoming meetings with community groups, such as homeowners associations, church groups, and recreational groups.

Public Hearing:

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

Councilmember Turner asked what kind of feedback was received from the meeting with the City's Environmental Advisory Committee. Ms. Throwe replied that it was a very positive meeting; the committee was excited to give feedback. They will look into having a booth at the next green event in the City to inform and engage the citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin would like to involve the Boy Scout Troops in the storm drain graffiti contest for their Eagle Scout Projects. Ms. Throwe replied that it would be a fantastic idea and will contact the troops in the City.

Ms. Throwe will return at a future meeting and update Council on their technical analysis as well as their outreach strategy. Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Throwe and her colleagues for attending.

B. Prince George's County Fire Department Update – Fire Chief Marc Bashoor briefed Council on upcoming reorganizations of the department and fire incidents that have occurred in the City in the past few months. Fire Chief explained that none of the fires that occurred had to do with installations of the new BGE meters in the homes.

Mayor Robinson thanked the Fire Chief for taking the time to update Council and would like to schedule a briefing with the Fire Department to provide information to citizens on what to do or not do in fire emergencies. Fire Chief has flyers and pamphlets available at the department and also on their website and will begin going door to door to inform citizens and provide smoke detectors.

C. Public Art "Call to Artists" for Bowie City Hall – Ms. Annette Esterheld, City Arts Specialist and staff liaison for the Arts Committee introduced Ms. Kathleen Parker, Chair for the Bowie Arts Committee. The Arts Committee will be requesting proposals from artists to design, fabricate and install a wall mounted sculpture in the City Hall lobby on the wall located halfway up the grand staircase. Dimensions are approximately 12 feet wide and six feet deep. The committee hopes to present its artist selection by July 2013 and the project should be completed by January 2014.

Councilmember Brady asked if the sculpture will be part of a theme with the black-eyed Susan. Ms. Esterheld replied that it will not be part of a theme, just in the use of the same type of material. Councilmember Brady would like to encourage the use of local artists and made a motion to approve the RFP. Motion seconded by Councilmember Marcos. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Polling Districts – Ms. Awilda Hernandez, City Clerk presented to Council a plan to rebalance the polling districts for City elections. These changes will affect Districts 1, 2 and 4 which are currently severely unbalanced. The proposed new polling area distribution was presented to the Board of Supervisors of Elections at their meeting in November and they were in agreement with the new distribution. Citizens would be notified of the changes via a letter as well as notifications on the City's newsletter, website and ads in local weekly papers. Ultimately voters will receive a new voter registration card from the County Board of Elections with their new polling location.

Councilmember Turner suggested the Board of Supervisors of Election discuss the possibility of providing early voting at the next City election, as well as considering a referendum to change Council terms from 2 years to maybe 4 year terms and provide feedback to Council at a future date.

Councilmember Brady has a concern with the division of District 4 in particular the Pointer Ridge neighborhood. City Manager Deutsch replied that staff would look into potential modifications in the district lineup, and provide Council with the information.

Councilmember Trouth concurs with Councilmember Brady on the division of District 4 and is not supportive of the change in that district.

Councilmember Gardner asked if a citizen was to go to their old polling place would they be allowed to vote there. City Manager Deutsch responded that they would be assisted in reaching their correct polling location.

Councilmember Brady made a motion to table this item for further discussion at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to adjourn the City Council meeting and move to Executive Session as permitted by the Maryland Public Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508(a)(3): To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto (Attached). Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Awilda Hernandez, CMC
City Clerk

WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Date: 2/4/13 Time: 9:30pm Location: City Hall - Motion to close meeting made by: Polangin ;

Seconded by Turner, Members voting in favor: Trouth, Gardner, Turner, Brady

Robinson, Polangin, Marcos Opposed: _____ Abstaining _____ Absent _____

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION, State Government Article, §10-508(a) (check all that apply):

___ (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; or 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 on a legal matter;
___ (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.

FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASONS FOR CLOSING AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

(✓) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.

( ) _____

( ) _____

Persons attending closed session: Trouth, Gardner, Turner, Brady, Robinson, Polangin, Marcos, Dantsch, Fitzwater, Levy

This statement is made by Mayor Robinson, Presiding Officer: _____
SIGNATURE

********** FOR USE IN MINUTES OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **********

TOPICS DISCUSSED AND ACTION(S) TAKEN (IF ANY):

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Time closed session adjourned: 10:10

Appendix C

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