

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, January 3, 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:

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

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

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY:

Mayor Robinson swore Dwayne Preston as the new City of Bowie Deputy Police Chief in accordance with Sec. 93A of the City Charter.

Deputy Chief Preston thanked the Council, his family and friends, as well as the Prince George's County Police Chief and his Department for their support. He said he looked forward to working with the fellow members of the Bowie Police Department and appreciated the opportunity to serve as the Deputy Police Chief under Chief Nesky.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

A. Mr. Alex Cook, 3812 Irongate Lane, spoke about his request for additional bus stops in his neighborhood and thanked the Council for their assistance in accomplishing his goal of getting bus stops closer to his home.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Appointments/Reappointments/Swearings-in – A. Mayor Robinson moved that Emerson DeWitt Ruth be elevated to Regular Member status on the Board of Personnel Appeals. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. Councilmember Trough moved to appoint Tola Idowu as a member of the Community Outreach Committee. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to appoint Tanya Thompson and Robert Lee Johnson as members of the Education Committee. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

D. Mayor Robinson swore Ms. Idowu, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Johnson into office in accordance with Sec. 92A of the City Charter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager David Deutsch reported on the following items: 1) Board of Education Meeting – The Board will meet on January 5, to act on a pending boundary change proposal; staff will be present and report back to Council; 2) January 17 Council Meeting – Prince George's County Fire Chief and the BVFD will be present to review the EMS, staffing, equipment and other issues; 3) Power Outages – The power outage that effected MedAssurant for 30-40 minutes was caused by a contractor while digging; staff was in touch with MedAssurant and will continue to work with BGE to find out exactly what caused the outage.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved the approval of Consent Agenda Item A: Approval of Minutes of November 21, 2011 Council Meeting; and B. Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2011 Council Meeting; C. Approval of Resolution R-1-12 - Approving an Annexation Agreement for the Commercial Subdivision Known as "Mill Branch Crossing" and Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Said Agreement; D. Approval of Resolution R-2-12 -Adopting an Annexation Plan for the Annexation of Mill Branch Crossing, a Proposed Mix Use Commercial Development, Generally Located on the East Side of US 301 Between Mill Branch Road and MD 197. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by those members of the Council present.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Animal Holding Area – City Manager Deutsch summarized the staff report dated December 22, 2011, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. He reported that this item was tabled on December 5 following the appearance of Mr. Taylor from the County Animal Management Division who made some suggestions regarding the construction of the area and suggested changes he felt were necessary to improve the facility. He reviewed the suggested items contained in the staff report and said they will be implemented assuming Council decides to move forward with operating this facility. Mr. Deutsch said with Council approval staff expects to operate out of the facility once a contractor has been retained.

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

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Truth concerning radiant heat, Mr. Deutsch replied that he did not have a specific answer but a humidifier could be added if necessary; staff does not expect to be holding animals for a long period of time and the conditions will be monitored in the facility to be sure they are appropriate.

Councilmember Brady said that he appreciates the efforts of staff but has concerns that this is not a long term solution and that the money spent will be wasted; felt the holding room was a convenience for staff and not a benefit for citizens; this item needs to be advanced in the

CIP to the next fiscal year to establish a short term holding facility to hold pets for 5 days. He said he will not support the staff recommendation.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to approve the staff recommendation to bring the facility up to Code and then to prove there is a need before moving ahead with Councilmember Brady's suggestion. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and said that he also wants to see the results before making a determination to advance the item in the CIP. The motion carried with a vote of 5-2 (Brady, Trough).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bowie State MARC Station Development Board Update – Mr. Boyd Campbell, a local realtor, provided a brief report about the Bowie State/MARC Station Development Board's 2011 highlights and current activities of the Development Board. A copy of CB-5-2011 which established a Development Board is on file at City Hall. Mr. Campbell provided some history leading up to the present which included examination of the study now being performed on the Redskins training facility and review of a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and the results of an Economic Impact Analysis expected to be performed in early 2012.

Following discussion and questions from Council, Councilmember Turner asked that staff be directed to draft a letter to the appropriate parties including the Development Board and state and county officials expressing the city's interest in this effort. Council concurred.

B. Nonprofit Organization Policy – Ms. Una Cooper, Public Information Coordinator, summarized the staff report dated December 29, 2011, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. She said that earlier in the year Council directed staff to develop a policy regarding the City working with non-profit organizations; Council has before them the first response to that directive. She summarized parts of the report dealing with: 1) Existing relationships between the City of Bowie and nonprofit organizations, which includes grants, partnerships and co-sponsorship of events and programs, advocacy, requests for use of City facilities and fields, events on City streets and authorization under approved statutes and programs; and 2) suggested elements for a policy on nonprofits. Ms. Cooper concluded her report by saying that staff recommends that the actual policy be written after the public hearing; before adopting a policy Council may want to consider soliciting the input of local nonprofits through a survey.

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

Following discussion and questions from Council, Mayor Robinson asked for consensus of the Council to direct staff to prepare a policy to be scheduled for approval at a future Council meeting. Council concurred.

C. Resolution R-6-12 – Establishing a School Zone on Kenhill Drive at Benjamin Tasker Middle School – City Manager Deutsch summarized the staff report dated December 29, 2011, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. He reported that when a speed study was conducted on October 19, 2011, there were 609 vehicles registered as going over the 12 mph threshold of 37 mph on that day during the time period of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; staff believes there is a need and encouraged Council support for the resolution. He said if the resolution is approved, staff would proceed with the vendor to get the cameras installed.

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

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Turner regarding a policy that deals with when a speed camera is justified, City Manager Deutsch said the speed study that is conducted with the vendor establishes the threshold and is laid out in the contract with the vendor.

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to approve Resolution R-6-12. Councilmember Truth seconded the motion and it carried with a vote of 5-2 (Turner, Gardner).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Polangin moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Polangin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Fleming, MMC
City Clerk