

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, September 20, 2010 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

QUORUM:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. City Manager David Deutsch reported that he has received reports from the Police Department of thefts of unattended items at shopping centers; the Police remind residents to be sure all items are secured or hidden when placed in vehicles.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Mayor Pro Tem Marcos moved approval of the following Consent Agenda: A) Approval of Minutes of September 7, 2010 Council Meeting; and B. Approval of Resolution R-61-10, Accepting Bid Proposal for Personal Computers and Servers; C. Approval of Resolution R-62-10, Accepting Bid Proposal for Computers, Monitors and Printers; D. Approval of Resolution R-63-10, Accepting Bid Proposal for Personal Computers; E. Approval of Resolution R-64-10, By Two Thirds Vote Waiving the City's Competitive Bidding Process in Accordance With City Charter, Section 62 for Good Cause Shown and Awarding Furniture Procurement and Installation Contracts for the New Bowie City Hall to Douron, Inc., Glover Equipment Sales Group, LLC, Interior Connections, LLC and American Office Equipment Co., Inc.; F. Approval of Resolution R-65-10, Accepting Bid for the Supply and Installation of Sedimentation Tank Covers; G. Approval of Resolution R-66-10, Endorsing the Vision, Goals and Priorities of Envision Prince George's; and H. Approval of Resolution R-67-10, By Two-Thirds Vote Waiving the Advertising Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie and Authorizing Additional Software to the MUNIS System. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. TD Bank Specific Design Plan (#SDP-0313/05) - City Manager Deutsch said the Council has an excerpt from the Council's adopted Development Review Guidelines before them; it references an item on signage and will be referenced in staff's presentation.

Mr. Frank Stevens, City Planner, summarized the staff report dated September 16, 2010, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. He displayed an aerial photograph of the area and the proposed bank pad site. He reported the applicant has submitted a revised Specific Design Plan which proposes to reduce the dimensions and the footprint of the bank building from 3,849 square feet to 2,837 square feet, a reduction of over 900 square feet in area; other changes are noted on Pages 2 and 3 of the staff report. Mr. Stevens then reported that the applicant is asking for reconsideration of the ground mounted sign which staff continues to oppose because this particular type of sign is contrary to the City's Development Review Guidelines; staff recommends that the sign be deleted from the project and that no more than 2 building mounted signs be approved.

Mr. Dan Lynch, attorney for the applicant, spoke about reduction in building size and noted that the building materials will remain the same. He also talked about the visibility of the building from Route 197; the applicant felt the need for a free-standing sign and this is why they are back before Council. Mr. Lynch presented a letter to the Council dated July 12, 2010 from Mr. Kevin J. Burns, Buchanan Partners, LLC addressed to Ms. Kathleen A. Coakley, MLS Properties; the letter authorizes the sign be located on the subject site.

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

Following discussion and questions posed by members of the Council, Councilmember Turner moved approval of the staff recommendation as stated in the staff report with an amendment on Page 7, Item 6 - Signage to read "The ground-mounted monument sign shall be authorized and the number of signs on the bank shall be 3 building-mounted signs which shall not exceed a total area of 125 square feet." Mayor Pro Tem Marcos seconded the motion.

Mr. Stevens noted that the ground-mounted sign in the proposed location would make the building-mounted sign on the western side unnecessary because it is perpendicular to the street and is closer to the street.

Mr. Turner amended his motion to restore the two building-mounted signs. The seconded of the motion concurred.

Mr. Lynch felt there would be a blank wall that would take away from the character of the building.

Councilmember Polangin then moved to amend the motion to split the motion into two separate questions. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Councilmember Turner's amended motion failed by unanimous vote.

Councilmember Turner moved to approve the ground-mounted sign and the signage for the two building mounted signs on the southern elevation be reduced to two signs with a total of square footage 68 square feet. Mayor Pro Tem Marcos seconded the motion.

Councilmember Polangin moved to amend the motion to delete the ground-mounted sign and add a third building-mounted sign. Councilmember Truth seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-3 (Robinson, Marcos, Turner).

Councilmember Turner's motion, as amended by Councilmember Polangin's motion, to approve three building-mounted signs with a combined total area of 97 square feet, and no ground-mounted monument sign, carried with a vote of 5-2 (Marcos, Turner).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Marcos moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Fleming, MMC
City Clerk

