

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 Boafo, Esteve, Gardner (arrived at 8:04 p.m.), Harrison (arrived at 8:05 p.m.), and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

### PRESENTATIONS:

Councilmember Gardner moved and presented proclamations P-1-22 to Madeline Long and MEACO Konnect LLC, Proclamation P-2-22 to Party HQ, Proclamation P-3-22 to Ruby's Southern Kitchen, Proclamation P-4-22 to Simply Bowie Magazine and Proclamation P-5-22 to Howell Funeral Home for their day of service to the residents of the City of Bowie on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Councilmember Woolfley second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Woolfley motioned to appoint Bee Scott to the Diversity Committee for a two-year term. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Esteve swore-in Bee Scott to the Diversity Committee.

### COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Woolfley thanked everyone for their efforts on the MLK Day of Service and apologized to Mayor Adams for trampling over his closing remarks during the special meeting.

Councilmember Harrison mentioned that Youth Council Chair Shelemiah Griffith-Jones shared the devastating news of the unexpected passing of Ms. Jessica Thicklen a School Counselor at Samuel Ogle Middle School.

Councilmember Esteve mentioned the passing of long time Old Bowie resident Fannie Basim at the age of 102 years old. Ms. Basim was a strong supporter of the Huntington Heritage Society.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Lott informed Council that he has directed Public Works staff to begin a design of a 3.5-mile pipe replacement as opposed to the 2.5 mile, with support of Council for the funding.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilmember Esteve made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of November 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of November 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes; C) Approval of December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes; D) Approval of December 21, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes; E) Approval of Letter to County Council Member Turner re: Support of Retaining Certified Nutrition Site Manager; F) Approval of Letter for General Assembly re: Support of SB0014/HB0100 Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment; G) Adoption of Resolution R-1-22 Accepting a Bid Proposal for the Pin Oak and Hall Road Drainage Basin Repair Project. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Economic Development Strategy in Progress Briefing – Mr. John Henry King, Economic Development Director introduced the consultants from the University of Baltimore Jacob France Institute and Margrave Strategies, LLC who will present the results of the first phase of their work, data gathering, to prepare an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan. The City has a diverse economy and significant workforce assets, but it needs to expand and diversify its business base. It also needs to make a case for public support of development. A copy of their report is on file in the City Clerk's office.

**Public Hearing:**

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

Mayor Adams thanked the consultants for their presentation.

B. Budget Guidance for FY 2023 – Finance Director Matthews summarized the outlook for the FY 2023 budget year. Some concerns are the continued effects of COVID-19, cost of inflation and supply chain concerns. Need to reevaluate and set priorities for Capital Improvement Projects and consider increasing the property tax rate.

Mayor Adams asked is the City's property tax values continue to increase. Mr. Matthews responded yes.

Councilmember Harrison asked for consideration of support of accomplishing the City's climate change goals, adding the position of a Director of Sustainability and the creation of a Nature Exploration Center.

Councilmember Gardner supported Councilmember Harrison's recommendations.

Councilmember Woolfley requested support of a plan for the ARPA money to be used for the water system upgrade, enhance the use of electric vehicles as well as provide incentive to City employees to use the charging stations at City Hall and continue to replace City vehicles with EVs. He

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also added the improvement to bike accessibility throughout the City, converting Pope's Creek line to a trail, prioritizing CIPs for ice and golf as well as keeping the taxes flat.

Councilmember Esteve commented on adding money to support the Old Bowie Festival, a task force to focus on the racetrack property, additional staffing for Code Enforcement and adding funding for some sort of vegetation to stormwater management ponds to have a nicer visual appearance.

Councilmember Gardner asked to make sure that a study is done for more courts in the City.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Bofo motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting and move into Closed Session under the statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code, State Government Article §3-305(b)(7): "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice". Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING ("CLOSING STATEMENT")  
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

This form has two sides. *Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.*

1. **Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: 1-18-22; Time: 10:40; Location: City Hall;  
Motion to close meeting made by: Beato Seconded by Woodley;  
Members in favor: JA, IH, HG, ME, DW, AB; Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_;  
Abstaining: \_\_\_\_\_; Absent: Ndebumadu.

2. **Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).**

**This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:**

(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; 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"; (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." (15)  "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Litigation	Consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice
§3-305(b) <input type="checkbox"/>		
§3-305(b) <input type="checkbox"/>		
§3-305(b) <input type="checkbox"/>		
§3-305(b) <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. This statement is made by Samuel J. Adams, Presiding Officer.

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**WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)**

➤ For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:

Time of closed session: 10:40pm

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): (7) Consult with Counsel to obtain legal advice

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Adams, Harrison, Gardner, Estevé, Woolkley, Boafó

Persons attending closed session: Adams, Gardner, Harrison, Estevé, Woolkley, Boafó, Levan, Lott, Mears

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (7)

Topics actually discussed: Litigation

Actions taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Each recorded vote: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104): Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Persons present: \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects discussed: \_\_\_\_\_