

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, March 7, 2022, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 Esteve, Gardner, Harrison, Ndebumadu and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Harrison asked for a moment of silence in support of Ukraine.

Councilmember Esteve invited residents to attend the rally "Stop the Hate" that will take place on Sunday, March 13 at Allen Pond Park.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of February 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Resolution R-7-22 Accepting a Bid Proposal for the Northview Drive Bituminous Trail Replacement Project. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Mid-Year Budget Report - City Manager Lott highlighted some of the objectives completed in this year's budget. Some of them include establishing and implementing a formal, Citywide teleworking policy; upgrading audio, visual and broadcast equipment in Council Chambers to current industry standards; establishing a business retention program; maintaining the City's Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award which the City has received for 27 consecutive years, and the replacement of over 300 street signs throughout the City.

Mayor Adams commended staff for receiving the budget award for 27 consecutive years.

Councilmember Woolfley asked for the status of the revised codes dealing with residential fences. Community Services Director, Sally Hein responded that the Code Enforcement Manager is working with the City Attorney and should have something to present to Council by April.

Councilmember Harrison is looking forward to the recognition being developed for the contributions of the enslaved people who built, worked and supported the Belair Mansion.

Councilmember Gardner asked City Manager Lott if the street signs are outsourced or produced in house. City Manager Lott responded that they are done in house, by the Streets Division of Public Works.

Councilmember Ndebumadu thanked the IT Department for the work they have done in being able to provide the technology for the City to continue working during the pandemic. Councilmember Ndebumadu also asked about the specifics of the youth forum the Bowie Youth Council is putting together. Communications Manager, Una Cooper said that her department is working with them and it is set for April. They are also helping them produce a short video that will be streamed on TikTok.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Preliminary Plan #4-21027, Hayden Property – Mr. Joe Meinert, City Planning Director, summarized the staff report. The property is 2.4-acre located at 12705 10th Street and Zug Road which is currently occupied by Ray’s Towing and a single-family detached home. The property owner has submitted a Preliminary Plan of Subdivision to subdivide the site into four residential lots. A City stakeholders meeting was held October 2021 virtually and had two people attend. City staff reviewed the Preliminary Plan for compliance with the relevant regulations and guidelines and finds that it complies with the applicable standards and recommends approval.

Public Hearing:

Since there was no one signed up to speak or comments submitted for this item, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Esteve motioned to approve Preliminary Plan #4-21027 Hayden Subdivision. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Gardner did not vote).

B. Revision to Conceptual Site Plan CSP-78020-12, Raising Cane’s Restaurant – Mr. Joe Meinert, City Planning Director, summarized the staff report. The property owner, Raising Cane’s Restaurant, LLC submitted the revision to allow a proposed 3,331 sq. ft Raising Cane’s restaurant, with drive-through service at the location of the former Chili’s restaurant located at 16401 Heritage Boulevard. A City stakeholders meeting was held on February 9, 2022 virtually and had three people attend. City staff reviewed the revision to the Conceptual Plan and finds that it meets the requirements and recommends approval.

Mr. Dan Lynch with the law firm McNamee and Hose representing the applicant, summarized the changes the applicant is wanting to do on the property.

Public Hearing:

Since there was no one signed up to speak or comments submitted for this item, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Woolfley asked if they were planning on serving beer or wine at the establishment. Mr. Lynch responded no.

Councilmember Esteve commented that he hopes that the aesthetics of the building are visually appealing.

Councilmember Harrison motioned to approve Conceptual Site Plan #CSP-78080-12, Raising Cane's Restaurant. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

C. Bowie Race Track Discussion and Guidance – City Manager Lott is requesting some guidance from Council on how to proceed with the meeting requested by Bowie State University to begin discussions on the usage of the Bowie Race Track property. There are many items that remain to be resolved between the parties including size and location of the easement for BSU's use, responsibility for development, maintenance and use of currently unknown improvements. The City will be responsible for the property once transferred to the City which includes any environmental remediation that might need to be done on the property. City Manager Lott would also like for a member of Council to join the meeting as a Council liaison.

Councilmember Harrison asked what the results and cost of the Phase I assessment that were done on the property was. City Manager Lott responded that it was done in 2009 and he will forward those results and costs to Council.

Councilmember Harrison then asked what the next steps would be. Assistant City Manger Mears responded that Phase III needs to be done next and the cost could be very expensive. Public Works Director, Jose Aldayuz responded that soil samples could take the longest in getting results back, four to six months.

Councilmember Woolfley commented that he would like to make sure that the City includes stakeholders surrounding the property in future discussions about the property uses.

Mayor Adams asked that staff work with the lobbyists to find out the status of the funding from the State.

Councilmember Harrison and Mayor Adams both stated that they will join the meeting with Bowie State University.

Council concurred to have staff meet with Bowie State University to start discussions on the potential uses of the property, having lobbyists meet with state delegation to inquiry on the status of the funding for the Phase III assessment of the property, and structure some sort of task force or committee to involve stakeholders for their input as well on the uses of the property.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Harrison motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 (Ndebumadu did not vote). The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk