

## SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, April 11, 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 Esteve, Gardner (virtually), Harrison (virtually) and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

### NEW BUSINESS:

A. Introduction of Ordinance O-1-22 Approving and Adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023; and Resolution R-12-22 Adopting a Capital Improvements Program for the Fiscal Years 2023-2028.

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to introduce Ordinance O-1-22 Adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022 and Ending June 30, 2023. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to introduce Resolution R-12-22 Adopting a Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2023-2028. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

City Manager Lott summarized the letter of transmittal for the proposed FY 2023 budget.

### **Public Hearing:**

1. John Teasdale, EAC Vice Chair – Comment attached.
2. Bob Kellaway, Green Team Energy Sub-Committee Chair – Comment attached.
3. Joshua Wooten, Green Team MAPS Sub-committee – Comment attached.
4. Bill Lussier, Green Team MAPS Sub-committee – Comment attached.
5. Patty McCaughey, Green Team MAPS Sub-committee – Comment attached.
6. Ken McCaughey, Green Team MAPS Sub-committee – Comment attached.
7. Bob Rapczynski, President Huntington Heritage Society – Commented on keeping the budget for the improvements at the Railroad Museum.
8. Karen Williamson, Dunwood Valley Dr. – Spoke against the construction of the ice arena.

April 11, 2022

City Clerk Hernandez announced that 12 comments were received via email and are part of the record. Comments attached.

Since there were no other comments submitted, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing to have been held.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Esteve moved to adjourn the Special City Council meeting and move to Budget Worksession #1. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

April 11, 2022, Budget Hearing

**Environmental Advisory Committee Testimony by John Teasdale, EAC Vice-Chair**

Council adopted a Sustainability Plan in 2016 and a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2020. Both of these plans committed the City to a wide range of actions that will improve the quality of life of residents as well of the environment.

Let me first focus on climate change. As you know, climate change has become a major threat to maintaining a habitable environment for life on this planet. All analyses conducted at international and national levels confirm that we have only a couple of decades to reverse this trend without catastrophic consequences. The City CAP and the followup Implementation Plan that will be presented to you next month address specific actions that City government and residents can take to mitigate the catastrophic effects of climate change. The proposed FY2023 budget has several objectives and line items that support City climate objectives.

City operations can address climate change through 1) energy efficiency, 2) use of renewable energy sources, 3) increasing electric vehicles and infrastructure for the City fleet, 4) green procurement practices, and 5) monitoring and maintaining the urban tree canopy. Many of these initiatives can both save the City money in the long run as well as reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and address climate goals. The Chair of the Green Team Energy Committee will address energy conservation measures by City government in the next talk. I will address an action designed to reduce GHG emissions in the commercial sector.

The most recent analysis of Bowie greenhouse gas emissions by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments shows that almost 20% of Bowie emissions are from the commercial sector. In addition, square footage of commercial space has increased by 31% in the last thirteen years and is expected to continue increasing with new commercial developments at Southlake, Melford, Mill Branch Crossing, and others. Thus, the City needs to find ways to provide incentives for reducing GHG emissions in this sector. There is a new program proposed in the Planning Department budget that would initiate a Sustainable Business Incentive Program to provide small grants to local businesses to incentivize them to reduce GHG emissions. We think this program will provide an important first step toward reaching this important sector and we strongly recommend adoption of this new initiative.

Finally, I want to address the overall coordination of sustainable actions throughout City government. The concept of "sustainability" is recognized to rest on three imperatives, in the case of municipal government, these would be 1) delivering quality services in a cost-effective manner while 2) protecting the environment and essential resources, and 3) ensuring social justice and equitable treatment of all residents. As such, all branches of City government really have a role to play in the sustainable deployment of City operations. Thus, a high-level Sustainability Manager is required to identify broad objectives and coordinate sustainable operations in the City. The Planning and Sustainability Department has proposed the creation of a Sustainability Manager position in this FY2023 budget. We strongly endorse this new position as an essential step toward achieving a more sustainable City government.

Thank you for considering these requests.

April 11, 2022, Budget Hearing

**Green Team Energy Committee Testimony by Robert Kellaway, Committee Chair**

Transforming our energy system and reducing greenhouse gas emissions continue to be important steps toward mitigating the impacts of climate change. In 2003 Bowie began its sustainability journey with its first Green Infrastructure Plan followed by LEED certified buildings, a Climate Action Plan, the purchase of 4 EVs and the 2.5MW solar farm over the almost 20 years since. Building on that legacy there are several areas in the City FY2023 budget where energy efficiency, renewable energy, and EV adoption can be promoted.

We applaud the inclusion of energy efficiency measures in many areas of the budget. Continuation of the Smart Energy project to acquire energy management software and the capacity to better track energy savings and waste are important objectives in the Business Operations section. The presence of a separate Energy Efficiency CIP section identifies this as a priority requirement in City operations. However, it seems somewhat arbitrary to limit this by a pre-determined \$50,000 per year. We recommend that the annual amount not be capped, but determined by project value toward efficient government function, particularly if they can be shown to save money in the long-term.

The move to develop stage 2 of the City solar array will be an important step toward reducing City dependence on fossil fuels and increase the renewable energy portfolio of the City. We encourage Council to support this in whatever way they can and to identify other opportunities (perhaps the new ice rink) to install sources of renewable energy.

The electrification of the City vehicle fleet will also decrease our dependence on fossil fuels. We encourage any initiatives to increase the number of electric vehicles as well as the EV infrastructure to support it. The Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Schedule should be carefully reviewed for opportunities to purchase EVs. Any EV assessment should be based on the long-term cost of fuel and maintenance as well as the initial purchase cost. It should be noted that increasing renewable sources of electricity for the City would also ensure that EV charging infrastructure would be powered by renewable energy sources making it almost 100% carbon neutral.

We also commend and support the Planning Department budget to expand the rebate program for electric powered yard equipment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Business incentive grant program, and the home energy audit program.

In closing, eleven days from Earth Day, I'd like to quote from the February 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that states, "by taking aggressive and immediate action for electrification, energy and material efficiency, renewable energy, and socio-behavioral changes, cities could approach net-zero emissions by 2050." Together, let's make Bowie one of those cities that lead the way and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

**To: Council at the Public Budget Hearing, April 11, 2022**

**From: Joshua Wooten, Wharton Turn**

**Subject: Testimony for CR-27, CR-44, CR-46, CR-51, CR-53, and PW-2**

First, MAPS would like to thank the City Council, City Manager, and City staff for continuing to make tremendous efforts and progress to make transportation within and around Bowie more accessible and inclusive to multiple forms of travel, especially for walking and bicycling. We would like to thank you all for establishing a new Multi-Modal Transportation Specialist position in the City. This position provides a dedicated resource that will be vital in effectively implementing transportation plans and policies in the City such as the Trails Master Plan and Complete Streets Policy while also providing transportation expertise and ensuring compliance with local and regional engineering and safety requirements. We would also like to thank you all for the work done that resulted in Tanglewood Park being added to the CIP. This is a significant resource to the City and especially the Old Bowie community and MAPS looks forward to working with the City to bring about the improvements to make Tanglewood be considered safe.

We ask the Council to make the following actions in this year's budget cycle for the following budget items:

1. **CR-27:** Approve the planned funding for FY 2023 for improvements to the Hiker-Biker trail system on Northview Drive
2. **CR-44:**
  - a. Approve the planned funding for FY 2023 for completion of the Jericho Park Trail segment of the Bowie Heritage trail
  - b. Request funding be planned for the Heritage trail segment that runs through Tanglewood Park to the soonest practical budget year
3. **CR-46:** We thank the City for moving up funding to FY 2024 for the improvements to the Bowie Railroad Museum complex and I ask that this be approved
4. **CR-51:** Approve planned funding for FY 2023 and beyond for the work planned in the Trails Master Plan
5. **CR-53:** Approve the planned funding for FY 2023 for Tanglewood Park
6. **PW-2:** Approve the planned funding FY 2023 for the Kenhill Drive/MD 197 Intersection Complete Streets policy project so that completion remains on track for 2023

Thank you for your consideration.

Joshua Wooten, Chair, Bowie Multi-modal Access and Public Spaces Sub-Committee

**To: Council at the Public Budget Hearing, April 11, 2022**

**From: Bill Lussier, Old Town Bowie**

**Subject: Testimony for CR-44, CR-46, and CR53**

I have a few brief items to bring to your attention:

First, I am delighted to report that the clean-up event last week at Tanglewood Park was a tremendous success. We had 25 volunteers show up to pitch in. Together we pulled out over 50 tires and 2200 pounds of trash from the park! We even doubled the membership of the Friends of Tanglewood. Thanks so much to Tiffany Wright and the others on the staff who helped plan and carry out the event.

In regards to Tanglewood and the budget, MAPS is delighted to see that some proposed funding for it has found its way into the Capital Improvement Plan. We think it would be a prudent measure to fund the initial planning effort to better scope out any necessary improvements and expenditures.

Second, we would like to commend and thank the city council and staff for funding and constructing the new section of the Bowie Heritage trail from old town to Jericho Park. We look forward to its completion and our future bike rides on it.

Third, we see that the proposed Heritage Park to be created behind the Railroad Museum is now in FY-24 of the CIP. We hope the Council continues to support this wonderful project.

Fourth, we wish to remind the Council that additional sections of the Bowie Heritage trail still need to be funded and built. The section connecting the Bowie State MARC train station to the soon to be built Patuxent River bridge, and the section through Tanglewood Park are planned out and ready to move forward. We realize that the budget is tight, but when funding does become available, please support funding the City's portions of these important transit projects.

Thank You

Bill Lussier, Member, Bowie Multi-modal Access and Public Spaces Sub-Committee

**To: Council at the Public Budget Hearing, April 11, 2022**

**From: Patty McCaughey, Chapel Forge**

**Subject: Testimony for PW-2, Street Resurfacing and Complete Streets**

I am a member of the Bowie Multi-modal Access and Public Spaces Sub-Committee. The testimony I am presenting represents the consensus of our group.

The City Council passed Bowie's first Complete Streets Policy three years ago. This was the first step in a process to create safer streets and more equitable transportation options within Bowie. The next steps are to fund improvements for the implementation phase. The city staff has done a great job preparing a project to improve Kenhill Drive at MD197. We are pleased to see this in the budget in the PW-2, Street Resurfacing section. This intersection has long been a huge safety concern of our group. The plan, as presented, has many improvements including:

1. Slowing northbound 197 right turners and extending the visibility of the crosswalk before the turn.
2. Increasing the number of crosswalks on Kenhill Drive allowing more opportunities for school children to cross from the adjoining neighborhoods.
3. Improving bicycle safety and the interface with the trail by introducing dedicated bike lanes on each side of the road between Kembridge Drive and 197.

These improvements mesh nicely with Bowie's Complete Streets Policy and would offer a first and positive example of a complete streets implementation. Additionally, Kenhill Drive is an important segment of the Bowie Byway as laid out by the Trails Master Plan. This intersection is the only connection between north and south for non-vehicular traffic. As a critical interface and given the proximity to Benjamin Tasker Middle School these improvements must be a priority and remain in the current proposed budget.

We also feel that the City should consider including a Complete Streets projects as its own section in the city budget, as this policy encompasses more than repaving. Complete streets implementation could also include sidewalks and trail interfaces to roads and businesses, for example. It is further justified, since it's anticipated that there will be a series of Complete Streets projects spanning multiple future budget cycles. A dedicated section in the budget would show the City's commitment to the implementation phase of this policy and provide a means to measure progress.

The Kenhill Drive/197 intersection is a primary gateway into Bowie. It should represent our collective priorities of a safe and welcoming city. The upgrades to this intersection under the Complete Streets Policy is a great start and we welcome its inclusion into the FY-23 budget.

Thank you for considering these recommendation.

Patty McCaughey, Member, Bowie Multi-modal Access and Public Spaces Sub-Committee

**To: Council at the Public Budget Hearing, April 11, 2022**

**From: Ken McCaughey, Chapel Forge**

**Subject: Testimony for CR-27, Hiker-Biker Trails and CR-51, Bowie Trails Master Plan**

I am a member of the Bowie Multi-modal Access and Public Spaces Sub-Committee. The testimony I am presenting represents the consensus of our group.

The City adopted an ambitious Trails Master Plan in 2019 to increase the connectivity of trails throughout Bowie and increase multi-modal options for Bowie residents. We commend the City for having the foresight to establish this plan and to devote a project page, CR-51, in the Capital Improvement Plan to fund this plan. Currently a trail segment from Pin Oak Parkway to Mt. Oak Road is planned for design in 2024 and completion in 2026. This will be an important step toward completing the overall Bowie ByWay, which is a north-south spine at the heart of the Trails Master Plan.

However, this portion of the ByWay will not be complete until an additional step is taken to connect the terminus of this new trail along Mt. Oak Road to Nottingham Drive. This would provide an important connection between trails south of Mt. Oak Road to trails and destinations north of Mt. Oak Road. Senior staff from the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation have already endorsed this concept, but expect the City to take the lead. With establishment of this trail segment, the County will follow through with improvement of the existing side path from Nottingham Drive to Mitchellville Road. We encourage the Council to include this Mt. Oak Road Trail segment in the CR-51 project plans.

Thank you for considering this request.

We also want to recognize and support project page, CR-27, for the continuing maintenance and repair of the existing Hiker-Biker trail system. I am looking forward to the resulting improvements to the Northview Drive trail segments.

Ken McCaughey, Member, Bowie Multi-modal Access and Public Spaces Sub-Committee



## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** hheritagesociety@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 7, 2022 8:06 AM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: The Fielding Plan for the improvements to the Railroad area



04/07/2022  
Huntington City Birthplace Of Bowie  
HUNTINGTON HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 183 BOWIE, MARYLAND 20719-0183

Mayor/Council...

The Huntington Heritage Society is requesting that funding for the improvements to the Bowie Railroad Station be included in 2023 budget.

Over the past several years, a number of improvements, part of this project, have been implemented in Old Bowie. The Heritage Park, construction of the bridge and the path to the Railroad Buildings are a plus for Old Bowie/Huntington. But - we want to see this project finished.

The Fielding Plan for the improvements to the Railroad area has been approved for many years now. It will add so much to the museum campus. Relocation of the cabooses, viewing platforms and the educational plaza will help to make the museum a place where people, and school groups, will want to visit. Bowie's history begins in Huntington City. This project should be a showplace that highlights that history.

This past Fall, the new Heritage Fair took place in Old Bowie. That festival enjoyed great success. Our understanding is that this will now become a City project in the coming years. The additions to the Railroad will keep people who are coming to the festival return at other times during the year.

We sincerely hope that funding for these improvements will be included in the coming budget. This project will increase tourism and economic development in Old Bowie/Huntington. Please add funding for next year.

Robert Rapczynski, President  
Isabel Pocerull, Vice President  
Pam Williams, Secretary  
Louise Stewart, Treasurer

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** hheritagesociety@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 7, 2022 8:11 AM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: improvements to the Railroad Campus in 2023

Bowie City Council

04/07/2022

Dear Mayor and City Budget Committee

As you know, budget hearings for the City's 2023 budget are set to begin.

We urge you, during this process, to support the inclusion of funds for the improvements to the Railroad Campus in 2023.

As you know, this plan has been approved for any number of years. Bringing it to fruition will add so much to bringing Old Bowie/Huntington's history to the public. Bowie is a city interested in its history. Since Huntington is the birthplace of Bowie, it seems logical that our history would be on display.

Again, please support this project.

Robert Rapczynski

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Stephen Wehrenberg <stephen.wehrenberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2022 10:27 AM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez; Joe Meinert  
**Cc:** john.teasdale2; Abigail Snyder; joshuawooten2  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Budget hearing 4/11/22

Awilda,

I will be returning from a visit to my son in Florida on Monday and will probably not arrive in time to attend the budget hearing in person. I have provided a brief statement below, which I hope you will be able to read into the proceedings.

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Comments regarding the Proposed FY23 Budget  
Dr. Stephen Wehrenberg

Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for certain items in the budget proposal. My perspective is that of a 32 year resident of our city and as a past Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC).

I applaud the efforts of the Planning Department to continue to aggressively achieve the goals you set in the Climate Action Plan (CAP). As I have said numerous times, the City has made great strides toward a sustainable future but is approaching a ceiling regarding what can be accomplished without the active and committed participation of residents and businesses. That will require new thinking about how we communicate with and engage citizens.

Specific items in the proposal are aimed at this target and need your full support in the budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

1. The Planning Department is requesting funding for a new position, that of Sustainability Manager. Though this does not meet the oft-repeated advice of the EAC to create a dedicated sustainability staff to pursue the goals of the CAP, it is a good start and will greatly help focus efforts on achieving our goals of drastically reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, solid waste reduction, and other environmentally friendly activities. Citizen engagement should be the overarching objective of this position.
2. Expanding the various incentives for homeowners to electrify their homesteads will reduce fossil fuel use and GHG emissions. Likewise, the request to fund a Business Incentive Grant program will enable the necessary partnership with the commercial sector to achieve the same ends.
3. Regarding the CIP, funding a Wayfinding Plan for the Bowie Byway will help connect residents to our community and enable a better understanding of our geography and our challenges. Similarly, funding for the very visible Railroad Museum placemaking project should begin in this year's budget, moving some funding up from FY24.
4. The Heritage Trail Project proceeds, and I ask for your support for adding the Tanglewood Park segment as a distinct line item in the CIP, and including the \$25,000 requested as part of the FY23 budget.
5. Last, but hardly least, I encourage your full support for the Green Team's budget request. Currently, the Green Team and EAC are the Council's "boots on the ground" in the environmental space, and their efforts at engaging citizens will be critical to the City's sustainability actions.

I appreciate the opportunity to emphasize these issues and hope that I (and other residents) can count on your support to help Bowie survive and thrive in the future.

Regards,

***Stephen Wehrenberg. Ph.D.***

*Organizational Consulting*

stephen.wehrenberg@gmail.com

301-580-9684

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Priscilla Verdun <pverdun@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2022 10:05 PM  
**To:** cityclerk; awildahernandez@cityofbowie.org  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: 4/11/2022 Citizen Participation for \$21M Ice Rink

Hello,

I wish to express my concern over the proposed \$21M ice rink. This is an expensive project which will impact the city's budget, as the country is moving into a recession. If the City of Bowie must incorporate amenities please consider amenities that the community is lacking: indoor swimming pools, courts, multi purpose rooms, study areas, after school programs, etc. Diversity, equity and inclusion should always be taken into consideration.

Concerned voter,

Priscilla Verdun

Grovehurst Community Resident

Sent from my iPhone

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Sonia McLain <smith1851@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 1:02 AM  
**To:** cityclerk; Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Correction: 4/11/22 Citizen Participation for \$21M Ice Rink

Hello,

I would like to express my concern over the \$21M proposed ice rink. I am happy to support a new or renovated rink. However, City of Bowie needs to also incorporate amenities that the community is, and has been, lacking, such as: indoor pool, courts, multi-purpose rooms, study areas for after-school programs, etc. \$21M should not be spent solely on a rink. Our tax dollars should be utilized more smartly. Diversity, equity and inclusion needs to be taken into consideration at all times when updating and improving our community.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming election!

Regards,  
Sonia McLain  
Woodmore Highlands, Plat 8

**Awilda Hernandez**

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**From:** Jeffrey Cooper <csft@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 4:09 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Revised Letter on Ice Rink for the record

Good Afternoon Council Members City of Bowie

I want to express my opposition to the the \$21 million dollar ice rink. The City of Bowie should invest in amenities that reflect the community. The City should supporting after-school programs and job training programs for our young people. Our tax dollars should be spent wisely on programs that improve the quality of life for all City of Bowie Residents.

Best,  
Jeffrey Cooper  
Bowie Resident  
District 3

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Toni Adams <adams.toni669@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 4:16 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Public hearing , CIP, proposed ice rink

Good Evening, Mayor, council and staff...

There are many more important things our city could invest in other than another ice rink. Amenities that are offered to a wider range of our citizens like an indoor pool, study areas for after school , and other opportunities for our senior community such as various classes in computers, and other social clubs. I believe that in the current economic situation, our dollars would be of higher value than now when building materials are at an all time high!

Sincerely,

Toni Adams  
Bowie resident  
30+ years



## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Verna <vcpt07@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 4:33 PM  
**To:** Adrian Boafo; Dufour Woolfley; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Rosann Ndebumadu; Timothy Adams  
**Cc:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Support for funding improvements to Bowie Railroad Station

Dear Mayor Adams and Members of the Bowie City Council,

On behalf of the Old Bowie Arts & Heritage Steering Committee, please support the \$780,000 in the FY 2023 Budget for the improvement to the Old Bowie Railroad Station.

Funding the request is a necessary step toward upgrading Old Bowie and completing the improvements that you began with the 10th Street Playground.

The plans for improvement to Old Bowie Railroad Station have been approved. Implementing the plans will establish an attraction to

bring visitors to learn about Old Bowie/Huntington's history as the birthplace of Bowie.

Sincerely,

Verna Teasdale  
Co-Chair of the  
Old Bowie Arts & Heritage Steering Committee

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Milly Hall <hallmilly@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 5:08 PM  
**To:** cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Dufour Woolfley; Michael Esteve; Rosann Ndebumadu; Ingrid Harrison; Henri Gardner  
**Cc:** Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Public Hearing CIP \$20 Million purposed for (Ice Rink)

April 11, 2022

Good evening Mayor Adams, Council and City Staff,

Per April 4, 2022 Council meeting, there was a estimated proposal for over \$20M for the proposed ice rink. I am opposing and expressing my concerns.

The City of Bowie has many pressing items that need to be addressed for example, infrastructure improvements at Allen Pond park, and the Water distribution piping to name a few. This is not the time to use tax payers money to spend over \$20 Million on a new Ice rink. I am happy to support renovation for the existing ice rink. However, the City of Bowie needs to also incorporate amenities that the community has been, lacking, such as: courts, indoor pool, multi-purpose rooms, study areas for after-school programs etc. (these amenities will serve a lager portion of the Bowie community than a single Ice Rink). Over \$20M should not be spent solely on a rink. Our tax dollars should be utilized more efficiently. Diversity, equity and inclusion needs to be taken into consideration at all times when updating and improving our community. COVID-19 has changed many things and the price of materials and labor has skyrocketed.

I will see you at the upcoming election!

Respectfully ,

Milly Hall  
Woodmore Highlands  
Bowie Maryland 20721

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Karen Williamson <williamsonk1125@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 5:50 PM  
**To:** Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Henri Gardner; Ingrid Harrison; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Rosann Ndebumadu; Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Public Hearing CIP: Ice Rink

Karen Williamson  
14206 Dunwood Valley Drive, Bowie, Md 20721  
202-492-4775

April 11, 2022

Public Hearing CIP: Ice Rink

Dear Mayor, City Councilmembers, and Bowie City Staff,

The city of Bowie should reconsider its decision to stop the Ice Rink project. We all recall that 2020 was a great period of change for this area. The pandemic impacts are still being felt by the Bowie citizens. Now that we are in 2022 and recovery is underway, the citizens of Bowie continue to experience nearly the same hardships as in 2022.

When considering the need for the ice rink, I think if the citizens of Bowie needed the additional ice rink, the news would be out. This consideration should not be made without the knowledge of the Bowie citizens. The citizens should VOTE. Last week, I received a Bowie City text expressing the plan for an ice rink, which would be established on the golf course located at Rt197. It called for nearly \$22Million dollars and was only one sheet of ice. This cost is even higher than the earlier plan pre-pandemic ice rink. Dollars have already been lost on the ice rink which was going to be located at Church Rd. Bowie citizens should be spending their tax dollars for recreation that we want and need. This reconsideration will not be of any benefit to the citizens of Bowie.

We ask that our elected council stop this undercovers Ice Rink project.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Williamson

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Isabel Pocerull <auntizzi@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 6:32 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: HCCDC Statement to City Council Meeting 4-11-2022 (Old Bowie Railroad Museum Phase 2 Funding)  
**Attachments:** HCCDC letter of support for Phase 2 Old Bowie Railroad Museum Project.docx

Hello Ms. Hernandez,

I hope this finds you and yours well. Please find attached a statement of support for the Railroad Museum upgrades (including a rendering of the educational plaza), to be presented to the City Council at tonight's budget hearing.

Thank you,

Isabel W. Pocerull  
Vice President, Huntington City Community Development Corporation

## **The Huntington City Community Development Corporation (HCCDC)**

City of Bowie  
Bowie, MD

Attn: Honorable City Councilmembers and the Honorable Mayor Tim Adams

We hope this letter finds everyone well and safe. I represent the Huntington City Community Development Corporation. The HCCDC will serve the greater community as defined by the region within a five (5) mile radius of the intersection of Chestnut Avenue and 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The HCCDC serves and supports businesses, non-profits, residents, faith-based entities, civic associations, historical sites, and existing open spaces throughout the area. The overall mission of our organization is the economic development, community revitalization, including the arts, and reconnecting the region with the rich history of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad, Belair Mansion, and the growth of the City of Bowie.

The City of Bowie has embraced its historic past and none more so than in Old Bowie/Huntington City. Huntington City is the birthplace of Bowie. We have seen in the last few years the newest endeavors in the Heritage Trail and the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Park with its beautiful depictions of historic sites in miniature – the 10th Street Park was transformed into a historic railroad town by 1/12 scaled replicas of actual Bowie buildings: bank, church, store, fire station, school, and houses each is totally accessible by wheelchair. What a wonderful place for children to play and learn!

I am writing to you at this time of the City budget hearings for fiscal year 2023 to encourage the City to move up the funding of Phase 2 of the Railroad Museum upgrades, including a rendering of the educational plaza. This will become another jewel in the historic sites of Bowie and will help in our combined efforts to revitalize Old Bowie. Please consider taking this important step and fund this project in 2023.

Most sincerely,

Isabel W. Pocrull  
Vice President  
Huntington City Community Development Corporation

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Brenda James <barbarol@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 11, 2022 6:38 PM  
**To:** cityclerk; Timothy Adams; Adrian Boafo; Dufour Woolfley; Michael Esteve; Rosann Ndebumadu; Ingrid Harrison; Henri Gardner  
**Cc:** Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Public Hearing CIP \$20 million proposal for the Ice Rink.

To: Mayor Adams, Council and City Staff

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the \$20 million proposal for a new ice rink. Usage of the ice rink has shown that more non-Bowie residents than residents would use this facility. I question why a proposal that possibly should be supported by a regional commitment is constantly being presented for the Bowie residents to fully fund and support. Bowie does need to provide recreational activities for its citizens but it seems like all other recreational activities are constantly being pushed aside in favor of an ice rink that would have a significant impact on future funds availability for recreational activities. I propose that more emphasis be put on creating a regional facility where Bowie does not contribute more than 50 percent of the costs, rather than expecting Bowie to be the sole funding source.

I also believe that a complete recreational plan for the City needs to be put into place rather than having a piece meal approach based on who hollers the loudest for getting funding. The City needs a Council that puts Bowie as its highest priority.

Sincerely,  
Brenda James  
25 year Bowie homeowner  
Woodmore Highlands  
Bowie, MD 20721