



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, March 16, 2020 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, Staff, and the Public.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Councilmember Ndebumadu made a motion to move Consent Agenda Item A) Approval of Resolution R-20-20 Waive Bidding to Allow Issuance of Contract to Washington Gas as a Sole Source Supplier to a future meeting. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1 (Esteve).

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, Presentations and Swearing-in of Committee members will take place at a future meeting.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Milly Hall, Bowie District 3 Resident – Comment attached.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams commented that the City will continue to provide services to its residents during these uncertain times.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott updated Council on the latest conditions due to COVID-19. (Copy of report attached).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Traffic Calming Device – Criteria - Mr. George Stephano's, City's Public Works Director, briefed Council on proposed changes to the City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. Some of the proposed changes include a process for Council to grant exceptions to allow traffic calming installation on streets that do not meet criteria, elimination of ambiguities, improvements to criteria to ensure objectivity, and addition of a requirement for a limited level of support prior to initiating a NTMP request. Staff engaged assistance from a traffic consultant, Sabra and Associates, Inc. prior to finalizing these recommended changes. The consultant compared the City policy to policies in place at five other nearby jurisdictions. The policy changes recommended are based on information gathered through these comparisons and from the consultant's advice.

Public Hearing:

Since there were no speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Adams declared the Public Hearing to have been held.

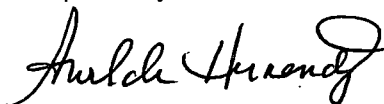
Councilmember Esteve thanked staff for this direction and gladly support the recommended changes.

Councilmember Woolfley asked if staff can include an option to be able to remove devices. Mr. Stephanos said they can maybe add a 3 year moratorium and come before Council for final vote of removal.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Councilmember Woolfley moved to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting and move to Close Session, Statutory Authority to Close Session, State Government Article, §3-305(b)(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 and §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: Una Cooper
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2020 6:56 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Alfred Lott; Daniel Mears
Subject: Testimony by text- just received

Citizen Participation. Good evening Mayor Adams and Councilmembers.

Thank you for the opportunity. My name is Milly Hall Bowie District 3.

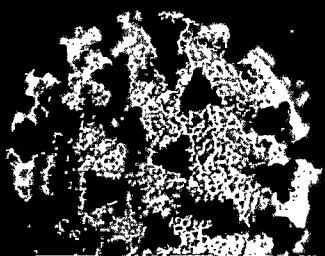
On March 2, 2020 regular City Council meeting I spoke under Citizen Participation about New business C- Recognition of Former Mayor G. Frederick Robinson- Councilmember Gardner was to present. Which was moved from item C to A on the agenda that night.

I stated that the State of Maryland has an Open Meetings Law, agendas must be presented to the public before the Council meetings. All other New business and Old Business items had hyperlinks explaining the items, but not item C under New business. It's not fair to the people that we are not aware of Council member Gardens plans.

I am not saying former Mayor Robinson's name should not go on something. Remember you all are working on the people's behalf. I am recommending his name go on that beautiful Centennial park at City Hall. In that way you wouldn't need to change the deed, business cards, letter head, mailing, organizations and etc.

I feel the Citizens have the right to know your total cost for all has to be done. Thank you .

Sent from my iPhone



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

UPDATES & GUIDANCE

Summary (updates highlighted in yellow)

Date: Monday, March 16, 2020

Number of confirmed cases in Prince George's County - 10

Number of confirmed cases in Maryland - 37

(Includes presumptive cases. Figures may decrease if a presumptive case is negative.)

Governor Issues New Orders

Today, the Governor has issued new, more stringent orders regarding gatherings and business establishments. Restaurants, bars, gyms, and movie theaters are closed to the public as of 5 p.m. today, except for pickup and delivery of food. Gatherings of any kind of more than 50 people are also banned.

City Government is Open; Buildings are Closed to Public

All City facilities are now closed to the public. City services will continue with some modifications for social distancing.

Emergency Operations Center – Partial activation (7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F) starting March 16.

In keeping with Governor Hogan's orders, and the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the City of Bowie has made the following changes to operations and events:

STATUS OF CITY OF BOWIE PUBLIC FACILITIES		
City Hall	Offices are closed to the public as of 3/16 at 5 p.m.	Please call a specific office if you have an urgent need to conduct business. Remember you can pay bills & conduct some city business online or by telephone.
Senior Center	Closed	Homebound meals and essential transportation for doctor's appointments continue.
City Gymnasium	Closed 3/16-3/27	Will follow PGCPs schools
Ice Arena	Closed 3/16-3/27	Will follow PGCPs schools
Kenhill Center	Closed to the public as of 3/16 at 5 p.m.	No in-person counseling services will be provided by Bowie Youth & Family Services. Arrangements are being made for tele-therapy. Call 301-809-3033 for assistance.
Kenhill Center - Bowie TV Studio	Closed 3/16-4/3	Closed to producers & public
Historic Properties	Closed 3/16-3/27	Will follow PGCPs schools. Includes City museums, Radio & TV Museum and Genealogy Library.
City Parks	Open	Games & practices on ballfields are canceled.

Playhouse	Closed	
Police Department	No public access	See note below
Meeting Rooms	Canceled through 3/31	Meeting rooms at City Hall & the Kenhill Center are closed.
Trash and other Public Works collections	Continuing as scheduled	

SPECIAL INFORMATION

Lunches for School Children

Grab & Go lunches are being distributed to Prince George's School System students weekdays at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and several other schools, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Senior Center Transportation

Non-essential trips are canceled. Transportation continues for essential medical appointments. Call the Senior Center at 301-809-2300 for more information.

Senior Meals Nutrition Program

Homebound meals will continue to be delivered.

Bowie Police Department

The door leading to the Police Department lobby is locked and the lobby is closed to the public. Visitors are still welcome to enter the small vestibule area just inside the front door. Communications Center staff will be happy to assist you there utilizing the intercom system. Or, call 240-544-5700 for assistance. Speed cameras bills may be paid online or by calling the Finance Department.

Those wishing to make a police report in a non-emergency case can now do so by calling 240-544-5700. In most cases, the Police will not be responding in person to take non-emergency reports, unless there is a pressing need to do so.

City Council Meetings Closed to the Public (in-person)

The public may not attend Council meetings. Those wishing to submit testimony for public hearings or comments for the Citizen Participation portion of an upcoming Council meeting can send a text message (240-335-3282) or email written or video testimony/comments to cityclerk@cityofbowie.org. Or mail the comments to City Hall. For assistance, contact City Clerk Awilda Hernández at 301-809-3029.

Bowie Pantry & Emergency Aid Fund

The Pantry is open, but w/some changes in operations. Visit the Pantry website for details at www.bowiefoodpantry.org.

City Rental Inspections Canceled

Rental inspections conducted by the Code Compliance Office are canceled until 3/31.

Utilities

Per the Governor's order, public utilities are prohibited from charging late fees or shutting off service during this emergency.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

City Council Meetings	Closed to the public	Residents can view meetings on the web or on the government channel. See note above about testimony and comments.
City Committee Meetings	Canceled through 3/31	Will re-evaluate alternatives for April and beyond.
State of the City speech (3/18)	Canceled	

Job Fair (3/21)	3/21 event canceled	Working to replace event with an online job fair.
Green Bowie Expo (4/13)	Canceled	
Bowie Health Fair (4/25)	Canceled	
Other events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, in light of the Governor's recent orders and depending on the spread of the virus.		
GUIDANCE		
Follow CDC recommendations about hand washing hygiene, social distancing, and what to do if you suspect you may have COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov)		
Consider using delivery or curbside pickup services for groceries and prescriptions		
Prince George's County Health Department COVID-19 Hotline number: 301-883-6627		
Maryland Department of Health Hotline number: 410-767-6871		
The State of Maryland has issued the following FAQ documents		
Testing - https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/coronavirus_testing_FAQ.pdf		
For Older Adults - https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FAQ_covid19_older_adults.pdf		
More information is available on the City's coronavirus page at www.cityofbowie.org/corona .		

**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: 3/18/20; Time: 8:33pm; Location: CH 182;
Motion to close meeting made by: Woolfley Seconded by Esteve;
Members in favor: Esteve, Woolfley, Adams, Gardner, Harrison; Opposed: Note to make;
Abstaining: _____; Absent: Boato.

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) (1)	Personnel Discussion	Discuss personnel matter among City Council
§3-305(b) (7)	State of Emergency Declaration	Discuss establishing State of Emergency with Attorney
§3-305(b) ()		
§3-305(b) ()		
§3-305(b) ()		

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

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: 8:35

Place: Bowie City Hall

Purpose(s): (1) Personnel (7) Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Adams Gardner Harrison Esteva Wolfley Ntebumadu

Persons attending closed session: Adams Gardner Harrison Esteva Wolfley Beato Ntebumadu Levan

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: (1) (7)

Topics actually discussed: Personnel, State of Emergency

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

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

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____