



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, April 13, 2020 virtually. 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 Boafo, Esteve, Harrison, Ndebumadu and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Introduction of Ordinance O-2-20 and Resolution R-24-20.

Councilmember Harrison made a motion to Introduce Ordinance O-2-20 Adopting a Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to Introduce Resolution R-24-20 Adopting a Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2021 - 2026. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Hearing:

1. Joshua Wooten – Comment attached.
2. John Teasdale, Midwood Ln – Comment attached.
3. Ken and Patty McCaughey, Chalford Ln – Comment attached.
4. Verna Teasdale and Isabel Pocerull, Old Town Bowie Arts & Entertainment Steering Committee – Comment attached.
5. Isabel Pocerull, Huntington Heritage Society – Comment attached.
6. Gary Allen, Chair of Environmental Advisory Committee – Video comment on file.

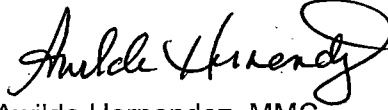
Since there were no other speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing to have been held.

April 13, 2020

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu moved to adjourn the Special City Council meeting and move to Budget Worksession #1. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Awilda Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: Joshua Wooten <joshuawooten2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:55 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: (EXTERNAL): Re: City of Bowie FY2021 Budget Testimony (UPDATED TESTIMONY)

Sorry but please ignore my previous email and use my below testimony instead as I needed to update my response. Thanks

Good evening,

My name is Joshua Wooten and I chair the Bowie Multimodal Access and Public Spaces (MAPS) subgroup of the Bowie Green Team, but today I am submitting this testimony as an individual citizen of the City of Bowie who is in favor of the implementation of a number of items included in the City's FY2021 budget:

1. I applaud and thank the City Manager for the budget planned to repair and replace segments along the Northview Dr trail this FY and over the next few years. These changes will result in a safer, more inviting and accessible trail segment that will better integrate into the City's trail network.
2. I applaud and thank the City Manager for the Bowie Heritage trail construction funding budgeted for FY2021. Old Town Bowie lacks the access to trails compared to other parts of Bowie and the completion of the Bowie Heritage trail in FY2021 is vital to providing this much-needed trail access to Old Town Bowie and also has the capability to draw in visitors from outside of Old Town Bowie.
3. I applaud and thank the City Manager for the addition of the Bowie Trails Master Plan as a new CIP item and funding for the inventory of the current condition of the Bowie Byway in FY2021. This work will allow the City to better plan how to tackle implementation of the Byway.

I ask that consideration be given to including the following in the FY2021 budget:

1. Funding for a Multi-Modal Transportation Specialist position. This position provides many benefits to the City, with one major one being the searching and applying for transportation grants that, if awarded, saves the city money on expenses that can be used elsewhere.
2. Funding for the Bowie Railroad Museum placemaking project as the implementation of this will result in an additional recreational amenity for Old Town Bowie.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joshua Wooten

Budget Hearing, April 13, 2020

Presentation to the Bowie City Council to encourage

- 1) Implementation of the Trail Master Plan and**
- 2) Creation of a Multi-Modal Transportation Specialist position.**

Active transportation trail networks can enhance communities in several ways including, first, enable more users to connect to their destinations by walking or biking; second, improve people's health and reduce the cost of health care; three, reduce greenhouse gases and oil dependence; and fourth, encourage economic investment in our community. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has estimated that a modest public investment in completing trail and active transportation networks within and between communities will deliver a national annual economic return of \$73 to \$138 billion. Thus, a high quality trail system in Bowie can potentially contribute as much to the infrastructure of the City as a dedicated sports or recreational facility and should be given equal priority in both improvement and maintenance.

The FY2021 budget provides important support for developing and maintaining trail infrastructure in Bowie. Implementation of the Bowie Byway Trail, which is the core recommendation within the new Bowie Trail Master Plan, will be accommodated by funding to the Planning Department to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the current status of Byway connectivity. In addition, the new page in the CIP (CR-51) devoted to Trail Master Plan projects will ensure a placeholder for trail projects as they become prioritized, designed, and conducted. The continuation of Hiker-Biker Trail projects in the CIP (CR-27) will add much needed maintenance, repair, and safety modifications to City trails.

However, a new staff position will be required in order to effectively implement the Trail Master Plan and the Complete Streets Policy and to effectively integrate walking, biking, and automotive transportation modes within the City. Creation of a Multi-Modal Transportation Specialist in the Planning Department will provide expertise in design of multi-modal transportation networks within the city, assure compliance with local and regional engineering and safety requirements, advise inclusion of state-of-the-art multi-modal networks within new development sites, and research and obtain grants that expedite all transportation projects. Without a dedicated staff position with a transportation background, it will be difficult for current staff to make time to properly implement the Trail Master Plan and Complete Streets Policy. I encourage Council to add this position to the FY2021 budget.

Thank you,

John Teasdale, Resident
12757 Midwood Lane

To: City of Bowie
Subject: City Budget Hearing
Date: April 13, 2020

Now that the City of Bowie has an updated Trails Master Plan it is important that progress be made in implementing the vision. Biking and walking are important in Bowie, even more so with the current circumstances due to COVID-19. We have observed a substantial increase in people going for walks and bike rides to get some exercise and relief from being self quarantined. This simply illustrates how important it is to be able to get around safely. We strongly believe that having discovered, or rediscovering, these way of getting around and exercising that they will not want to given them up.

We are pleased to see that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget includes funding in support of the trails in Bowie Heritage Trail (CR-44), Hiker-Biker Trails (CR-27) and Bowie Trails Master Plan (CR-51). These are important components to maintaining and connecting the network. These efforts should be funded. We are looking forward to the needed improvements along Northview Drive. This is a major walking and biking corridor that needs attention.

The City could also benefit tremendously from having dedicated staff in the form of a Multi-Modal Transportation Specialist. Ideally the person in this position would advocate for, prioritize, and manage the implementation of the Trails Master Plan. There would also be overlap in support of the planing and execution of the Complete Streets plan. We believe there are a large number of grants and funding opportunities that this specialist could be pursuing that would help fund the City's efforts. Having a specialist with the correct knowledge and skills will make future improvements more cost effective and, at the same time, realize faster progress. We would like the City to thoughtfully consider this investment in the FY2021 budget.

Thank you,

Ken &Patty McCaughey
Bowie Resident
12324 Chalford Lane

April 13, 2020

To: Mayor Adams and Bowie City Council Members

Submitted by: Verna Teasdale and Isabel Pocerull
on behalf the Old Town Bowie Arts & Entertainment Steering Committee

Subject: Request for \$30,000 to Fund the Old Town Bowie Arts & Heritage Festival

Thank you to you and the City staff for continuing to keep the City running efficiently, effectively, and safely under difficult and dangerous conditions.

Our statement this evening is a follow-up to the February 18, 2020 resolution (R-19-20) which you approved in "supporting the efforts of the people organized to promote and support arts and entertainment in Old Town Bowie in their efforts to organize and operate an Arts and Heritage Event."

The Old Town Bowie Arts & Heritage Steering Committee (Steering Committee) is the organization working to establish and operate an inaugural event, a festival, as the first step toward revitalizing Old Bowie. This event supports the City's desire to attract more people to Old Bowie and become an income generator for the City as well as provide a new venue for arts and entertainment and support the history and heritage of the whole of Bowie.

We appreciate that the FY 2021 Proposed Budget provides funds to complete the Old Bowie Heritage Trail. However, the proposed budget has a serious omission by not funding improvements to the Bowie Railroad Museum. These two improvements would add to the attraction of the festival and be an asset to Old Bowie as an Arts & Heritage District.

When Dustin Kuzan presented the resolution in February, you asked when the festival would be and what the festival would cost. Originally, the event was planned for September 2020, which now is not practical. The revised schedule is for the event to be in May 2021.

Depending upon the economies of scale that the City can provide, the budget is \$30,000. Your financial help is needed to make this event a reality.

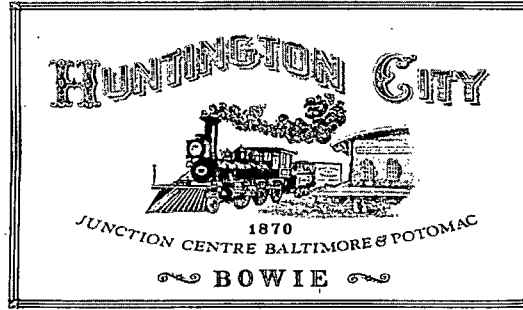
Your financial help is consistent with the February 18, 2020, resolution and FY2021 Proposed Budget for Economic Development, Objective 4 (p.74)

The Steering Committee has continued to plan the festival, but without the funding support of the City Council, the Committee is severely handicapped until it has a financial base.

With our joint effort we can empower Old Bowie to become the arts, entertainment, and heritage center of our community.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Old Town Bowie Arts & Entertainment Steering Committee
Mission: To develop events and activities that draw visitors to Old Town Bowie, a charming area of Bowie, to enjoy its heritage, arts, activities, and entertainments.



HUNTINGTON HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 183
BOWIE, MARYLAND, 20715
Huntington City – The Birthplace of Bowie

April 13, 2020

City of Bowie
Attn: Honorable City Councilmembers and Mayor Tim Adams
15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, MD 20716

The Huntington Heritage Society was founded in 1986 for the specific goal of furthering the history of the Huntington section of Bowie. As you are aware, Huntington is the birthplace of Bowie. Today, from a tiny railroad town centered around a depot, the City has grown to well over 50,000 residents. Bowie, old and new, is a place where the past meets the present. Our ENTIRE history is important.

With this in mind, we highlight the following;

The funding to finish the Heritage Trail needs to be brought to the forefront. We happily see the funding to complete the Heritage Trail in next year's proposed budget (FY 2021, Operating and Capital Improvement). The Trail commemorates the history of the early days of our city, something often overlooked in the spread of housing developments, shopping centers and major roadways. It will add to Huntington's future economic growth. As you know, the inclusion of an arts and entertainment district in Huntington has been under works. This the trail is an important step in that process, and we support the funding of this project.

Respectfully Submitted by,

/S/

Isabel Pocerull
Vice President