

# City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, May 17, 2021, virtually. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 (logged on 8:34p.m.), Esteve, Gardner, Harrison, Ndebumadu, and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

### AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Councilmember Harrison added under New Business a discussion on a proposal from Interfaith Coalition of Bowie.

Councilmember Ndebumadu requested to move under New Business Item D Resolution R-30-21 as Item A and added under Old Business as Item A the discussion and vote for the addition of funding to the FY22 Budget for Professional Services for Workforce Program.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs, Member of City's IT Committee – Comment attached.
2. Jaime Thorpe – Comment attached.
3. Tori Russell - Comment attached.
4. Richard Bleach - Comment attached.
5. Patrice Little Murray, Jerimiah Ln - Comment attached.
6. Amy Kelm, Bowie resident - Comment attached.
7. Cathy Harman - Comment attached.
8. Bill Mauer - Comment attached.
9. Roy Anderson - Comment attached.
10. Eileen Ajayi - Comment attached.
11. Juanita Battle - Comment attached.
12. Carrie Bridges-Waver - Comment attached.
13. Ebonie Mullen - Comment attached.
14. Pauline Markward, 10<sup>th</sup> Street - Comment attached.
15. Michael Gorman, Althea Ln - Comment attached.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Ms. Jessica Fucile with the City's Diversity Committee read an excerpt on Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams read Proclamation P-11-21 Celebrating Memorial Day 2021 in the City of Bowie.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to approve items: A) Approval of May 3 Regular Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Proclamation P-11-21 Celebrating Memorial Day 2021, by Honoring Those Whose Lives Were Given in Service to Their Country. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Funding for Pilot Program to provide Professional Services education to Workforce Program – Councilmember Ndebumadu stated the benefits of providing the Coursera program to the residents of the City in order to afford them the ability to gain higher employment. There could also be a chance to do a partnership with Employ Prince George's who also offer a similar program.

Councilmember Esteve asked if the request for this funding should not have been done via a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) process in order to afford the same chance to bid to different companies. Councilmember Ndebumadu stated that per City Charter Sec. 61 Council could waive the RFP process. City Attorney Levan stated that this is not the best form of procurement, RFP's could be waived for good cause shown. Councilmember Esteve suggests that this be done via the City's RFP process.

Councilmember Ndebumadu motioned to add \$50,000 to the Economic Development Professional Services budget line for the Pilot Program to provide professional services education to residents under the Workforce Program via the City's RFP process. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1 (Woolfley).

B. FY2022 Budget Ordinance O-1-21 and Capital Improvements Program Resolution R-18-21 – Council thanked city staff for the smooth process during this budget cycle.

Councilmember Harrison motioned to adopt Amended Ordinance O-1-21 to include the \$50,000 funding for the Workforce Program. Councilmember Esteve second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu motioned to adopt CIP Resolution R-18-21. Councilmember Harrison second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Recognition of former Mayor G. Frederick Robinson – This item was first introduced at the April 6, 2020 Council Meeting. At that time Councilmember Gardner requested to postpone this item for a future date after the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.

Councilmember Gardner would like to rename the road in front of City Hall to honor the many years former Mayor Robinson served the City. Assistant City Manger Mears summarized the staff report stating that the change will only affect the address of City Hall, not any of the homes across from City Hall. The portion to be changed will be from Mitchellville Road to Evergreen Parkway. It will be at

an estimated cost of \$20,000 to the City in terms of having to change all the City's information with the new street name, i.e., letterhead, business cards, flyers, etc.

Mayor Adams asked staff how long the process of implementing the change will take. City Manager Lott responded about a year.

Councilmember Gardner moved to approve the renaming of Excalibur Road beginning on Mitchellville Road to Evergreen Parkway to Fred Robinson Way. Councilmember Woolfley second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Adoption of Resolution R-30-21 Addressing Opportunity and Upskilling through Relationship with Rosetta Stone – Councilmember Ndebumadu briefed her fellow colleagues on the proposed offer from Rosetta Stone to provide 5,000 free licenses to City residents to learn a new language. It will be at a zero cost to the City.

Mr. Cody Lamens from Rosetta Stone stated that the licenses will be free to City residents for one year and then the licensee will have the option to renew at their own expense. Councilmember Harrison asked how much it will be after the first year. Mr. Lamens responded about \$149 per year.

City Manager Lott asked who will determine if the applicant for the license is a City of Bowie resident. Mr. Eric Enon from Rosetta Stone responded that they would work with City staff for the best form of obtaining the information, possibly with a link through our website redirecting them to the Rosetta Stone site.

Councilmember Ndebumadu motioned to adopt Resolution R-30-21. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion on proposal from Interfaith Coalition of Bowie for City support on their "Stop the Hate Rally" taking place 5/23 at 3:00 p.m. at Allen Pond Park – Councilmember Harrison stated that the Interfaith Coalition had reached out to her for the City's support on this event in recording the event and airing it on the government channel.

Councilmember Harrison motioned to approve the support requested from the Interfaith Coalition for their rally. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Councilmember Ndebumadu did not vote).

C. Adoption of Resolution R-7-21 Adopting the Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan Fiscal Year 2022 (HUD FY2021) - Mr. George Jones, Grants Manager, Office of Grant Development and Administration, summarized the staff memorandum. The Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2022 indicates that CDBG funds will provide for housing rehabilitation services, fair housing training, and workforce development & life skills training.

**Public Hearing:**

1. Bill Mauer – Comment attached.

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

Councilmember Harrison motioned to adopt Resolution R-7-21. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Councilmember Ndebumadu did not vote).

D. Adoption of Resolution R-28-21 Water Service Connection for Meadowbrook Elementary School at Moylan Drive – Mr. George Stephanos, Public Works Director summarized the staff report. Prince George’s County School Board submitted an application to request a new water service connection at Meadowbrook Elementary to support new construction of a 10,000 sq. ft. modular building on the school site that will be used by students and faculty that will be displaced during renovations of their home school. Staff recommends approval of the water service connection pending successful completion of all conditions set forth in design and construction.

**Public Hearing:**

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

Councilmember Woolfley motioned to adopt Resolution R-28-21. Councilmember Harrison second the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Councilmember Ndebumadu did not vote).

E. Adoption of Resolution R-29-21 Awarding a Contract for the Purchase and Installation of a New Hardscaped Entrance Sign at MD Rte. 197 & Kenhill Drive – Mr. Matt Reno, City staff, summarized the staff report and powerpoint presentation. Department of Community Services issued a Request for Proposals for the removal of the existing “living” sign at the intersection of Maryland Route 197 & Kenhill Drive and replacement with a new hardscaped sign made of steel and specialty aggregate granite with surrounding native flower plantings and grasses. The current shrubs in that location are dying from soil borne fungus. The Arts Committee has reviewed the submitted design and agrees with it.

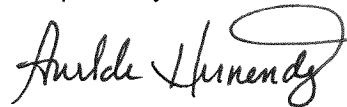
Councilmember Esteve would like to get the citizen’s input on new design and color for the sign.

Councilmember Woolfley motioned to table Resolution R-29-21 in order for staff to get feedback from the community on the design. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Pro Tem Boafu motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs <jhobbs@exclusys.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 16, 2021 6:01 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Cc:** Rosann Ndebumadu  
**Subject:** (EXTERNAL): Support for Resolution R-30-21

Hello Ms. Hernandez,

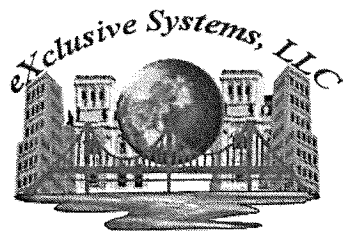
I am the Secretary for the City of Bowie's IT Committee and Councilwoman Ndebumadu is the committee's council liaison. I am writing in support of resolution, R-30-21 Addressing Opportunity and Upskilling Through Relationship with Rosetta Stone.

There are numerous benefits to learning a new language which can be recognized through a partnership with Rosetta Stone. This partnership can provide opportunities for residents seeking to expand their skills by learning another language as well as providing access to non-native English speaking residents. During COVID our interaction with others significantly changed, reducing the amount of 'voice' time shared. Because learning a new language usually required practicing out loud, many will have the opportunity to physically use their voice. Additionally there are several proven cognitive benefits to learning a new language; for example increasing one's ability to process information, developing complex thought processes and decreasing age-related illnesses are a few.

Thus I fully support adopting resolution R-30-21.

Respectfully,  
JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs  
Secretary, City of Bowie's IT Committee

JoAnn Marshall-Hobbs  
eXclusive Systems, LLC  
P.O. Box 518 | Bowie, MD 20718  
O: 800.303.2779 | C: 301.538.5677 | F: 301.218.6337  
E: [jhobbs@exclusys.com](mailto:jhobbs@exclusys.com)  
W: [exclusys.com](http://exclusys.com)



*Building bridges for global business solutions*

***Stay Fit...Stay Healthy...Stay Strong...Stay Well***

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Jaime Thorpe <jthorpe2411@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 10:17 AM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Rosetta Stone

I fully support Rosetta Stone being made available for city of Bowie residents. What an amazing opportunity!

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** TORI RUSSELL <anjette@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Rossetta Stone

Yes! I think it's a wonderful idea for the City of Bowie and the residents.

Briefly,

Tori Russell

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Richard Bleach <bleachrd@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 12:09 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Cc:** Rosann Ndebumadu  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Support for Rosetta Stone

I support adoption of a free service so that Rosetta Stone can provide 5,000 free licenses to our community.

Richard Bleach  
301-390-6622



## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Patrice Murray <littlemurray9@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 12:09 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: City of Bowie/Rosetta Stone Agreement

I am in support of the agreement between the City of Bowie and Rosetta Stone for the free one year use of a license for 5,000 City of Bowie residents. Please ensure there are no requirements for the City nor the residents to purchase agreements after the first year.

Thank you

Patrice Little Murray  
15010 Jerimiah Lane  
Bowie, MD 20721

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Amy Kelm <amyj9@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 12:24 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Cc:** Rosann Ndebumadu; mta1community@gmail.com  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: requesting Rosetta Stone initiative for Bowie

Hello! As a family of five and residents of Bowie for over a decade, I would like to express my support for the Rosetta Stone initiative. This would be a wonderful opportunity for both our family and others in Bowie to learn (and use!) a second language. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,  
Amy Kelm

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Cathy Harman <cathy.harman@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 12:57 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Support Partnership with Rosetta Stone

Dear City Clerk, please consider this letter as my endorsement of the proposal to partner with Rosetta Stone for free licenses. Thank you, Cathy Harman

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Bill Mauer <iagolem@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Cc:** Rosann Ndebumadu  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Resolution R-30-21

Good day -

I would like to inform you of my support for Resolution R-30-21. I feel that it will provide a valuable resource for our residents.

Thank you for your attention.

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- Stay well

--[ W.C. "Bill" Mauer ]=-

**No Fear!**

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** ROY ANDERSON <rander5696@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: I am for the City of Bowie Receiving the Rosetta Stone Language program

I like the idea of it being free and that you can learn up to five Languages for a year.  
Roy Anderson Sent from my iPhone

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Eileen Ajayi <eileenajayi@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 4:46 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Support for Rosetta Stone

I support providing Rosetta Stone to the city of Bowie to increase language proficiency. Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Juanita <jpannell2@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:54 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Rosetta Stone

Hello,  
My name is Juanita Battle and i am a resident of Bowie. I think this would be an excellent opportunity for the residents of Bowie.

Thank you,  
Juanita Battle

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** My Name <carrieswb@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:01 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Citizens' Participation

Good evening, Mayor Adams, City Council and City Staff!!

I am writing to address my thoughts on renaming Excalibur Road after former Mayor Fred Robinson. This is nothing personal against Mr. Robinson. I had a wonderful working relationship with him and wish him well. My concern comes in when this City Council is making a unilateral decision to spend tax payers dollars without consulting ANY of us on whether or not to spend at minimum \$20,000.00 to rename a street after someone who is still living. Historically, across these United States of America, that honor is bestowed after someone has passed away. Even the Wall of Honor, located in City Hall, requires an individual to be deceased in order to be placed on the wall. This is another example of you, meaning members of this City Council, believing we work for you opposed to you working for us. This will be in my district, District 3 and although I receive newsletters from my representative, they NEVER have anything pertaining specifically to the city, let alone my district i.e. the renaming of this street. The newsletters mostly contains information that can be found on Prince George's County's website and mostly filled with COVID information. You were not elected to the Bowie City Council to report what is happening in the County; we have a County Council representative for that. You were elected to inform me of things happening in District 3 of Bowie.

I want to express that I am not stating I am for nor against the renaming of this street. This email is to express my disdain for the lack of communication coming from my representatives as well as the mere disregard for the citizens opinions on rename of this street.

Carrie  
301-332-6028

"Love one another...always"



## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Ebonie Mullen <ebonie.mullen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:05 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Rosetta Stone licenses

Hello,

I am a Bowie resident in support of the Rosetta Stone licenses. It would be a wonderful opportunity for residents to learn various languages in our diverse community.

Sincerely,  
Ebonie T. Mullen

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** PK <paulinekmward@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:52 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Fred Robinson

Awilda,

Mayor Fred Robinson served our city well for many years and I am in full support of "Fred Robinson Way".

Be well,  
Pauline K. Markward  
205.876.9023  
12818 10th Street  
Bowie, MD 20720

Run your own race.

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Michael M Gorman <mmgorman2008@wiscorp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 6:55 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: rename Excalibur Road to Fred Robinson Road

Michael M Gorman  
Maxine E. Gorman  
2008 Althea Lane  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

May 17, 2021

Dear Ms. Hernandez

This letter is in support of the effort to rename Excalibur Road to Fred Robinson Road.

I have known Fred Robinson and his family since moving into the Amber Meadows Section of Bowie in the 1970s. His children went to schools with our children.

His devotion to the needs of the City of Bowie and its citizens knows no equal. I know of no other person that comes close to having earned this honor.

For more than 33 years, Fred spent 40 or more hours each week on this great city of ours. That's a grand total of more than 50,000 hours.

Clearly, Fred has more than earned this honor.

Consequently, both Maxine and I, and our seven children are 100% in favor of renaming **Excalibur Road to Fred Robinson Road**

Regards,

Michael M. & Maxine E. Gorman  
2008 Althea Lane  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

Voice: 1-301-249-1142 (preferred)  
Cell: 1-301-706-5885 (not preferred)  
Email: [mmgorman2008@wiscorp.com](mailto:mmgorman2008@wiscorp.com)  
Web: [www.wiscorp.com](http://www.wiscorp.com)

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Bill Mauer <iagolem@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 2:16 PM  
**To:** cityclerk  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}; Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan Fiscal Year 2022

Good day -

I wish to state my opposition to any measure that proposes to build or convert to "Affordable Housing" or "Low Income Housing" in Bowie.

Thank you in advance

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- Stay well

--[ W.C. "Bill" Mauer ]--

**No Fear!**