



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, May 4, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Truth, Councilmembers Brady, Gardner (Arrived 8:11 p.m.), Marcos, Polangin and Woolfley; City Manager Deutsch, Assistant City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, Staff, the Press, and the Public.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. City Arts & Education Scholarships Presentation – The following students received scholarships from the Bowie Arts & Education Committees: Madelyn Dominiski, Elizabeth Seton High School; Daniel Thompson, Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Kenneth Jesse Lopez, Bowie High School. Council congratulated the winners and wished them well in their studies.

B. Councilmember Marcos presented a proclamation to Ms. Bonnie Moore thanking her for her years of service on the Bowie Financial Advisory Committee.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Robinson reported that the repairs at the Veterans Memorial have been completed in time for Veterans Day ceremony.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Deutsch reported that Attorney General Lynch announced a \$20 million grant program for body cameras for police officers, the city's grants department staff are looking into applying for it and will update Council on progress.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Marcos moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of Resolution R-33-15 Approving an Increase in the Contract Amount to Repair the Flocculator Shafting and Associated Bearings and Supports to Compartment #1 of Flocculator #4 at the Water Treatment

MAYOR G. Frederick Robinson **MAYOR PRO TEM** Isaac C. Truth

COUNCIL Dennis Brady ♦ Henri Gardner ♦ James L. Marcos ♦ Diane M. Polangin ♦ Todd M. Turner **CITY MANAGER** David J. Deutsch
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May 4, 2015

Plant; B) Approval of Resolution R-34-15 Accepting Bid for On-Site (Mobile) Preventive Maintenance Inspection (PMI) and Reporting Services to the Fleet of Light, Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles and Off-Road Equipment; C) Approval of Resolution R-35-15 Authorizing the City Manager to Renew the Current Agreement with Mansfield Oil Company for the Purchase of Diesel Fuel in Truck Transport and Tank Wagon Quantities; D) Approval of Resolution R-36-15 Adopting a Revised Tax Increment Financing Policy. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Approval of Ordinance O-8-15 Amending Chapter 3, "Amusements, Carnivals, Fairs or Similar Uses," Section 3-10, "Duration of Permit", the Bowie City Code, to adjust the Existing Restriction on the Number of Permits that May be Issued Annually to a Single User and Generally Relating to Amusements, Carnivals, or Fairs.

City Attorney Levan, summarized the staff report and recommends approval of Ordinance O-8-15.

Public Hearing:

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

Councilmember Polangin made a motion to approve Ordinance O-8-15 Amending City Code, Chapter 3, "Amusements, Carnivals, Fairs or Similar Uses", Section 3-10, "Duration of Permit". Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY 2016 Budget, CIP and Constant Yield Tax Rate - City Manager Deutsch reported that municipalities are required by State law to place an advertisement in a local newspaper and to hold a public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate. The City has complied with those requirements and is considering not decreasing the current tax rate of \$.40 per \$100 of assessment.

Public Hearing:

1. Dustin Kuzan, representing Bowie Financial Advisory Committee – comments attached.
2. Gary Allen, representing Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee – comments attached.

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

Mayor Robinson thanked the citizens that spoke this evening.

C. Bond Refinancing – Mr. Sam Ketterman of Davenport & Company spoke in regards to opportunities for the City to refinance the 2009 General Obligation Bonds via a competitively-bid Direct Bank Loan. The City will be under no obligation to move forward with any proposals received should the results not meet the expectations.

Councilmember Polangin asked if city refinances the bond will it decrease the term. Mr. Ketterman replied that it will not shorten the term.

May 4, 2015

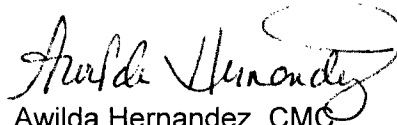
Councilmember Brady asked if there are any risks going this route. Mr. Ketterman replied that the City can walk away and not owe anything to banks if terms and conditions are not to the City's satisfaction.

Councilmember Brady made a motion to direct staff to move forward with the process for refinancing of the bond and report back to Council. Councilmember Polangin seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Truth moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Awilda Hernandez".

Awilda Hernandez, CMC
City Clerk

The Financial Advisory Committee
The Proposed FY 2016 Annual Budget

To: The Bowie City Council
From: The Financial Advisory Committee
Date: May 4, 2015
Re: The Proposed FY 2016 Annual Budget

The Committee has reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2016. We have concluded that the budget is consistent with previous budget proposals which are based on a pay-as-you-go philosophy. We note that the new budget maintains the tax rate from the previous year and we commend the Council for keeping the tax rate the same.

Planned development, when handled properly, is an indication that a community is fiscally healthy and positioned for growth. It is encouraging that the proposed budget is focused on maintaining current levels of services to the community, and that the City is actively pursuing the addition of new recreational facilities and expanding the police department. Council and the City staff are to be commended for their efforts to provide for these needs while looking for ways of economizing.

Indoor Sports Facility

In FY16 the expansion of City recreational facilities is slated to begin with architectural plans and site design. In the next few years this expenditure will cost the City in excess of \$20 million dollars. Given the significance of the facility to the budget and recreational life of City residents, we suggest that the public be informed and actively engaged as major phases of this development are initiated. While we are not advocating for a completely self-sustaining facility, we do believe a driving principle behind the planning and design of the facility should be to maximize its own revenues and minimize taxpayer contributions.

The location and accessibility of the facility is critical, thus acquiring the right partial of land should be a well-thought out decision. Optimizing the capacity of the facility to meet the maximum potential demand is important in order to maximize revenues. In an effort to maximize potential demand and revenues to defer costs, the facility should be easy to access, noticeable, and in close proximity to other recreational venues. The facility should offer a variety of activities that suit all members of a family, and it should be designed with a competitive market in mind, with a goal to attract an optimal number of participants from outside the City. If done competitively and appropriately, options for public-private financing and operations may be available, and should be investigated. If delays in the process are required to undergo such

planning, thus leading to increased maintenance costs of existing facilities in conjunction with new construction, we recommend weighing alternatives to maintain existing (or limited) services while concurrently absorbing new construction costs.

The Committee would appreciate it if the City conducted and shared a careful evaluation of a cost-benefit and/or a multi-year risk analysis associated with various options for moving forward. We look forward to an informed and calculated decision to be made by June's decision deadline to ensure the City is approaching the facility in the most economic way possible. An evaluation across different design options should include the following variables:

- Construction costs with an option for a public-private partnership;
- Operations costs with an option for operations by a private partner;
- Maintenance costs with an option to dilute maintenance costs of existing facilities through temporary and/or partial closures of existing facilities;
- Fee structures with an option for competitive, market-based fees as well as more traditional fees;
- Future revenues (recovery rates) lost and/or gained based on projected demand and facility capacity.

Policing

It is proposed that the Bowie Police Department receive an almost \$2 million increase over the prior fiscal year. This budget increase will finance staff enhancements, additional canine capabilities, department accreditation, new employees at the call center and the addition of new technologies to enhance the legitimacy in the use of police authority. We commend the Council on making Bowie a safe community to live and work and we support these investments.

Environment

Bowie is committed to good environmental stewardship and several budget initiatives address ways that we can save energy, eliminate waste, and increase the use of green technologies. In light of on-going conversations regarding refuse collection, the Committee recommends a financial assessment of collection alternatives and citizen preferences for these alternatives including (but not limited to) potential change in services from 2 days of refuse collection/1 day recycling to 1 day refuse/2 day recycling. Regarding clean energy, the Committee requests that the City add to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) an evaluation of energy cost savings from our investments in renewable energy technologies. In terms of storm water management, the committee commends the City Manager and his staff for their thoughtful plan that eliminates the need for increased costs to residents to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. The Committee strongly supports the 6-year phased approach for implementation.

Cable Franchise Fees

The county negotiation with cable service providers is both lucrative and complicated. The Committee is concerned that the City gets the best value for money in franchising with current cable operators. We recommend that the City ensures that our City franchise fees are competitive with other cities of comparable size, and we request additional information for future Committee enlightenment.

Budget Review Process

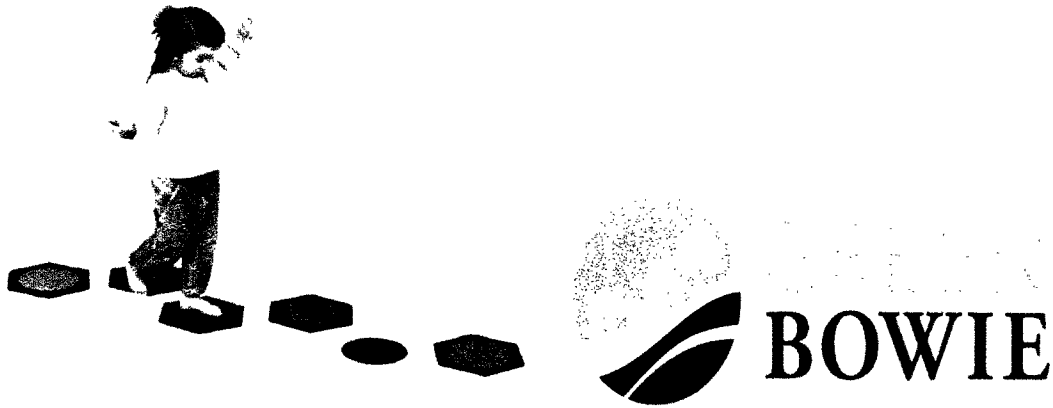
In order to provide the City with reasonable and informed comments on the City budget, we recommend in future years that the Financial Advisory Committee's presentation to the Council not occur until after the Budget Work Sessions are completed. These sessions provide invaluable detail on proposed spending and contextual information on spending decisions not otherwise included in the budget document. We also believe that because this Committee has greater responsibility for monitoring the budget process it would not be unreasonable for the FAC to allow a different schedule for our comment than the other Committees. If Council continues to prefer our input earlier rather than later in the review process, the Committee recommends that we provide our reports on the earlier dates recommended by Council but then comment during the subsequent Council meetings on any working sessions that took place after such report was drafted and submitted. These recommendations are to ensure that Council receives our full input on the entire range of issues.

In summary, the Committee believes the Council is supporting a conservative fiscal year 2016 budget which minimizes non-essential expenditures while maintaining all of our core City services and we commend the Council, City Manager and City Staff on their continual hard work balancing the budget each year.

Sincerely,



Patricia R. Peterson
Chairman
City of Bowie Financial Advisory Committee



2015 Next steps toward a Green Bowie

BUDGET ITEMS and City work plan items

1. **Authorize** a program of grants for the Bowie cluster of public schools to encourage participation in the Maryland Green Schools program (EAC recommends a minimum of \$1000. Per school per year over next five years)
2. **Approve** a three year residential solar energy property tax credit as an incentive for the City's Climate action plan
3. **Authorize** a cost-benefit study for transition city street lights to LED lighting over coming five years
4. **Accelerate** and renegotiate the City's Recycling contract to include **all** common plastic packaging materials and plastic bags. Implement a broader public outreach program defining clearly what is recyclable
5. **Complete** a study and pilot program for composting residential food waste while encouraging composting of food scraps by residents
6. **Place** assessment of the benefits and community value of a Nature Center in Budget for 2016

Follow up reminder on our earlier recommendations

- Continue to plan for a Natural exploration area
- Explore placement of year round drop off locations for electronics and hazardous household waste