



# City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, October 2, 2017 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, Councilmembers Esteve, Gardner, Glass, Marcos, and Polangin; City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, Staff, the Press, and the Public.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Mike Mullan, Madeley Lane – Spoke in regards to the installation of lights on the fields at Bowie High School. (Copy of comments attached)

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Marcos moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of September 18 Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of Proclamation P-20-17 Proclaiming October 5, 2017, As Energy Efficiency Day in the City of Bowie; C) Approval of Resolution R-57-17 Approving Variance Application BV-7-17, a Request by Robert Naugle to Allow the Construction of Approximately 283 Linear Feet of Six Foot High Wooden Fencing Along Old Chapel Road When, According to the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance, Such Fencing Shall Not Be More Than Four Feet High, at 4000 Welsley Lane; D) Approval of Resolution R-58-17 Accepting a Bid Proposal for Design Services for Renovations to Senior Center HVAC System; E) Approval of Resolution R-60-17 Authorizing a Donation to Americares for Hurricane Relief. Mayor Pro Tem Gardner seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

### NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ethics Commission Educational Presentation – Members of the Ethics Commission briefed Council on the Commissions activities in the past year. A copy of their presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office. The Ethics Commission is in charge of reviewing Financial Disclosure Statements, Lobbying Disclosure Statements and Reports, as well as any ethics complaints filed and make annual educational presentations. As of October 2017, the commission received and reviewed 56 Financial Disclosure Statements, and 4 Lobbying Registration Forms and Activity Reports and

**MAYOR** G. Frederick Robinson    **MAYOR PRO TEM** Henri Gardner

**COUNCIL** Michael P. Estève ♦ Courtney D. Glass ♦ James L. Marcos ♦ Diane M. Polangin ♦ Isaac C. Trough    **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott  
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October 2, 2017

performed one educational workshop. The members also reiterated the importance of having lobbyist register with the City before they lobby to Council.

Councilmember Esteve asked what Council should do to make sure the lobbyist are registered. Mr. Woolery suggested posting a bold sign at the podium reminding them to register first.

Councilmember Glass asked if the list of registered lobbyists are posted online. Mr. Woolery replied that at the moment they are not, but are public records.

Mayor Robinson thanked the commission for their presentation.

B. Police Department Update - Police Chief Nesky and Deputy Chief Preston briefed Council on department statistics, programs and the status of in-house call center. Staffing is currently at 65 officers. The call center is operational and moving forward on the transition into dispatch by the end of the year; the center has received over 22,000 calls. The department has participated in several successful community events such as the hurricane donations, Cop-For-A-Day and the Citizen's Academy. In crime trends, the thefts from autos stats have declined compared to last year, but do have some spikes at periods.

Councilmember Glass asked if with the recent events that have happened, does the department have any programs on active shooters scheduled anytime soon.

Chief Nesky will work with Mr. Cornwell to prepare more outreach to residents and City employees.

Councilmember Marcos asked how many patrol cars are out on the street on any given night say between 9:00pm and 3:00 am.

Chief Nesky stated that there is always a minimum of five units out.

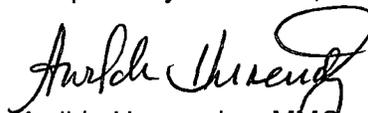
Councilmember Polangin asked about RAD classes for seniors. Chief Nesky replied that they do provide them and are working on the schedule for spring classes.

Mayor Robinson thanked Chief Nesky and Deputy Chief Preston for the presentation and service provided.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion and it carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

Hi everyone, my name is Mike Mullan, I've come here today to speak about the lights that will be installed on the Bowie High football field later this month. I emailed Mayor Robinson and I think a few others earlier about this issue, but for those I haven't spoken with, let me give you a little background about what's going on.

I live on Madeley Lane directly behind Bowie High, so when I read about the upcoming installation of lights in the Bowie Blade, I was very concerned. The addition of lighting will have a substantial effect on my home as well as many others in the community. When money was made available for lighting earlier this year, it is my understanding that Senator Peters and Mayor Robinson requested that a meeting be held with impacted community members to gauge their support or opposition before a decision was made to go ahead with the installation.

Ms. Ahmed, our school board representative, who was put in charge of organizing this meeting. Unfortunately, she only announced the meeting only through the Bowie High PTSO and whoever happened to be signed up for her mailing list. No effort was made to inform the nearby community.

Of course, as it turned out, the purpose of the meeting was not to discuss the matter and build consensus; instead the school district showed up and informed everyone that the lights would be going up. Lack of opposition at the meeting – that again, we weren't invited to - was then used to justify their installation. I don't know my neighbors well so I don't know how they feel about all this, but I do know that they have never had an opportunity to express their opinion.

My wife and I could, actually, get behind some Friday and Saturday night football game, and even occasional evening practices, if appropriate steps were taken to minimize the impact to the community. However, given that the way this decision was made shows a complete lack of regard for the affected community, I have no confidence that any steps will be taken.

By far, our biggest concern is that the field will be in constant use. After talking with people from PG County schools, as well as people from other districts, it appears that school districts try to make money off of these fields by leasing them to external organizations

for things like tournaments, extra practice time, etc. This appears to be the intention with this new field. This offers no benefits to Bowie High students, and it just a way for the district to make money at the expense of community members. Even if lights are fairly directional with minimal spillage, sporting events are loud - we can hear them clearly from inside our house. This isn't a problem in the middle of the day, but on weeknights, after our 2 year old is supposed to be sleeping, this will be a real problem. If the local community doesn't object to the lights now, they surely will once they discover that the field is in use nonstop.

All this being said, I'd like to make a few requests. Most importantly, please consider instituting a tight curfew for when lights need to be turned off. This could be strictly limited to fields in very close proximity to housing, like the one at Bowie High. My understanding, which may not be correct, is that the city has a 10pm curfew 7 days a week. This in fine Friday and Saturday nights, but is much too late on weeknights, when young children need to be in bed early. I would propose a 8pm turn off time Sunday - Thursday. This would go a long way toward offsetting the impact to the community. It would also be great if the city or county could think about erecting other sound or light barriers nearby. The trees along the creek on Madeley Lane appear to be dying, and some healthy plant life may go a long way towards offsetting some of the additional noise.

Of course, these are just my thoughts, and it's unfortunate that other community members did not have the opportunity to discuss their concerns. Given that we weren't invited to the meeting that was, ostensibly, supposed to be for us, it would be nice if there was another forum for everyone to express their opinions.

Thanks for your time and consideration.