



# City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 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 Truth; City Manager Lott, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, City staff, the Press, and the Public.

### AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Councilmember Glass asked to be able to make her comments before Citizen Participation. Councilmember Glass expressed her deepest regret for her actions that took place on May 18, 2017 which resulted in her DUI arrest and causing harm to Mr. Streeter. Councilmember Glass also apologized for letting down the citizens of Bowie, her Council colleagues and family.

Mayor Robinson and Councilmember Marcos thanked Councilmember Glass for her comments and offered support for the actions she has taken toward this situation.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. M.L. Smith, Tilbury Lane – Spoke in regards to the lack of professionalism that she experienced on December 19 while trying to vote in the Recall Election.
2. James Malloney, Pleasantview Drive – Spoke about his concerns with how City Council is handling actions in the City especially with Councilmember Glass not resigning from her position.
3. Richard Cohen, Sudberry Lane – Would like for Councilmember Glass to resign from her position.
4. Fiona Moodie, Ithan Lane – Requested for Councilmember Glass to resign from her position.
5. Krystal Medley-Greene – Spoke in support of Councilmember Glass and believes she has learned from this mistake.
6. Ashley Sharp – Read a comment from Bowie Resident Christy Lipscomb (Copy attached)
7. Ingrid Harrison, Emerald Way – Spoke in support of Councilmember Glass.

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

**COUNCIL** Michael P. Estève ♦ Courtney D. Glass ♦ James L. Marcos ♦ Isaac C. Truth ♦ Dufour Woolfley    **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott  
City Hall (301) 262-6200    FAX (301) 809-2302    TDD (301) 262-5013    WEB [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org)

Mayor Robinson stated that Council has also received via email comments from Brian Suddeth, Deborah Rice and Teri Carlson requesting that the Melford item on tonight's agenda be postponed. (Copies of the emails attached).

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. City Counsel Elissa Levan - Ms. Levan spoke with concerns on how a member of the public stood at the podium during the January 2, 2018 Council meeting and made statements about her that were false and defamatory with regards to events that took place during the Recall Election on December 19. Also on how a Councilmember during that same meeting, implied that he had questioned Ms. Levan for hours and that she had evaded a response by hiding behind client attorney privileges.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported that department heads are working on preparing the FY 2019 budget for Council presentation and Public Works and Park & Grounds staff is preparing for whatever snow event we might have in the morning.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of November 20 Meeting Minutes; B) Introduction of Ordinance O-1-18 Amending the Adopted Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017 and Ending June 30, 2018, As Embodied in Ordinance O-2-17, As Amended to Reflect the Receipt of Additional Grant Funding and to Appropriate Funds for the Following Projects and Purchases: Repairs to Truck #13; Replacement of Submersible Pump and Installation of a Water Well at Church Road Park; Replacement of Well 4R at Bradford Lane; Improvements to Whitemarsh Park; Interpretive Panels for Belair Stable Museum; Improvements to the Dog Park; Senior Citizen "Green" Housing Rehab Program; Due Diligence Evaluation of the Bowie Ice Arena; American Disabilities Act (ADA) Ramp at the Bowie Playhouse; Replacement of Wier Covers and Perform Additional Repairs and Maintenance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant; Brochures for the Old Bowie Walking Tour; Special Recall Election for District 2 and a Stormwater Management Plan for Public Works Main Facility; C) Approval of Letter to Maryland Department of the Environment re: Watershed Implementation Plan II Milestones for 2018-19 and Updates on Previous Milestones. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Auditors Presentation – Finance Director Byron Matthews introduced Mr. Greg Bussink and Ms. Aires Coleman with the audit firm CliftonLarsonAllen LLP which performed the City's audit for Fiscal Year 2017. In the opinion of the audit firm, the City's financial statements are unmodified "clean" opinion, and no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were noted. The City's Financial Overview shows that governmental activity increased to \$3.009 million and business type activities remained the same as prior year. Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Bussink for their report and City staff for its work.

B. The Aspen Apartments at Melford Village Detailed Site Plan – Mr. Carl Schuttler, Chair of the Bowie Advisory Planning Board reported the Board held a Public Hearing on January 9<sup>th</sup> and they recommend approval of the Detailed Site Plan with the conditions contained in the staff report.

Mr. Frank Stevens of the City Planning Department summarized the staff report. The applicant proposes to construct a 388-unit/5-story/468,126 gross sq. ft. apartment building with a 5-level/583-

vehicle/191,077 sq. ft. parking structure on 6.62 acres of a 25-acre site. The property is located in the Melford Town Center (formerly known as "Melford Village"), on the west side of Curie Drive, approximately 850 ft. north of Melford Boulevard. The site is zoned M-X-T (Mixed Used – Transportation Oriented). The M-X-T Zone allows and encourages a mix of residential, retail, office and employment uses on a site located at or near a major interchange or intersection, as the Melford Development is. The proposed multifamily residential use is permitted by right in the M-X-T zone by the Prince George's County Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Robert Antonetti with the law firm Shipley and Horne, P.A. representing the applicant St. John Properties, Inc. is in agreement with the conditions recommended by staff for approval.

**Public Hearing:**

1. M.L. Smith, Tilbury Lane – asked Council to consider holding off on voting for this project until a representative of Council for that District is elected.
2. Dufour Woolfley, Largo Place – asked that the vote on this subject be postponed until after the vacancy in the City Council be filled.
3. Larry Swank, Scarlet Lane – has concerns that the Planning Department is not following traffic conditions stated in City Code, Chapter 26, Article III for this development and their recommendation for approval.
4. Charlie Sabin, partner with Thrive Senior Living – supports this development.
5. Cyndi Manuel, Botany Lane – oppose to development, it will bring excessive congestion to our schools and roads, most notably Belair Drive.
6. Ian Bemis, Kingsfield Lane – has concerns with the increased traffic and the possibility of reduction in property values.

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

Mayor Robinson asked Mr. Antonetti if the applicant accepts all the terms and conditions stated by staff. Mr. Antonetti replied yes.

Councilmember Glass questioned how the applicant is planning to meet the covenants in regards to MBE/WBE recommendations. Mr. Andrew Roud responded that they are looking at about a year or so before construction even starts, at that time they plan to have a meeting between the architects, the general contractor and MBE/WBE contractors to walk them through the plans and specs, how to bid correctly, what to look for in the process.

Councilmember Glass recommends that these covenants be included in the record when presented to the County for approval.

Councilmember Esteve asked staff to reiterate some of the improvements that have been discussed on Belair Drive with regards to traffic calming.

Planning Director Joe Meinert stated that he knows the applicant has been working with the Public Works department.

Mr. Antonetti stated that what is being proposed is two raised crosswalks, two speed bumps and two stop signs at Kenhill and Beaverdale.

Councilmember Esteve asked when these changes would be implemented. Mr. Antonetti replied by the beginning of the project.

January 16, 2018

Councilmember Gardner has concerns with the traffic count being substantial, especially on the residents that live on Belair Drive.

Councilmember Truth asked staff about traffic calming measures and if chokers have been considered as an option.

City Manager Lott responded that they were considered but they can be so restrictive of the traffic that it can be an impediment to the neighbors that live on Belair Drive. Mr. Lott has worked closely with Public Works Director Stephanos and he believes that the raised crossings, stop signs and other measures will in fact slow down the traffic and will not be an impediment to the residents like the chokers will be.

Councilmember Truth would also like staff to reach out to WMATA and get some sort of commitment from them that when this area reaches the threshold required for bus service by WMATA, that it will be implemented right away.

Councilmember Truth requested that the additional parking spaces the applicant is considering adding, to make them handicap spaces.

Mr. Antonetti replied that the applicant is in agreement with the handicap space.

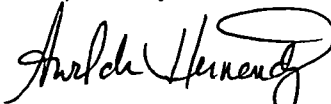
Councilmember Esteve made a motion to hold the vote on this item until after March 12 when the vacant District 2 council seat would be filled. No second on the motion, motion died.

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner made a motion to approve the Detailed Site Plan with staff conditions and recommendations from Councilmember Glass on MBE/WBE and Councilmember Truth on additional handicap spaces and WMATA threshold information. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-1 (Esteve).

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner moved Statutory Authority to Close Session, General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Councilmember Truth seconded the motion and it carried 6-0

Respectfully submitted,



Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk

## **Awilda Hernandez**

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**From:** Teri Carlson <tcarlson@l-e.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 12:57 PM  
**To:** Isaac Trough; Courtney Glass; Michael Esteve; James Marcos; Henri Gardner; Mayor  
**Cc:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** Melford property Market Place

Mr. Mayor and City Council,

I am requesting that any vote the City Council may have up for consideration regarding the Melford property, Market Place, or any other actions affecting citizens in District 2 be postponed until we have a full council. The District 2 seat has been vacated by petition and overwhelming public vote with a new election scheduled for March 12, leaving the voters within the affected district without representation in this and similar votes until the seat is filled again. Such a vote of "no confidence" by our citizens needs to be honored.

I also understand that there are some issues and anomalies regarding Courtney Glass and her recent court activities which are unresolved or under review and are receiving considerable negative public attention. These issues could affect her appropriateness for remaining on the Council and bring her eligibility to vote into question in the voter's minds as these issues are currently reflecting very poorly on the City of Bowie and its appearance of fairness and appropriate representation.

Considering the importance of these issues and the need for the Bowie City Council to maintain the trust of the voters in this City as well as the credibility and reputation of the City Government, I request that the City Council postpone all votes on any development projects until every Bowie resident can be properly represented.

I request that this message be read as my citizen input for each upcoming City Council meeting until after the March 12th election.

Teri Carlson  
12208 Mackell Lane  
Bowie, MD 20715

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## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Deborah Rice <tricitie realestatellc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 1:52 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** Fwd: Melford - Aspen Apartments

See attached email to be read as citizen input at the council meeting so it is put on record.

Please confirm receipt.

Thanks bunches,

Deborah and John Rice  
3127 Belair Drive

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** "Deborah Rice" <tricitie realestatellc@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Jan 10, 2018 8:53 AM  
**Subject:** Melford - Aspen Apartments  
**To:** <itrouth@cityofbowie.org>, <Cglass@cityofbowie.org>, "Michael Esteve" <Mesteve@cityofbowie.org>, <Jmarcos@cityofbowie.org>, <Hgardner@cityofbowie.org>, <mayor@cityofbowie.org>  
**Cc:**

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We would respectfully request that the city council delay voting on Melford until District 2 has representation. It is unfair for us not to be represented on such an important project in District 2 that deeply affects residents on a daily basis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Deborah & John Rice  
District 2 - Bowie, MD

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Deborah Rice  
Broker/Owner  
Tri-Cities Real Estate, LLC  
240-381-1184 (c)  
<http://tricitie realestate.org>  
<http://twitter.com/BuySellHomes4U>  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tri-Cities-Real-Estate-LLC/232164903479412>

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** brian@suddeth.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 1:26 PM  
**To:** Isaac Trough; Courtney Glass; Michael Esteve; James Marcos; Henri Gardner; Mayor  
**Cc:** Awilda Hernandez; Alfred Lott; John H. King  
**Subject:** Citizen Testimony: Request Postponement of All Votes Affecting District 2 Until We Have Representation

**Importance:** High

Mr. Mayor and City Council,

I am requesting that any vote the City Council may have up for consideration regarding the Medford property, Market Place, or any other actions affecting citizens in District 2 be postponed until we have a full council. The District 2 seat has been vacated by petition and overwhelming public vote with a new election scheduled for March 12, leaving the voters within the affected district without representation in this and similar votes until the seat is filled again. Such a vote of "no confidence" by our citizens needs to be honored.

I also understand that there are some issues and anomalies regarding Courtney Glass and her recent court activities which are unresolved or under review and are receiving considerable negative public attention. These issues could affect her appropriateness for remaining on the Council and bring her eligibility to vote into question in the voter's minds as these issues are currently reflecting very poorly on the City of Bowie and its appearance of fairness and appropriate representation.

Considering the importance of these issues and the need for the Bowie City Council to maintain the trust of the voters in this City as well as the credibility and reputation of the City Government, I request that the City Council postpone all votes on any development projects until every Bowie resident can be properly represented.

I request that this message be read as my citizen input for each upcoming City Council meeting until after the March 12th election and our new District 2 representative is sworn in and available to represent us.

S. Brian Suddeth  
12604 Brunswick Lane  
Bowie, MD 20715  
301-262-9426

**Request: Please read if I am not in attendance this evening due to foot injury.  
Thank you in advance for your assistance.**

**Statement on behalf of Courtney D. Glass, Esq., Bowie City District 3  
Councilmember  
for January 16, 2018 City Council Meeting  
Submitted by Christy A. Lipscomb, Bowie Resident**

Good evening, The Honorable Mayor Robinson, The Honorable Bowie City Council Members and fellow Bowie Residents. It is my honor and privilege to speak this evening about my friend and colleague Courtney D. Glass, Esq., if I could only use one word to describe Courtney's character it would be "selfless."

I met Courtney 7 years ago through work and we befriended each other within a year like kindred spirits that knew each other for decades. As a matter of fact. I now consider her to be a best friend, confidant and younger sister. Factually, she is much younger in age than me however, this steel butterfly is no stranger to adversity and has used those profound and life altering experiences in her life to further enlighten others and propel her dreams into reality.

My kids and I have personally and on many occasions been the recipients of Courtney's outpouring of advice, knowledge, resourcefulness, unconditional friendship, encouragement, love, concern and support. She has truly been there for me and my kids through our many trials and tribulations.

Courtney operates from the heart and with integrity. She is hard working, a perfectionist, self respecting and the consummate professional. In addition, she is highly intelligent, has a strong dedicated work ethic, is always well prepared, well read and versed. She works in earnest and tirelessly at anything set before her and **has a knack for exercising objectivity and fairness even during times of harsh judgement, pressure and distress.** A characteristic that is refreshing and not easily obtainable.

From every situation that I have witnessed or experienced with Courtney, she relies heavily on her faith for strength, repents and is spiritually grounded, loyal and protective of her friends and love ones.

I firmly believe she is being overly scrutinized, ridiculed, bullied via malicious social media comments and maligned as a result of self-serving political antics and manipulative tactics. As in the past, she will continue to work hard and move the city of Bowie forward through unity and transparency.



## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** JIM AND LINDA BAILEY <JIMANDLINDA\_BAILEY@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 8:31 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez; Mayor; Henri Gardner; James Marcos; Michael Esteve; Isaac Trough; Courtney Glass  
**Subject:** Comments for City of Bowie Council Meeting, January 16th,2018

I am unable to attend the City of Bowie Council Meeting for tonight. I wish my comments to be entered into the record of the meeting:

If any member of the City Council or the Mayor of the City of Bowie were to drink to excess and not have the good judgement to find another way home than getting behind the wheel of any vehicle and driving, and then proceeded to drive on the wrong side of a major street, and then hit another driver, and not stop to see if the driver were injured, and then proceeded home, they would be proving to the citizens that they represent their complete lack of judgement, and their desire for self preservation over the needs of the citizens of Bowie. This lack of judgement would have nothing to do with whom their parents were, or their gender, or their profession. This would apply to any one of you. And any one of you that does not agree that a person who does the above should remove themselves from the city council has the same lack of judgement. This is NOT a simple mistake.

Linda Bailey  
Citizen of Bowie, MD

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10