



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, May 7, 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 (arrived 8:08p.m.), Gardner, Glass, Marcos, Trough and Woolfley; City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, City staff, the Press, and the Public.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Scott Vining, Trinity Drive – Wanted to know why large expensive developments that will be done in the City are not placed on the ballot for referendum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of February 20 Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of March 5 Meeting Minutes; C) Approval of Proclamation P-7-18 Proclaiming May 19, 2018 as Kids to Parks Day in Bowie; D) Approval of Resolution R-30-18 Accepting a Proposal for Professional Services Bidding and Construction Phase Services for Overbrook Water Main Replacement; E) Introduction of Ordinance O-4-18 Authorizing the Purchase of a Parcel of Land Owned by the Maryland State Highway Administration, Shown on Plat #60886 Entitled "MD 197 Replacement of Bridge No. 16020 Over Amtrak" Dated July 6, 2017, Being Former Sidney Horowitz Property Shown on Prince George's County Tax Map 29, Grid B-3 in the Subdivision Known as "Plan of the City of Huntington "Bowie", Maryland", Comprising 0.51± Acres, at a Price of \$99,000.00, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Purchase Thereof. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY 2019 Budget, CIP and Constant Yield Tax Rate - City Manager Lott 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 increasing the current tax rate to \$.43 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 11.9% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$3,239,390 in additional property tax revenues.

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

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

Public Hearing:

1. Gary Allen, Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee Chair – Requesting Council to budget money for the updating of the Trails Master Plan, which is 16 years old. (Comments attached)
2. Dustin Kuzan, Bowie Green Team Committee Member – Spoke in support of the Trails Master Plan update.
3. Patty McCaughey, Chalford Lane – In support of the Trails Master Plan update.
4. Ken McCaughey, Chalford Lane - In support of the Trails Master Plan update.
5. Janice Knausenberger, Memphis Lane - In support of the Trails Master Plan update.
6. John Teasdale, Midwood Lane - In support of the Trails Master Plan update.
7. Will Sulima, Moylan Drive - In support of the Trails Master Plan update.
8. Rodney Yancey - representing Bowie Financial Advisory Committee – comments attached.
9. Citizen comments were received via email from Katharine Leavitt and Deborah Rice (copies attached).

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

Councilmember Esteve asked if staff could prepare some numbers to discuss at the next budget worksession concerning the trails plan. City Manager Lott will have that prepared.

After discussion of the different tax rates, \$.3844 constant yield tax rate, \$.40 current City tax rate and \$.43 the proposed City tax rate; City Manager Lott recommends postponing the tax rate decision to the next Council Meeting on May 21 since there are various items that may affect how the budget balances that still need to be addressed at the next budget worksession.

Councilmember Marcos made a motion to keep the current tax rate at \$.40 per \$100 of assessment, which exceeds the Constant Yield Tax Rate, Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1 (Trough).

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consolidated Plan FY 19-23 (HUD FY 18-22) and Annual Action Plan FY 19 (HUD FY 18) – Resolution R-26-18 – Mr. Jesse Buggs, City's Director of Grant Development and Administration summarized the plan. HUD requires that an Entitlement Community must, at a minimum do the following: 1) Develop a Citizen Participation Plan; 2) Conduct a Community Needs Assessment; 3) Assess current demographic conditions; 4) Analyze changes in demographic conditions; 5) Develop municipal priorities. Staff has completed these tasks and the completion of the Five Year Strategic Plan/Consolidated Plan FY19-23 (HUD FY18-22) and recommends that Council adopt Resolution R-26-18 and authorizes the plan be sent to HUD.

Public Hearing:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution R-26-18. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Robinson asked Counsel to clarify if Council approves the tax rate at \$.40 this evening that it cannot be changed at another meeting. City Attorney Levan responded that that is correct. Councilmember Marcos made a motion to reconsider the previous vote to maintain the current tax rate of \$.40. No second, motion died. City Manager Lott expressed that if the tax rate stays at \$.40 it could affect services for the next two years. Councilmember Truth stated that his perception is that when Council voted for the 2-sheet ice rink, they voted for a tax increase. Councilmember Esteve commented that the cost of the 2-sheet ice rink is a large upfront cost but it is anticipated that the operating loss could be down to zero, which is \$200,000 to \$300,000 lower than what it is now.

Councilmember Esteve made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-5 (Robinson, Marcos, Truth, Glass, Gardner).

Mayor Robinson again asked Counsel, if Council reconsiders the previous vote and takes no further action tonight and roll it over to the next meeting; can it be done? City Attorney Levan responded that if no action is taken tonight but it is stated at this meeting, which was advertised as required by law, the new date, time and location of the meeting where that rate will be adopted it can be done.

Councilmember Woolfley commented for clarification that Council already voted to leave it at \$.40 and a motion was presented to reconsider that vote and it failed due to lack of a second. City Attorney Levan responded yes.


Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-5 (Robinson, Marcos, Truth, Glass, Gardner).

Councilmember Marcos made another motion to reconsider the original vote of keeping the tax rate at \$.40. Mayor Pro Tem Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2 (Esteve, Woolfley). Councilmember Marcos made a motion to set the Constant Yield and tax rate at the next Council meeting on May 21. Councilmember Truth seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2 (Esteve, Woolfley).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner moved to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion and it carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Budget Hearing May 7 2018 EAC Chair Gary G Allen

I spoke in Feb. about the next steps toward a green Bowie
I'll not repeat the detail

I would like to highlight several key points:

IN Sept the EAC will recommend a Complete Streets policy To date 5 of MD local gov have such a policy in including 3 of the 4 cities ranked larger than ours—Baltimore City, Rockville, Frederick (Annapolis, Salisbury)

The elements of a **complete streets policy**; Include a vision to inter-link all its transportation alternatives where appropriate. By Specifying that 'all users' includes pedestrians, bicyclists and transit passengers of all ages and abilities. This encourages street connectivity and aims to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected network for all transportation modes.

A good first step is funding

- (1) **Trails Master Plan - On page 135** of the Proposed Budget, Planning Department Objective 3 states: "Update the City's Trails Master Plan by June 30, 2019 (Strategic Plan Goal 6)". *Argument: Staff cannot update this plan on its own, and consultant resources are required. The cost to do a master plan can range from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The City Council's current Trails Master Plan was originally approved in 2002 **16 years ago** as an in-house, staff effort. Council adopted the policy plan and trail map, which have been used to guide the City's capital improvement program, grant applications and several revisions to City standards. An interim update occurred ten years ago. Given the number of years that have passed since the last update and the ongoing emphasis on Wellness activities in the 2016 Sustainability Plan, it is appropriate to consider updating the Trails Master Plan as we look to the upcoming Master Plan process .*

(2) the Green Team Multi-modal Subgroup addressed you last month on this topic and is currently examining the City's trail and pedestrian networks for deficiencies and making recommendations for improvements. And

(2) Support funding, as proposed, for construction of The Bowie Heritage Trail CIP Project, including Railroad Museum improvements and 10th Street Park (placemaking), see Page 263 and plan attached.

(3) on the modest cost side

In addition to our committee budgets for full Green Team and Environmental Advisory Committee budgets (\$9,050 for Green Team, \$800 for EAC), Commodities-Materials, Supplies & Minor Equipment on page 136.

The EAC recommends Purchase and placement of three options for –
ESP Styrofoam drop-sites. **Estimated cost \$6000.**

- 1) Site and Adopt plan for installation of a Natural exploration area in local park for children . **Estimated cost less than \$10,000.**
- 2) Complete cost-benefit **study** and adopt plan for transition of city street lights to LED lighting over coming five years.
- 3) Make sure there is funds for water to Establish a community garden site for the benefit of residents and non-profits.
- 4) Expanded community information resources on single stream recycling and
And finally
- 5) in FY 19 implementation to all single-family homes of program for composting residential food waste

Awilda Hernandez

From: KathyinMD <kathyinmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 10:33 AM
To: Mayor; Henri Gardner; James Marcos; Dufour Woolfley; Courtney Glass; Isaac Truth; Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Citizen input for tonight's budget meeting

For the record:

I disagree with the proposal to increase the tax rate on Bowie citizens. We have many older residents who live on fixed incomes, and they cannot afford an 11.9% increase (per the Washington Post). They make excellent neighbors and I prefer to keep them, rather than have the City Council drive them out.

Although there are several nearby communities that pay a higher tax rate, the City of Bowie stands out for having the highest tax revenue in the County. Bowie's property base is 148% higher than Laurel, and the tax revenue is 34% higher, even though Laurel has a higher tax rate. And our combined City/County taxes are higher than adjacent counties.

The City has claimed that they have not raised taxes in 8 years, but it is the tax rate that had not changed. They have published these "proposals to increase taxes" as required by State Law, and have consistently voted for these proposals, so they have increased taxes contrary to their claims. Future tax rate increases are also planned, in addition to higher water fees.

Please keep Bowie affordable. Consider paring back the services that residents don't support rather than increasing spending.

Katharine Leavitt
3600 Maureen Lane
Bowie MD 20715

Awilda Hernandez

From: Deborah Rice <tricitiesrealestatellc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 6:42 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Fwd: Tax increase

For the City Council meeting this evening. I want our comments to be put on the record that we are opposed to the tax increase.

Thank you,

Deborah

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

From: Deborah Rice <tricitiesrealestatellc@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, May 7, 2018 at 12:11 PM
Subject: Tax increase
To: dwoolfley@cityofbowie.org
Cc: Michael Esteve <mesteve@cityofbowie.org>

Dear Dufour,

We will not be able to attend the meeting tonight, but wanted our voices heard.

We are seriously opposed to an increase in our tax rate to .43 per \$100 assessment. As you know, our property assessments are going up and Bowie already has the highest tax revenue in the County. The City just raised our water/sewer fees and now a proposed raise in taxes. How do you expect those on a fixed income to continue to live in Bowie if you continue to raise taxes/fees? Please vote NO!

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

John & Deborah Rice
3127 Belair Drive

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Deborah Rice
Broker/Owner

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240-381-1184 (c)

<http://tricitiesrealestate.org>

<http://twitter.com/BuySellHomes4U>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tri-Cities-Real-Estate-LLC/232164903479412>

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