

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, September 19, 2011, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Brady, Gardner, Marcos, Polangin, Trough, and Turner; City Manager Deutsch, Asst. City Manager Fitzwater, City Attorney Elissa Levan, City Clerk Fleming, Members of the Staff, the Press and the Public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Robinson announced that Item B. under New Business re: Mills Property Access is postponed to a future meeting.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Benjamin Woolery, Chairman of the Bowie Ethics Commission, spoke about a meeting that was scheduled last Friday, September 16 at City Hall. He expressed concern that the Commission was informed at the last moment that the attorney could not be present.

Mayor Robinson said the Council would review the matter. City Attorney Levan requested time to reply to Mr. Woolery. She said she was concerned about Mr. Woolery's comments.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Polangin presented an American flag to the City which contains the names of the victims of September 11th, 2001. City Manager Deutsch accepted the flag on behalf of the City.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager David Deutsch reported on the following items: 1) Council received an updated memorandum in their packet which analyzed potential locations for reinstalling Hall of Honor plaques; Council agreed that the installation would be on the wall in the lobby near the stair case; staff is examining what needs to be done to make that happen and then will get back to Council with a date of when the reinstallation will occur. 2) A shredding event occurred on September 10 at the high school parking lot; 10 tons of paper was recycled; the cost was only a few hundred dollars for overtime for Public Works employees; the recycling company does not charge the city.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Marcos moved approval of the following items: A. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2011 Council Meeting; B. Approval of Proclamation P-12-11 – Establishing Thursday, September 22, 2011 As Car Free Day; C. Approval of Resolution R-67-11, Accepting Bid Proposal for Permanent Pavement Markings; D. Approval of Letter Re: Federal Capital Improvement (FCIP) CSX Railroad Realignment NEPA Studies; and E. Approval of Letter Re: The FY13 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Budget – Capital Improvement Program. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. County Redistricting – City Manager Deutsch reported that Council received a draft letter addressed to the Redistricting Commission applauding the decision for the maps that were produced; the new map contains the entire City within District 4 in the new alignment that would be effective for the 2014 County Elections; this is consistent with the policy decision Council made a couple of months ago.

Councilmember Turner said one of the purposes for the letter was in anticipation of the County Council public hearing scheduled for next week on the proposed redistricting plan. He said he felt the letter should be sent to the County Council Chair since once the Redistricting Commission presented their report they no longer are in business. He also reported that after a County Council worksession, the County Council plans to prepare its own redistricting plan; the Commission plan was amended to include Bowie State University in District 4 after it was brought to their attention that it was omitted from the plan. Council concurred that the letter be sent to the County Council Chair with a copy to the Chair of the Redistricting Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution R-66-11 – Supporting Participation in the Sustainable Maryland Municipal Certification Program – Planning Director Joseph Meinert summarized the staff report dated September 14, 2011, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. He said the Sustainable Maryland Certified is a free and voluntary program initiated by the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland and endorsed by the Maryland Municipal League. He said the purpose of the program is to help communities organize themselves to make choices for environmental improvements within the community; the City's Environmental Advisory Committee recommends the City's participation in Sustainable Maryland Certified. Mr. Meinert then outlined how the program was set up and the point system required for certification, as well as the commitment and expectations. He concluded

by stating that staff recommends approval of Resolution R-66-11 supporting the City's participation in Sustainable Maryland Certified and designating the Director of Planning and Economic Development as the City's agent and point of contact for the Sustainable Maryland Certification Program.

Public Hearing:

Mr. Gary Allen, Chairman of the Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), spoke about the draft resolution that had been presented to Council. He said that the resolution that created the EAC empowers the committee to provide outreach to the community. He said the draft resolution before Council does not recognize the committee as the Green Team and suggested that language be added: "We do hereby authorize the Director of Planning and Economic Development to serve as the City of Bowie agent for the Sustainable Maryland Certification process and direct him to work closely with the EAC and the Green Team to complete the Municipal Registration on behalf of the City of Bowie" (underlining denotes proposed additional language).

Following discussion between Council and staff, Councilmember Gardner moved to approve Resolution R-66-11 as originally proposed by staff. Mayor Pro Tem Marcos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Marcos moved to adjourn the meeting into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Fleming, MMC
City Clerk