



# City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, October 17, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Marcos, Councilmembers Brady, Gardner, Polangin, Truth, and Turner; City Manager Deutsch, Assistant 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.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Ms. Elveeda Dixon, Chairman of the Bowie Diversity Committee, spoke about the celebration of various countries which have residents who are now citizens of the United States; Spanish Heritage Month is observed by celebrating the culture of their native countries. She summarized the number of Spanish Americans now in the United States and noted that over 5% of veterans are of Spanish heritage. Ms. Dixon spoke about the first Spanish American who passed in 1892 and was the first Spanish American to receive the Medal of Honor. Ms. Dixon then spoke about Disability Awareness Month.

### COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Turner noted that guests were present from the National Harbor Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc. He said they came to City Hall to learn more about city government and held a mock council meeting.

### CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Appointments/Reappointments/Swearings-in - A. Councilmember Brady moved the appointment of Penelope Comer as a member of the Animal Welfare Committee. Councilmember Polangin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Marcos moved the appointment of Michael Ahern as a member of the Economic Development Committee. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. Mayor Robinson swore Ms. Comer and Mr. Ahearn into office in accordance with Sec. 92A of the City Charter.

**MAYOR** G. Frederick Robinson    **MAYOR PRO TEM** James L. Marcos

**COUNCIL** Dennis Brady ♦ Henri Gardner ♦ Diane M. Polangin ♦ Isaac C. Truth ♦ Todd M. Turner    **CITY MANAGER** David J. Deutsch  
City Hall (301) 262-6200    FAX (301) 809-2302    TDD (301) 262-5013    WEB [www.cityofbowie.org](http://www.cityofbowie.org)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

A. City Manager David Deutsch reported that the State Highway Administration has informed the City that they have agreed to install a fully operational traffic signal at MD 197 and Evergreen Parkway; they will be initiating design shortly and then moving forward with construction. He said he will keep Council informed of when installation will occur.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Mayor Pro Tem Marcos moved approval of the following Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of Proclamation P-13-11, Observing Veterans Day November 11, 2011; B. Approval of Resolution R-70-11, Amending the January 15, 1993 Lease Between the City of Bowie and Fred Ryder, Enterprises, Inc., As Previously Amended, to Delay the Increase in the Monthly Payment Amount of One Thousand Dollars From October 1, 2011 until January 1, 2013; and C. Approval of Resolution R-71-11, Accepting Bid Proposals for Website Content Management System. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Radio History Society and the Radio & Television Museum – Mr. Brian Belanger, Director, thanked the City for their ongoing support and said they are seeking feedback on how a partnership might evolve. He reviewed the history and noted they have approximately 2,000 visitors a year from all 50 states and more than 20 foreign countries. Mr. Belanger said that the Museum has outgrown the Harmel House and outlined their needs. He offered to give the Council a tour to make them more familiar with the Museum and asked for feedback about how the City views the Museum, its future, and opportunities for strengthening the partnership.

Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Belanger and said the City would try to set up a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and Museum staff to explore options for expansion and getting more donations. He asked for a specific needs assessment before the meeting is held.

B. Preliminary Subdivision Plan #4-11016 – Restoration Praise Center ( Formerly Trinity Community Church) – Mr. Joseph Meinert, City Planning Director, summarized the staff report dated October 13, 2011, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. He reported the property is located at 14201 Old Stage Road, includes about 7.5 acres, and is not located within the City of Bowie; the proposal consists of a 27,120 sq. ft. church with 850 seats. He provided some background and said this property was reviewed previously by the City Council for a Preliminary Subdivision for a church and the City Council and the County recommended approval; a Limited Detailed Site Plan was also recommended for approval in 2006; the site is partially developed. He reported that the current applicant proposes to take over the site plan for the development of the new proposal; the new plan will cause a slight increase in traffic and requires the application to go through the Preliminary Plan process; a traffic study was submitted and reviewed by the Park and Planning Transportation Division focusing on the intersection of Church Road and Old Stage Road; the study concluded that the level of service would be acceptable at the intersection. Mr. Meinert said that since the church use has been previously reviewed and approved for the subject site, since the proposed use is permitted by right in the R-R zone, and since the local County road network will continue to operate within the acceptable levels, staff recommends that Preliminary Subdivision Plan #4-11016 be approved.

Mr. Mike Nagy, an attorney representing the applicant, reviewed the history of the site and the new proposal. He requested approval of the Preliminary Subdivision Plan and asked Council to authorize sending a letter to the Park and Planning Commission.

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

Councilmember Polangin announced that she is recusing herself because Mr. Jeff Clise of Landesign is an acquaintance.

In response to questions raised by Councilmember Turner concerning traffic and access on to Old Stage Road, Mr. Dave Nelson, Street and Traffic Studies, Ltd., said counts were taken in the A.M. and P.M. peak hours in the month of June and a supplemental count in July; they amended the report to look at minimal impact during weekdays at the church and day care, as well as full pact at the church on Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Nagy reported that the number of parking spaces increased by 87 to 219.

Pastor Mitchell said they were currently operating in Lanham and the current membership on the books is 300; the average attendance on Sunday is between 600 and 650.

Councilmember Turner moved to approve Preliminary Subdivision Plan #4-11016. Councilmember Trowth seconded the motion and it carried 6-0 (Polangin recused).

In response to a question from Councilmember Turner regarding road improvements, Mr. Meinert responded that frontage improvements were made to curb and gutter and widening of the roadway paving per the Department of Public Works and Transportation.

C. Education Priorities – Ms. Regina Spruill, member of the Bowie Education Committee, summarized the Executive Summary of the 2011 City of Bowie Education Priorities Report, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. She reported that the Committee felt that many issues focused on in the last report such as assessments, fiscal matters, and Annual Yearly Progress results needed to be followed up with updated information because of their potential impact on students' educational success. She then reviewed the sections of the report that dealt with Assessments, Special Programs, Fiscal Matters, and Teacher Evaluations and Administrative Changes. Ms. Spruill concluded her report by saying that funding cuts continue to create challenges for the schools and education continues to be a major focal point, receiving much press at the county, state and national levels, in areas such as Secondary School Reform.

Ms. Una Cooper, City Communications Coordinator, summarized the staff report dated October 13, 2011, a copy of which is on file at City Hall. She provided information on upcoming meetings and issues of interest to the community such as school enrollments and boundary changes, particularly at the elementary school level. Ms. Cooper reported on Yorktown Elementary School and said parents have spoken at Board of Education meetings about not wanting the school closed because the school is under enrolled; parents are basically happy with the schools they are in and don't want to see any changes. She reported that the Education Committee is hosting a forum on October 24 at the Kenhill Center and that parents will probably raise the issue of boundary changes and bringing specialized academic programs into various high schools to draw students to schools around the County.

D. BGE Hurricane Irene – Mr. Michael Fowler, Manager, Local Affairs for BGE, introduced Mr. Chris Burton, Senior Vice President of Gas and Electric Operations and Planning. Mr. Burton provided an overview of the activities during the recent hurricane. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to issues such as the size of the storm and the destruction, storm monitoring and preparing, the aftermath of the storm, major customer and Bowie impacts, the number of BGE personnel restoring power, as well as the mutual assistance provided.

Ms. Jeannette Mills, Senior Vice President, Customer Relations and Account Services, and Chief Customer Officer, spoke about communications to BGE customers, including getting the message out to customers and keeping them up-to-date. She reported that BGE received more than 1.5 million calls throughout the duration of the storm; 70% of the calls were during the first 48 hours, which necessitated the use of automation; staff contact centers operated 24/7 with a total of 250 live representatives. She said that after the restoration, BGE responded to both positive and negative customer feedback, actively engaged community leaders, neighborhood organizations and governmental bodies, and evaluated customer feedback.

**Public Hearing:**

1. Ms. Janette Cartledge, 14910 Nighthawk Lane, reported that the residents of Nighthawk Lane were without power for 6 days while some surrounding streets had power; felt this was a mechanical infrastructure problem and asked if there was a specific plan to address the problem.

2. Mr. Terrance Roach, 14914 Nighthawk Lane, also spoke about losing power while surrounding streets had power. He also spoke about the fact that information provided by BGE was not very clear.

3. Mr. Allen Knotts, 15817 Erwin Court, spoke about power outages on his street over the last six years and that surrounding areas had power.

Mayor Robinson acknowledged that there have been significant improvements in communications; the City's expectations have grown; felt that PEPCO had an advantage over BGE with regard to media coverage. He suggested that there are areas, especially in the "N" section of Bowie, that need additional engineering to solve the problem of power being out on certain streets while other streets still have power. Mayor Robinson thanked BGE representatives for their presentation.

E. Urban Greening Strategy – Mr. Joseph Meinert, City Planning Director, introduced Ms. Tracey Cohen, Senior Landscape Architect with Applied Ecological Services, Inc. He reported that in 2010 the City received an urban greening grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to hire a consultant to develop an Urban Greening Strategy. He said that staff is recommending that Council accept the final report and refer it to the City Environmental Advisory Committee and the City Forrester for further review.

Ms. Cohen summarized the Bowie Urban Greening Report provided by the University of Vermont. She displayed a PowerPoint presentation which showed the benefits of urban forests, data collection and analysis, and recommendations for setting goals for Bowie's Urban Tree Canopy and Implementation of Achieving Urban Forest Goals. A copy of the report is on file at City Hall and displayed on the City's website.

**Public Hearing:**

Mr. Gary Allen, Chairman of the City Environmental Advisory Committee, presented EAC's comments on Urban Greening Strategy, a copy of which is attached hereto. He asked that Council accept the Bowie Urban Greening Report.

Councilmember Brady moved that Council accept the report as presented. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

F. Approval of City Council Position on Redistricting for Congress, General Assembly and Board of Education – Mr. David Deutsch, City Manager, reported that Council had asked for this item to be returned to agenda; earlier this item was restricted to the County Councilmanic districts and now appears to be near resolution in a manner that is consistent with the Council's policies. He said the General Assembly convened into Special Session to begin discussion of reapportion of congressional districts following the decennial census. Mr. Deutsch said that Council has before them a draft letter to the Governor with copies to the presiding officers of the General Assembly and the 23<sup>rd</sup> District; the letter restates Council's position that was announced in the discussion of the County Councilmanic districts by suggesting that the City should be unified in one district.

Following questions and discussion concerning various plans, Councilmember Turner moved to approve the draft letter. Councilmember Truth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Marcos moved to adjourn the meeting and move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters with counsel. Councilmember Brady seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pamela A. Fleming, MMC  
City Clerk

## **EAC Comments on Urban Greening Strategy**

**October 17, 2011**

Good evening Mr. Mayor and Council

As Chairman of the City's environmental Advisory Committee

I want to recommend for your acceptance and approval the Report by Applied Ecological Services on a proposed Urban Green Strategy.

I suspect that, your selves accepted, I might be among the few who have actually read this lengthily and detailed Report!

AS noted in the Staff comments it contains both a set of future performance indicators and an action matrix for future action. I want to assure you that the **EAC has**

- Reviewed the draft that lead to this final report, **WE**
- Will recommend a specific Urban Canopy Goal for Bowie
- Will proposed a specific set of actions to implement it next February in time for review as part of your next Budget
- Strongly believe that residential property owners should be offered incentives to help achieve the goals recommended in this report and
- We will offer a draft Community Greening ordnance next year based the strategy outlined in this Report

This is the third Report to address this issue since 2007. The EAC believes the City now has sufficient data and sufficiently detailed recommendations to act in the coming year to adopt ordnance that will take the steps necessary to implement the stratagem described in this Report.

I specifically call your attention to both the executive Summary on pages 5,6 and 7 and the Action Matrix on pages 61 and 62 of the Report.

**Green Bowie** need not be cited as only a logo. It is a goal and the EAC has been offering **Steps** toward its realization for several years, this report outlines several more. EAC will propose how they may be accomplished in the months ahead.

I commend those to wrote the Report, the Planning staff for seeking the funding to pay for it and ask your acceptance of it as EAC implements the "Green Team" concepts discussed only last month.

Gary Allen

EAC Chairman



# City of Bowie

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Bowie, Maryland 20716

## A G E N D A

### REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011 - COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 8:00 P.M.

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**
- III. **QUORUM:**
- IV. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:**
- V. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**
- VI. **CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**
- VII. **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
- VIII. **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**
- IX. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
  - A. Approval of Proclamation P-13-11 – Observing Veterans Day November 11, 2011
  - B. Approval of Resolution R-70-11 – Amending the January 15, 1993 Lease Between the City of Bowie and Fred Ryder, Enterprises, Inc., As Previously Amended, to Delay the Increase in the Monthly Payment Amount of One Thousand Dollars From October 1, 2011 until January 1, 2013
  - C. Approval of Resolution R-71-11 – Accepting Bid Proposals for Website Content Management System
- X. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- XI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. Radio History Society and the Radio & Television Museum – Report on Activities if the Museum

MAYOR G. Frederick Robinson    MAYOR PRO TEM James E. Marcos

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- B. Preliminary Subdivision Plan #4-11016 - Restoration Praise center (formerly Trinity Community Church) – Public Hearing/Eligible for Action
- C. Education Priorities - Report
- D. BGE Hurricane Irene - Report
- E. Urban Greening Strategy - Report
- F. Approval of City Council Positional on Redistricting for Congress, General Assembly and Board of Education - Public Hearing/Eligible for Action

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**This Meeting will be televised live on Verizon Channel 10 and Comcast Channel 71, repeated on 10/19/11 and 10/22/11 at 7:00 p.m., and web-streamed live at [www.cityofbowie.org/studio.asp](http://www.cityofbowie.org/studio.asp)**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOWIE CITY COUNCIL –  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011 - 8:00 P.M. – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

/PAF