

BOWIE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE!



Minutes of the January 27, 2021 Meeting

Meeting called to order: 7:30 pm by the Chair

Attendance:

Del Billings, Chair
Jill Hochman, Vice Chair
Bill Healy, Member
Jeffrey Cooper, Member
Bill Grayson
Monica Best-James, Esq. Member
Jackie Rhone, Member

Excused:

Earl Braxton, Member
Ron Gill, Member

Ad Hoc Members

Dwayne Preston, Deputy Chief, BPD
Michael White, Deputy Chief, BVFD
Ingrid Harrison, Council Member
Jonathan Howard, Chief, BVFD

Guests:

Awilda Hernandez, Bowie City Clerk
Carolyn Fifer, Administrative Associate
Jamie Brown, Bowie Code Enforcement
Tamika Washington
Tisha Hillman

Reports:

City Council – Council Member Harrison

- State Legislative issues
 - HB139-Law Enforcement Officer Bill of Rights, Statewide prohibition for use of choke holds
 - HB-151-Repeal of Law Enforcement Officer Bill of Rights
 - HB-120/S178-Public Information Act-Access to officer information

City Clerk Presentation - Awilda Hernandez and Carolyn Fifer

- Open Meeting Act Presentation
- At least one member must have had the required training and Certificate

Code Enforcement- Jamie Brown

- City has a vacant property inventory
- 55 known properties this year
- City Code Enforcement visits properties two times per year

- Squatters living in properties are difficult to monitor, most take care of properties but more visits/actions if they cause problems
- Property owner must file for evictions, but evictions are currently on hold due to COVID emergency

Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Update – Chief Jonathan Howard

- December was a busy month with Santa rides throughout the City
- Currently there are 3 live-in members which helps responses
- 6 members had contracted COVID and have recovered
- A decontamination apparatus has been purchased, approximately \$18,000. Chief Howard offered the use of the apparatus to the Police Department along with training.
- He would like to purchase more for all the stations, pending ability to get funding
- Planning to purchase a new BVFD owned ambulance soon and a new engine in about 1 ½ years

Police Department Report – Deputy Chief Preston

- One recent homicide within the City
 - Isolated incident
 - Suspect was apprehended within 24 hours
 - Both individuals are juveniles
- Chief Nesky is President of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, Inc. and has been busy with legislative proposals pending in the State Legislature
- Bowie camera rebate program is on-going

Bowie Public Safety Committee

- Members discussed issues involving vacant properties and the possibility of foreclosed properties to be officially reported to the City.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Best-James and seconded by Ms. Hochman for the Chair to appoint a committee to draft possible resolution to be presented to the City Council to require owners of foreclosed properties to notify the City. Motion was unanimously passed. Chair Billings appointed members Jeffrey Cooper and Bill Healy to research, draft the potential resolution, and report back to the PSC at the February meeting.

Next meeting: February 24, 2021, 7:30 pm (virtual meeting is anticipated)

Motion to Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting –Unanimously passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.