



# City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road  
Bowie, Maryland 20716

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, March 1, 2021, virtually. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Adams, Councilmembers Boafo, Esteve, Gardner, Harrison, Ndebumadu, and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

### AGENDAS ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Mayor Adams made a motion to add under New Business the approval of his signature on behalf of the City on a statement against antisemitism created by the American Jewish Committee and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Natahcia Scott, Bowie Town Center General Manager – Comment attached.
2. Michael Gorman, Althea Lane – Comment attached.
3. Bruce Ferguson, Heather Hills Neighborhood – Comment attached.
4. Olivia Parker, Peachtree Lane – Comment attached.
5. NAACP Members – Comment attached.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo thanked everyone who reached out to him and stated this issue will go before the courts and he is going to respect that process. In the meantime, he will continue his work in the City of Bowie representing his District.

### PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Tameeka Washington with the City Diversity Committee read an excerpt on Women's History Month.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Councilmember Woolfley motioned to appoint Ms. Elena Wisler to the Green Team Committee for a two-year term. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Mayor Adams swore-in Ms. Wisler.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Adams read proclamation "Proclaiming the First Monday in March as COVID-19 Memorial Day in the City of Bowie".

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

City Manager Lott reported that essential personnel has begun to receive their COVID vaccines from the County.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo made a motion to approve items A) Approval of February 1 Regular Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of February 16 Regular Meeting Minutes; C) Adoption of Proclamation P-3-21 Proclaiming March 2021 as Women's History Month in the City of Bowie; D) Adoption of Resolution R-9-21 Approving a Revision to the City's Development Review Policies; E) Adoption of Resolution R-10-21 Authorizing the Purchase of Six (6) 10 Ft. Leaf Boxes and Two (2) 12 Ft. Leaf Boxes for Leaf Removal Services; F) Adoption of Resolution R-11-21 Awarding a Contract to a Commercial Real Estate Brokerage Firm to Provide Confidential Real Property Brokerage Services; G) Adoption of Resolution R-12-21 Accepting a Bid Proposal for City Hall Stormfilter Replacement Project. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Statement Against Antisemitism – Mayor Adams is requesting that his colleagues approve his signature on behalf of the City on a statement against antisemitism created by the American Jewish Committee and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Councilmember Harrison motioned to approve the Mayors request. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Public Health Officer – Mayor Adams discussed with Council the need to have the position of a City Public Health Officer, which was adopted via Ordinance O-3-20 on May 18, 2020, filled. This position will help to coordinate with the County on making sure that the residents of the City have access to receiving the COVID vaccines. The Mayor also stated that this position would be a volunteer position.

Councilmember Harrison asked what specifically this position will do for us. Mayor Adams replied that it will help with the COVID situation and coordination of the vaccines.

Councilmember Gardner stated that he was opposed to this position at the beginning but seeing how long this pandemic has been going on, any help that can be provided he will support.

Councilmember Woolfley asked City Manger Lott if he has enough information to advertise the position. City Manager Lott responded that he does. Staff will put recruitment documents together.

Council gave direction to staff to prepare recruitment documents and publicize position. Staff will provide top 3 candidates to Council for their review and selection. Position will be a volunteer position.

C. Economic Development Strategy – Mayor Pro Tem Boafo discussed the need for an Economic Development Strategy Plan to be created for the City. The last time the City had one done was in 1999. The City must aggressively support business development, retention, and expansion efforts, balanced by business attraction efforts for economic diversity, health, and stability. He would like the process of getting the plan together before the budget cycle is finished so that the plan will be in place at the beginning of FY 2022. Putting an RFP out in 30 days, 30 days to submit responses and be ready by June.

Councilmember Harrison asked Mr. John Henry King, City Economic Development Director, how successful was the old plan. Mr. King responded that it was not used as a working plan. Councilmember Harrison also asked what the cost would be and where will the funding for it come from. Mayor Adams responded it would be anywhere between \$15,000 to \$225,000 according to the staff report presented by Mr. King.

City Manager Lott responded that it will be a major task for this RFP to be done in the time frame Mayor Pro Tem Boafo is looking at; Mr. King is a one-person department and right now the main focus is on completing the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo made a motion to have staff put out an RFP in 30 days that will be focused on implementing a strategy and implementation in the City of Bowie and then opening a window of 60 days to receive those contracts and given to Council for review. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion and subsequently withdrew it. Councilmember Woolfley offered a friendly amendment to have this done after the budget cycle. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo declined Councilmember Woolfley's amendment. Councilmember Esteve seconded Mayor Pro Tem Boafo's original motion. City Manager Lott asked for a dollar amount for this RFP. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo replied \$100k. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-3 (Gardner, Harrison, Woolfley).

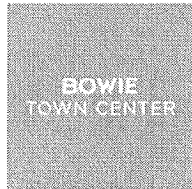
ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Awilda Hernandez, MMC  
City Clerk



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

On behalf of our local business owners at Bowie Town Center in Bowie, Maryland, we have seen the impact that the global health crisis has had on our local area. The significant changes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic has affected not only their ability to operate in their full capacity over the last year, but also shifted their outlook for the future. While the state of Maryland has been able to offer support programs for business owners in the way of loans and grants, much of the business community recognizes that there is a larger need for an economic development strategy that should support small businesses through the pandemic, far and beyond into the future. Without such important economic infrastructure, businesses of all sizes are unable to fully envision the growth and sustainability of their businesses long-term.

We recognize that policymakers in Congress and the Maryland General Assembly have responded to this crisis with immense economic support, and we would like to see more done locally to support the needs of business owners in Bowie. Our business community believes that the City of Bowie should create a post-COVID economic development strategy that attracts, retains, and helps ensure the longevity of local businesses.

In my role as General Manager who supports our small business owners at the Bowie Town Center, I know firsthand how hard Marylanders have been hit during this time. To compete with other municipalities, I adamantly encourage the City of Bowie to devise a comprehensive economic development strategy that continues to promote the area as the welcoming and business-friendly city it is. It is so important that we are poised to compete with other emerging local markets that attract local, regional and national businesses. We support Councilman Boafo's motion tonight and hope that this will be the start of a new chapter in Bowie's economic development story.

Thank you,

*Natahcia Scott*

Natahcia Scott  
General Manager  
Bowie Town Center

## **Awilda Hernandez**

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**From:** Michael M Gorman <mmgorman@wiscorp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 11:32 AM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Please read at tonight's city council meeting.

**Citizens of Bowie:**

**Together, every four years, we elect council members based on personal integrity and good judgement.**

**Recently, Council Member Boafu, according to public information via Maryland Court Case search, was cited for "reckless endangerment of people and property" in Anne Arundel County. We are owed an explanation..**

**Regards,**

**Michael M. Gorman  
2008 Althea Lane  
Bowie, Maryland 20716**

**1-301-249-1142**

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Bruce Ferguson <bruce.ferguson06@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Public Comment About Boafo For Tonight's Meeting

I'm submitting this for tonight's meeting. Is this the right email?

I was a cop in Baltimore for 19 years. After learning that Baltimore was hiring officers and that their process moved fast, I applied in mid-March of 1999 and was hired months later. I wasn't following in anyone's footsteps — there were no other cops in my family. I read an email about Councilman Boafo this morning and subsequently read his statement that he released this afternoon. I have to say as a white man if I called the police to assist with as Mr. Boafo says "set up safety measures to protect other drivers", the cops would NEVER question me. I say that as a former officer. It's no wonder, then, that black Americans are much less likely to trust the police, a disparity that appears to be growing in response to incident after incident of police overreach. This isn't surprising, when the majority of black people have personally experienced unfair treatment at the hands of police, not matter the race of the officer. I think Councilman Boafo is just the latest minor case.

Councilman Boafo, I'm sorry that this petty cruelty and abuse of power by an officer happened to you. Although I didn't vote for you in the last election, you've proven to be a fierce advocate for our Heather Hills neighborhood. You have my support and I have to thank you for working with my favorite baseball team to get a vaccine center in Bowie. To pivot I hope Councilman Boafo's unfortunate situation pushes State Delegates Valentino, Holmes, Watson, and Doug to support police reform in Annapolis. Especially after the report released by PG last week.

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Olivia Parker <oparker62887@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 3:27 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Please Read This At Tonight's City Council Meeting

As a parent raising children in Bowie. We frequently have discussions with our children about safety during police interactions, situational awareness, perceived behaviors, and implicit bias. While these conversations are meant to keep them aware of the reality they will face in life as a person of color we strive to encourage their self-confidence in the ability to have control over their own behaviors and social environment, as they grow older.

My children met Councilmembers Boafu, Roxy, Harrison, and Esteve during the swearing-in. Our children were gratified to see leaders in their community not far off in age. Like other parents to children of color, I know the emotional tax and ongoing concern from having conversations with our children that are intended to prepare them for a world that will judge them prematurely, and diminish the confidence they need to succeed. I never write into these meetings or on Nextdoor but I was frustrated when I read the email being sent around. People in our community are trying to tear down a leader without all the facts. Sounds like the Councilman did everything to protect others. I've spoken to many other parents today about this. Please let Councilman Boafu know that our thoughts about his work and integrity won't be swayed by an unfortunate situation.

Olivia Parker  
Peachtree Lane

## Awilda Hernandez

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**From:** Ester Jones <esterjones0428@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** Awilda Hernandez  
**Subject:** {EXTERNAL}: Public Comment - March 1st City Council Meeting

Ms. Hernandez -- An email below is requested to be read by these 21 residents at the March 1st City Council meeting.

We are writing as 21 members of the NAACP Prince George's County and Statewide branches that live in Bowie, Clinton, and Upper Marlboro in response to an email that was forwarded to us about Mayor Pro Tem Bofo. For ages, black and brown parents have given their children "the talk"—instructing them never to run down the street; always keep your hands where they can be seen; do not even think of talking back to a stranger—all out of fear of how an officer will react to them. I was told by a former Bowie elected official that in fact Adrian wasn't pulled over, he didn't hit anyone, he actually called the police after hitting something in the road.

While others may not say what we are all thinking, is the possibility that the crazy email shared around this morning is somehow linked to politics. A smear campaign intended to make him look bad. Someone should look into that. Mayor Pro Tem, we are thinking of you. We can't imagine how it feels to be penalized for doing the right thing. In the face of this situation, Mayor Pro Tem, keep your head up. We have your back.

Signed, we'd like our names to be read during the meeting,

Ester Jones  
Jalen Baker  
Philip Boyd  
Jasmine Walker  
Kevin Ingram  
John Leftwich  
Brandon Addison  
Carl Gathers  
Bruce Corbett  
Quelontae Nunn  
Victor Garza  
Michael Sutton  
Rodney Johnson  
David Richard  
Shawn Odom  
Brent Lewis  
Cortney Nash  
Deja Young  
Christian McDougal  
Jordan Davis  
Chyna Hansley