

City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 Boafu, Esteve, Gardner, Harrison, Ndebumadu (arrived 8:12 p.m.), and Woolfley, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, City Clerk Hernandez, and Staff.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Diane Polangin, Savoy Ln – Read a Happy Birthday poem to Councilmember Gardner.
2. Gerron Levi, former State Delegate – Wished Councilmember Gardner a Happy Birthday.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

A. Appointments/Reappointments/Swearing-In:

1. Councilmember Woolfley moved to appoint the following students to the Bowie Youth Council for a 1-year term: Tyler Dawkins, Shelemiah Griffiths-Johnson, Aidan Gunn, Joelle Kellner, Olivia Liddie, Sabrina Lussier, Stephanie Maceiko, Gabrielle McAllister, Enoch Omotayo, Alexander Saxton and Anabel Washington. Councilmember Harrison second the motion and it carried 6-0.
2. Councilmember Esteve moved to appoint Davina Hurt and Tameeka Washington as Advisors to the Bowie Youth Council for a 2-year term. Councilmember Harrison second the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
3. Mayor Adams swore in the above members to the Bowie Youth Council.
4. Councilmember Woolfley moved the reappointment of Linda Fuller, Valerie Hall-Yancey and John Scoulios as members of the Administrative Review Board for a 2-year term. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
5. Mayor Pro Tem Boafu moved the reappointment of Michael Byrd as member of the Advisory Planning Board for a 2-year term. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
6. Councilmember Esteve moved the reappointment of Kathleen Parker and Marion Shipman, Sr. as members of the Arts Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

7. Councilmember Woolfley moved the reappointment of Gail Elkins and Jacqueline M. Rhone as members of the Board of Personnel Appeals for a 2-year term. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
8. Councilmember Esteve moved the reappointment of Sharon Hunt, LaAndra Y. Jones and Cheryl Morris as members of the Community Outreach Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
9. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo moved the reappointment of Karl Stehmer as member of the Community Recreation Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
10. Councilmember Harrison moved the reappointment of Grace Alheri Abdu and Brittany Bunn as members of the Diversity Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
11. Councilmember Gardner moved the reappointment of Candi Dailey, Kevin Kennedy, Jr., Sherman Ragland, Andrew Roud, Alicia Stukes and Leroy "Lee" Tillery as members of the Economic Development Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
12. Councilmember Woolfley moved the reappointment of Elmer Dengler and Jacqueline Lord as members of the Environmental Advisory Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
13. Councilmember Esteve moved the reappointment of Ismael "Vince" Canales, John "Jay" Fagan, Alan Kolski, Karl Stehmer and Daniel Thomas as members of the Ethics Commission for a 2-year term. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
14. Councilmember Woolfley moved the reappointment of Muzar Jah, Meglan Knights, Patricia Peterson and Carl Robinson as members of the Financial Advisory Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
15. Councilmember Ndebumadu moved the reappointment of John Eidsness and Michael Gregory Paynes as members of the Information Technology Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Harrison seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.
16. Councilmember Harrison moved the reappointment of Jeffrey Cooper as a member of the Public Safety Committee for a 2-year term. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion and it carried 7-0.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Ndebumadu commented that staff is working with BGE to address the issues of power outages in certain neighborhoods in District 4.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo commented that last Tuesday the House Committee on Appropriations approved the City's \$2M request for water tuberculation which will address the issues with the City's water system, the next step is going before the Senate for their approval.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Assistant City Manager Mears welcomed everyone to the first live meeting since the pandemic started in March of 2020. He also reported that due to the storms that passed through the City last week, yard waste restrictions will be relaxed for the next two weeks to allow residents to clean-up any debris from their properties caused by the storm.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items: A) Approval of June 21 Regular Meeting Minutes; B) Adoption of Resolution R-47-21 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 "Purchasing and Contracting" of the Charter of the City of Bowie, Maryland to Allow the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to TJ Distributors, Inc. and Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of Four (4) Basketball Hoops. Councilmember Harrison second the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Adoption of Resolution R-46-21 Awarding a Contract to the University of Baltimore Jacob France Institute to Prepare an Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan – Economic Development Director, John Henry King summarized the resolution which stemmed from a request by Council at their March 1, 2021 Council meeting to have a Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan created for the City.

Councilmember Harrison asked why there is such a wide range in the pricing received from the proposals. Mr. King responded that some of the companies have higher overhead costs and are not local to the area, so they included travel costs. The lower ones did not meet all the specifications the City required in the RFP.

Councilmember Ndebumadu asked if in these proposals there is direction on how they will help with the Smart City initiative. Mr. King responded that there is.

Councilmember Gardner commented that he would like to see a new perspective on attracting better retailers and restaurants to the City.

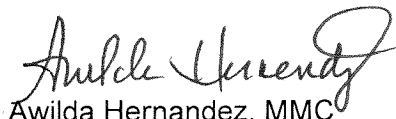
Councilmember Esteve commented that residents need to be aware that a lot of tough changes will need to be considered and done in order to achieve the success of the action plan once it is done.

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo made a motion to approve Resolution R-46-21. Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT AND MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Boafo motioned to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting and move to Close Session under the statutory authority of the Md. Annotated Code, State Government Article §3-305(b)(1): "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals," §3-305(b)(7): "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice," and §3-305(b)(8): "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals regarding pending or potential litigation." Councilmember Gardner second the motion. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING ("CLOSING STATEMENT")
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

This form has two sides. *Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.*

1. **Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: 7-6-21; Time: 9:04; Location: City Hall ;
Motion to close meeting made by: Boafo Seconded by Gardner ;
Members in favor: All Aye ; Opposed: _____ ;
Abstaining: _____ ; Absent: _____ .

2. **Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).**
This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3) "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4) "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5) "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6) "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7) "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8) "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9) "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10) "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11) "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12) "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13) "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14) "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." (15) "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	Personnel Matters	City Manager Evaluation
§3-305(b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7	Consult with Counsel	
§3-305(b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8	Pending litigation	
§3-305(b) <input type="checkbox"/>		
§3-305(b) <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. This statement is made by Sumathy J. Allen, Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

- For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:

Time of closed session: 9:18

Place: City Hall

Purpose(s): 1, 7, 8

Members who voted to meet in closed session: Adams Gardner Harrison Esteve Woolfley Dafo Ndeburadu

Persons attending closed session: Adams Gardner Harrison Esteve Woolfley Dafo Ndeburadu Mears Levan Peterson Hegge Belton

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: 1, 7, 8

Topics actually discussed: Pending litigation, City Manager Evaluation

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

- For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104): Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____