



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, March 18, 2019 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Esteve (Arrived 8:03p.m.), Marcos, Truth and Woolfley, City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Levan, Staff, the Press and the Public.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS:

Council is striking Item B under New Business; Mr. Bean had an unscheduled conflict and will reschedule for a future meeting.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

1. Del Billings, Public Safety Committee Chair – Commented on the need of growth of the Bowie Police Department as the City grows in size.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Marcos moved the approval of Consent Agenda Items: A) Approval of March 4 Meeting Minutes; B) Approval of Resolution R-15-19 Waiving the Competitive Bidding Requirements of Section 61 of the City Charter to Allow for the Purchase of Govsense Software; C) Approval of Resolution R-16-19 Commencing the Cable Television Franchise Renewal Ascertainment Process With Respect to Verizon Maryland LLC and Authorizing the City Manager to Engage in Informal Renewal Negotiations With Verizon Maryland LLC. Councilmember Truth seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Stronach Group-Horse Racing – Mr. Mike Johansen with the Rifkin Firm in Annapolis on behalf of the Maryland Jockey Club and Mr. Sal Sinatra, President and General Manager of the Maryland Jockey Club briefed Council on the plans for the properties in Bowie and Laurel. The Stronach Group is one of the largest operators of racetracks in America. They are very focused on the state of Maryland, they hold Pimlico, Laurel Park, Bowie Track and recently they added Rosecroft. The Maryland Jockey

MAYOR G. Frederick Robinson **MAYOR PRO TEM** Henri Gardner

COUNCIL Michael P. Estève ♦ Courtney D. Glass ♦ James L. Marcos ♦ Isaac C. Truth ♦ Dufour Woolfley **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott
City Hall (301) 262-6200 FAX (301) 809-2302 TDD (301) 262-5013 WEB www.cityofbowie.org

Club was founded in 1743 and is focused on investing and growing horse racing in Maryland. They are looking to expand and improve Laurel Park and possibly moving the Preakness race to this location from Baltimore. With Laurel's close proximity to Bowie, they would like to make the Bowie racetrack into a world-class training facility.

Mr. Johansen briefed Council on the current bills that are before the General Assembly in regards to having year round racing in the state. One of the bills introduced by Senator Peters and Delegate Valentino-Smith allowing Bowie to be eligible for existing state funds called Racetrack Facility Renewal Funds; currently Bowie is not eligible since it is a training center. The second piece of legislation is the MEDCO Bill, which will allow Maryland Economic Development Corporation to facilitate the financing of projects in Laurel and Bowie by the issuance of bonds based on funds and collateral provided by the Stronach Group as well as the current stream of slot proceeds generated from the state's casinos. The project in total would be about \$80m at Laurel and about \$40m in Bowie.

Councilmember Esteve asked if there is any consideration for road improvements and safety on Racetrack Road. Mr. Johansen replied that they are considering those and will work with the County and the City.

Councilmember Esteve asked what is the general timeframe they are hoping for to start this project. Mr. Johansen responded that if the legislation is favorable, they could possibly look at a timeframe of maybe 9 months to a year.

Councilmember Woolfley asked if there is any housing planned on the property. Mr. Sinatra responded that there could possibly be a small structure with some dormitories for the jockeys use.

Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Sinatra and Mr. Johansen for their briefing.

C. Police Department Update – Police Chief Nesky and Deputy Chief Preston briefed Council on department statistics, programs and activities. The department is authorized at 67, and currently have 59 sworn officers with 4 in the academy; recruitment continues to be a challenge. The Call Center is fully staffed and they handled 39,718 service calls in 2018. The City Radio Project is set to go live on May 1st for the Park Rangers, Code Compliance and Animal Control. This puts everybody on the City side on one radio system to be able to monitor and respond better to both the residents and to staff that may have an issue on the streets or on the parks; it is an extra layer of safety. A Drug Take Back event will take place on June 2, and Coffee with a Cop and Tip A Cop events will also be held later in the year. The department continues to have their weekly crime meetings and refocus their relationship with HOA's in the City. The crime statistics show an increase in commercial burglaries during 2018 as well as moving violations. Total crimes assigned and citizen contact was 402, closed by arrest/exceptionally was 56 and 327 are still open. A full copy of the report is on file in the City Clerk's office.

Councilmember Woolfley asked if in their statistics report is there a possibility to get GEO location on these reports. Deputy Chief Preston responded that the department's crime analyst has a software package called ArcGIS, which they are in the beginning phase to utilize. This software will give them the ability to map many of the crime data.

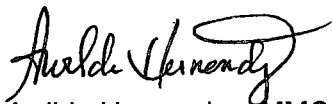
Mayor Robinson thanked Chief Nesky and Deputy Chief Preston for their presentation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Truth moved to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilmember Marcos seconded the motion and it carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

March 18, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Awilda Hernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk