Bowie City Council Meeting Results April 5, 2021

Consent Agenda:

All items approved.

New Business:

- A. County Economic Development Briefing Mr. David Iannucci, President and CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, briefed Council on economic activities in the County and City. Unemployment numbers are comparable across the state, county and city, most offices will continue with teleworking which means a lot of office buildings will have an increase in vacant offices. Retail as well as restaurants have been hit hard during the COVID crisis and will be struggling to keep open. New grant money will be available in the next few weeks for these businesses to help keep them open.
- B. Comcast Mr. Antoine Banks and Mr. Andre Fountain briefed Council on initiatives Comcast has done to control the digital divide. Their mission is to drive digital equity through connecting the unconnected, providing digital skills training, and subsidizing devices. They partnered with PGCPS to provide broadband service to low-income households without service and that program has been extended to June 2021.
- C. Zoning Text Amendment Legislation (CB-21-2021) Public Hearing held. Councilmember Woolfley made a motion to accept staff recommendations and oppose legislation CB-21-2021. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- D. Adoption of Resolution R-23-21 Adopting Pilot Community Workforce Agreements for FY22-27 Street Resurfacing and Water Distribution System Recapitalization Projects – Mayor Adams motioned to adopt Resolution R-23-21. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo seconded the motion. Councilmember Ndebumadu offered a friendly amendment to change the term from 5 years to 2 years beginning with FY 2022 and ending in FY 2023. Mayor Adams accepted the amendment. Motion passed 4-3 (Esteve, Gardner, Woolfley).
- E. Federal Lobbying Services Mr. Greg Gill, City lobbyist, presented Council a proposal to provide Federal lobbying services on behalf of the City at a rate of \$4,000 a month for six months. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo made a motion to accept the proposal. Councilmember Woolfley seconded the motion. Councilmember Harrison offered a friendly amendment to shorten the test period to 3 months instead of 6 months. Mayor Pro Tem Boafo accepted the amendment. Motion passed 6-1 (Gardner).