

September 24th, 2024

Executive Session

A Closed meeting of the City of Martinsville, Virginia's council, was held on September 24, 2024, at 4 PM in Conference Room 208, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Kathy Lawson, Aaron Rawls, Tammy Pearson, Lawrence Mitchell, and Mayor Jones. Staff present included City Manager, Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides and Deputy City Clerk, Peyton Nibblett.

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:00PM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Council Member Lawson and seconded by Council Member Pearson with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Council Member Pearson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; Council Member Mitchell, aye; and Council Member Lawson, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: Chapter 37—Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3711(A)

- A. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, concerning Board and Commission interviews and a meeting with staff members.
- B. Discussion or consideration of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 3 of § 2.2-3705.6 related to economic development. Proprietary information, voluntarily provided by private business pursuant to a promise of confidentiality from a public body, used by the public body for business, trade, and tourism development or retention; and memoranda, working papers, or other information related to businesses that are considering locating or expanding in Virginia, prepared by a public body, where competition or bargaining is involved and where disclosure of such information would adversely affect the financial interest of the public body.

There being no further business, Councilor Pearson motioned to adjourn and Councilor Lawson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

Regular Session

City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
 - a. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7pm in Council Chambers in the Martinsville Municipal Building on September 24th, 2024.
2. Pledge to the American Flag
 - a. The Pledge to the American Flag was led by Mayor Jones
3. Invocation
 - a. Invocation was led by Bishop Michael Penn
4. Proclamations and Presentations
 - a. Mayor LC Jones Presented a Proclamation Recognizing the Accomplishment of Ayla Nunnehi Gordon - Local Olympic World Champion
5. Consent Agenda
6. Public Hearing
 - A. First Reading: Request for Right of Way Abandonment – 406 James Street
 - a. Presented by Interim Managing Director of Development Eric Payne
7. Regular Agenda or New Business
 - A. Discuss and Consider Solar Site Agreement and Potential Solar Site Ownership
 - a. Presented by Electric Director Durwin Joyce
 - b. Motion to Approve made by Vice Mayor Rawls with addendum to dependent upon staff circling back with any last minute discoveries with a Second by Councilor Lawson
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.
 - B. Discuss and Consider Grant for Sewer and Water Resources Project Funding
 - a. Presented by Director of Water Resources Mandy Muse
 - b. Motion to Approve made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Pearson
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.
 - C. Discuss and Consider Grant for MiNet
 - a. Presented by MiNet Director Mike Saffidi
 - b. Motion to Approve made by Councilor Pearson and Seconded by Councilor Lawson
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.

D. Consider Approval of Minutes

- a. September 10th, 2024; September 18th, 2024
- b. Presented by Deputy Clerk of Council Peyton Nibblett
- c. Motion to Approve made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mitchell
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.

8. Take any action necessary as a result of the Executive Session.

A. Boards and Commissions Applicants, Appointed

Martinsville School Board Appointee

- a. Anthony Jones with a partial term of 6/30/2026
- b. Motion to Approve made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Mitchell
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, opposed; Rawls, opposed; Jones, aye.

Henry-County Martinsville Joint Social Service Board Appointee

- a. Richard Hrris with a term expiration of 6/14/2028
- b. Motion to Approve made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Mitchell
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.

Economic Development Authority Appointee

- a. James Frith with a term expiration of 9/26/2025
- b. Marus Stone reappointment with a term expiration of 9/26/2028
- c. Ronnie Fultz with a term expiration of 9/26/2028
- d. Motion to Approve made by Vice Mayor Rawls and Seconded by Councilor Lawson
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.

Arts and Cultural Committee Appointees

- a. Tony Williams with a term expiration of 6/14/2028
- b. Charles Hill with a term expiration of 6/14/2026
- c. Motion to Approve made by Councilor Pearson and Seconded by Councilor Lawson
 - i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.

Planning Commission Appointee

- a. Damian Wainright with a term expiration of 6/30/2028
- b. Motion to Approve made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mitchell

- i. Approved with the following vote: Mitchell, aye; Lawson, aye; Pearson, aye; Rawls, aye; Jones, aye.

9. Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor

- A. John Mayhan, 755 Forks Road
- B. Rico Johnson, Korna Kitchen – 37 E Main St
- C. Debby Youngman, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – 1527 E Church Street

10. Comments by Members of City Council

11. Communications

- A. City Manager
- B. City Attorney

12. Adjournment

- A. Councilor Lawson made the motion to adjourn at 8:30pm.