



February 25th, 2025 Martinsville City Council Minutes

5:00 pm - Closed, Executive Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

A Closed meeting of the City of Martinsville, Virginia's Council, was held on February 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM in Conference Room 208, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Councilman, Julian Mei; Councilman, Rayshaun Gravely; Councilman, Aaron Rawls, and Mayor Jones. Staff present included City Manager, Aretha Ferrell-Benavides; Assistant to the City Manager, Peyton Nibblett, City Attorney Designee and Interim Managing Director of Development, Eric Payne; Outside Legal Counsel, Jennifer Royer; Chief Operating Officer, Edena Reese-Atmore; Managing Director of Administration, Travis Hodge, and Managing Director of Public Works, Greg Maggard. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:00 PM. 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 Mei with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Council Member Mei, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Gravely, aye; Council Member Rawls, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or, on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter. In relation to Retirees', Baig, and Mook lawsuits.



6:00 pm - Work Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

1. Discuss Consent Agenda Items

- a. Discuss and Consider February 18, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Discuss and Consider Request for Aid To Localities (ATL) Grant Reappropriation
- c. Discuss and Consider Request for 'Four for Life' Grant Reappropriation
- d. Discuss and Consider Resolution Establishing Charter Review Committee
- e. Discuss and Consider FY24 Appropriations

2. Briefings and Presentations

- a. Foothills of the Blue Ridge Outdoor Recreation Plan
 - i. West Piedmont District Planning Commission gave an update on their recent partnering with Destination by Design on the Blue Ridge Outdoor Recreation Plan in order to increase outdoor recreational activity. The project takes into effect City parks, with particular interest in Baldwin Park. Goals is to take local community assets and elevate them to regional standards.
- b. Grant Policy Presentation
 - i. Brief presentation on updates to Grant application and approvals process. Went over the timeline, requesting 21 working days in order to allow for increased Council awareness.

7:00 pm - Regular Session

City Council Chambers, Municipal Building

All Council members were present.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge to the American Flag

3. Invocation

- a. Led by Ophelia Griggs

4. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. Demo List Update and Process
 - i. A Presentation of the up-to-date Demolition List by Building Official and Zoning Administration Kris Bridges, with a comprehensive timeline of demolitions dating back to 2017.



5. Consent Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider February 18, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes
 - i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Gravely.
Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye;
Jones, aye
 - ii. Approved with 5:0 Vote
- b. Discuss and Consider Request for Aid To Localities (ATL) Grant Reappropriation
 - i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Gravely.
Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye;
Jones, aye
 - ii. Approved with 5:0 Vote
- c. Discuss and Consider Request for 'Four for Life' Grant Reappropriation
 - i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Gravely.
Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye;
Jones, aye
 - ii. Approved with 5:0 Vote
- d. Discuss and Consider Resolution Establishing Charter Review Committee
 - i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Gravely
with the amendment to edit the erroneously spelled names to “Teague” and “Bowles”.
Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye;
Jones, aye
 - ii. Approved with 5:0 Vote
- e. Discuss and Consider FY24 Appropriations for School District
- f. **Approved** with a Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Gravely.
Approved with the following roll call vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye;
Jones, aye
- g. Approved with 5:0 Vote

6. Public Hearing

- a. None

7. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. None



8. Actions necessary as a result of the Executive Session
 - A. None
9. City Hall Reporting and Announcements
 - A. Financial Update
 - B. Public Information Officer
10. Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor
 - A. Sharon Carter
 - B. John Mayhan
11. Comments by Members of City Council
12. Communications by City Manager
13. Adjournment