

April 7, 2025

**Martinsville City Council Budget Workshop with School
Board Meeting Minutes**

Special Meeting/Session 6:00 pm

New College Institute, Lecture Hall A

1. Call to Order
 - a. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order beginning at 6:00 PM. City Council members in attendance: Mayor Jones, Vice Mayor Lawson, Councilmember Mei, Councilmember Gravely. Councilman Rawls was absent from the meeting. School Board members in participation were Chairperson Yvonne Givens, Vice Chairperson Michael Williamson, and Board Member Nekia Blackwell.
2. Pledge to American Flag
3. Invocation
 - a. Invocation Led by Dr.Talley
4. Presentations
 - a. Presentation of City Schools' Budget
 - i. Presented by Superintendent Dr. Talley. Mission Statement: Schools create a safe and supportive learning environment that engages students in individualized learning experiences. Budget will be made available on both the City of Martinsville website and City Schools Website.. Capital Improvements, high priority items: roof repair at Clearview, HVAC Replacements, Martinsville High School Boiler, Electric Panels at Druid Hills. Budget Requests: Reading Specialist, Contract Adjustment, Special Education Teachers, Technology Software, HR Software inflation adjustment, Pupil Personnel PD, Board Certified Behavioral Analyst, Social Worker, and EL Teacher (English as a Second Language Teacher). Total Requests: \$570,000. All Martinsville City Public Schools are Accredited. Dr. Talley spoke on the quality of the educators in the schools and the hard-working nature of City School Teachers. MCPS is one of four divisions in the state with SEL universal screening in

place for all grade levels. Albert Harris Elementary School recently was recognized by The Dan River Basin Association for its sensory garden and as a

National Green Yard School. MCPS continues to lead the way in Career and Technical Education (CTE). The Robotics program was also revived earlier in the year at the Martinsville High school Robotics program. Councilman Rawls entered at 6:40 PM. The School Board adjourned at 7 PM upon a motion by Vicechairman Michael Williamson.

b. Revenue Workshop

- i. Led by City Manager, Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides; Edena Reese-Atmore, Chief Operating Officer; and Robert Floyd, Director of Budget and Procurement. Went over the City of Martinsville Organizational Structure beginning with City Council, City Administration, Executive Team, and Directors. Introduced the Budget Development Team and the Budget Process. May to June Adoption Process is the next largest benchmark, followed by Execution. The Budget document is meant to be a policy, plan, guide, and method of communication. May 8th Tax Rate Hearing at 6 PM and 7 PM Budget Ordinance. Must have different meeting times. City Manager addressed budget challenges such as: Aging Infrastructure, Potential Federal Funding Reductions, City-Wide Cost of Living Personnel & Goods and Services, etc. Some Goals for the Budget: Reduction in Tax Rate while allowing for minimum revenue growth, Transition of Health Care to Universal Options, Include Staff Cost of Living Adjustment, etc. Proposed Tax Rate of \$.7792 per \$100 assessed value.

5. Regular Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider First Reading of an Ordinance Adjusting Elderly and Disabled Tax Rate Exemption
 - i. Presented by Commissioner of Revenue, Ruth Easley. The last time an adjustment was made to the relief program was 2006. Proposed

moving to four tiers at 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100%: which would provide a \$35,000 income cap.

- ii. **Approved by a Motion** by Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson to adopt on the first reading and Seconded by Councilman Mei.

6. Adjournment

- a. Mayor Jones made the motion to adjourn at 8 PM.