

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA**

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

MINUTES

5:00 PM

Room 208, Municipal Building

Committee Present: Jennifer Bowles, Andy Hall, Barbara Seymour, Gene Teague

Staff Present: Eric Payne, Kaylin Hernandez, Patricia Hairston, Peyton Nibblett

Absent: Kimble Reynolds

1. Call to Order

2. Regular Agenda or New Business

a) Consideration of the Powers of the City

- Ms. Hernandez presented proposed combined versions of Powers 12–16 and Powers 17–18, which were developed with the assistance of AI.
- The committee reviewed and approved both combinations, confirming that the revisions preserved the original intent while simplifying and consolidating the content for clarity.
- The committee next reviewed and approved AI-suggested revisions to Powers 19–23 and 25–36, with minor adjustments as detailed below:
 - Regarding Power 25, members changed the phrase “to provide care” to “may provide care,” noting that this revision grants the City flexibility in supporting vulnerable individuals and communities.
 - Regarding Power 28 (public health), the committee approved the AI-generated revision but requested that Ms. Seymour draft an alternative version, drawing on her healthcare expertise. Mr. Payne volunteered to assist her offline.
 - Power 29 (property-related) was combined with Power 10, as both addressed similar functions.
 - Powers 30 and 31 were consolidated under a broader “Public Safety” heading, reflecting their shared themes.
 - Powers 33 and 34 (zoning) were approved as revised; however, the committee agreed to revisit this section at a

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later date to ensure consistency with the dedicated zoning provisions in a later chapter of the Charter.

- The committee briefly reviewed Power 37 but noted that the AI-generated revision appeared to omit several key elements from the original text. Due to time constraints, members decided to revisit this power at a future meeting.
- For Power 38 (Housing Authority), the committee agreed to share the revised draft with the Housing Authority for review and input, in keeping with their commitment to seek diverse stakeholder feedback.
- The committee expressed a similar intent for Chapter 6 (Constitutional Officers), emphasizing their goal of incorporating input from affected departments and offices throughout the Charter revision process.

3. Adjournment