

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

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

MINUTES

5:00 PM

Room 208, Municipal Building

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

Staff Present: N/A

Absent: Kimble Reynolds

1. Call to Order

2. Regular Agenda or New Business

a) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 2 (City Council)

- In reviewing § 5(b) (Organization Rules of the Council), the committee agreed that the subsection on boards and commissions should be placed in a separate section. The paragraph transitions to refer to Council duties rather than those of the boards and commissions.
- The committee approved AI-suggested revisions of §§ 6-7, with minor edits to sentence structure for improved readability.
- The committee reviewed and approved the AI-suggested revision to § 8, with a note to consider incorporating the reference from § 5(b) regarding council votes being recorded in the journal. This change would consolidate references to the Clerk and recordkeeping into one comprehensive paragraph.

b) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 3 (Ordinances)

- Ms. Hernandez was tasked with reviewing § 1 to determine whether updates are needed to reflect current state law.
- The committee reviewed and approved the AI-suggested revisions to §§ 2-4, with a recommendation to consider combining § 2(b), § 3(a-b), and § 4 to simplify the language.

c) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 4 (Courts)

- The committee reviewed the AI-suggested revision to § 1 and raised concerns about the clause stating the City may pay a salary to the Judge of the Circuit Court. Members agreed to verify whether this authority is supported by the Code of Virginia and reflected in the City's budget. Ms. Hernandez will research this.

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- The committee reviewed the AI-suggested revision to § 2 and agreed to confirm whether this section is based on state law rather than a specific power of the City. Mr. Hall will review the relevant provisions of the Code of Virginia governing courts.
- d) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 5 (The City Manager)
 - The committee reviewed and approved the AI-suggested revisions to §§ 1 and 2(a) and will continue § 2 at the next meeting.

3. Adjournment