

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

Wednesday, July 30, 2025

MINUTES

5:00 PM

Room 208, Municipal Building

Committee Present: Jennifer Bowles, Barbara Seymour, Gene Teague

Staff Present: Kaylin Hernandez

Absent: Andy Hall, Kimble Reynolds

1. Call to Order

2. Regular Agenda or New Business

a) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 9 (Zoning)

- Committee members approved AI-recommended revisions to § 1 (a-g), with minor edits to remove a sentence from § 1(d) and combining § 1(e & g) for concision and organization.
- The committee agreed to revisit references to of inflammable buildings and City Council zoning powers, as mentioned in Chapter 1, to determine whether they should be incorporated into Chapter 9 for organizational consistency.

b) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 10 (Schools)

- Committee members approved the AI-recommended revision to § 1.
- Members questioned whether there should be a general provision regarding the City Council's authority to appoint and remove members of any City board, as this is not addressed in Chapter 10. They intend to seek direction from Council.

c) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 11 (Bond Issue)

- Committee members approved the AI-recommended revisions to §§ 1-6.
 - For § 3, members proposed adding the statement, "All issuance of bonds by City Council must follow the law of the Commonwealth of Virginia," to align the Charter with the applicable state code.
 - For § 6, members desired to mirror state language and see if the added language in the Charter is necessary.

d) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 12 (Budget, Accounting and Audit)

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- Committee members approved the AI-recommended revisions to §§ 1-3, with minor edits to remove the deadline of July 1, 1950, as it is no longer relevant.
 - Members desired to seek City Council opinion on § 3, specifically regarding the dollar amount threshold for establishing a trust fund and the mention of 2/3rds majority.
 - Members recommend revising the language to give Council the ability to establish a trust for any asset amount and changing “approval by two-thirds” to either “four-fifths” or “supermajority,” but discussion with City Council is necessary.
- e) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 13 (General Provisions)
- Committee members approved the AI-recommended revision to § 1 but noted that they would like to see this section in the chapter on City Officers.
 - Committee members approved the AI-recommended revisions to §§ 2-5.
 - Regarding § 6, members desired to seek Sheriff Draper’s opinion on the language specifying working prisoners. They needed clarification on the section’s meaning to avoid misinterpretation.
 - Committee members approved the AI-recommended revision to § 7, changing the original language, “fine of not less than five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each offense” to “fined up to one hundred dollars (\$100) per offense.”
 - Regarding § 8, members chose to keep the original language but expressed confusion about the ordering of the process. Ms. Seymour would like to seek Council clarification to help mitigate against any confusion from the general public.
- f) Consideration of Language Revision, Chapter 14 (Authorization)
- Committee members chose to remove § 1 which mentions adherence to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Act.
 - Members chose to move §§ 2-3 in the chapter on City Council, as it is more fitting in that section.
- g) Discussion of Next Steps
- With the committee’s first full review of the Charter complete, Mr. Teague would like to revisit previously flagged sections and review the grouping of paragraphs for organization and readability.
 - Members agreed to divide the sections among themselves and seek feedback from City Council, departments, and constitutional officers to support the next phase of the revision process.

3. Adjournment