

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

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

MINUTES

5:00 PM

Room 208, Municipal Building

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

Staff Present: Kaylin Hernandez

Absent: Kimble Reynolds

1. Call to Order

2. Regular Agenda or New Business

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes, 4/3/25 through 7/30/25

- Present committee members formally reviewed all minutes to date.
- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Teague, seconded by Ms. Seymour, and approved with a 4-0 vote.

b) Review of Charter Language Revisions

- Committee members reviewed the compiled language revisions alongside the original Charter text, as formatted in a Word Document. Ms. Hernandez distributed printed copies of the document to all members present.
- In reviewing notes from previous meetings, members discussed and agreed to the following updates and decisions:
 - Rephrased a sentence in Chapter 1, § 2(2) for clarity.
 - Recommended the use of subheadings to further organize content in Chapter 1, § 2(12–16). Members noted that additional discussion on general organization is needed.
 - Separated a long paragraph in Chapter 1, § 2(22) into smaller, more readable parts.
 - Agreed to request clarification from City Council regarding language on articles for human consumption in Chapter 1, § 2(24).
 - Approved use of “may” instead of “to” in Chapter 1, § 2(25) to reflect permissive authority.
 - Agreed to revisit language revisions for the Housing Authority power in Chapter 1, § 2(38). Suggestions will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Approved revised language in Chapter 2, § 2 to reference the Code of Virginia regarding special elections for City Council.

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- Added the phrase “prior to January 1” at the end of Chapter 2, § 5 to reflect recent changes to oath of office procedures.
- Chose to retain the word “shall” in Chapter 3, § 1, rather than mirror State language, in light of 2024 legislative revisions.
- Approved the consolidation of § 2(a–i) in Chapter 5 into a unified paragraph for clarity.
- Approved the relocation of constitutional officer references from Chapter 6 into a newly created chapter titled “Constitutional Officers”, to better distinguish their roles from other City officers.

3. Adjournment