



September 16, 2025
Martinsville City Council
Meeting Minutes

5:00pm, Call Open Session to Order -

Martinsville Municipal Building; Council Chambers

A Closed-Session Meeting was held at Martinsville Municipal Building, on September 16, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Aaron Rawls; Rayshuan Gravely, and Mayor, LC Jones.

Councilman Mei entered at 5:05 PM.

Call Open Session to Order: Mayor Jones called the meeting to order in Council Chambers and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:00 PM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Council Member Lawson and seconded by Council Member Rawls with the following 4-0 recorded vote:

Council Member Rawls, aye;
Council Member Gravely, aye;
Mayor Jones, aye;
Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;



Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. 2.2-3711. (A7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. In regards to the Retirees Litigation.
- b. 2.2-3711. (A6) Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. In relation to Martinsville YMCA.

5:00 PM, Closed Session -

Martinsville Municipal Building; Room 226

Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. 2.2-3711. (A7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. In regards to the Retirees Litigation.
- b. 2.2-3711. (A6) Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. In relation to Martinsville YMCA.



6 PM, Return to Open Session and Certification of Closed Session -

Martinsville Municipal Building; Council Chambers

With a Motion by Lawson and Second by Mei, City Council certifies that only those matters permitted by the Code of Virginia Sec. 2.2-3711 and specifically referenced in the motion to enter closed session were discussed during the closed session. Approved with the following 5-0 vote:

Councilman Rawls, aye;
Councilman Gravely, aye;
Councilman Mei, aye;
Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
Mayor Jones, aye.

Martinsville City Council certifies that only business matters under the following were discussed:

- c. 2.2-3711. (A7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. In regards to the Retirees Litigation.
- d. 2.2-3711. (A6) Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected. In relation to Martinsville YMCA.



6 PM Work Session

Martinsville Municipal Building; Council Chambers

Council Members Present: Rawls, Gravely, Mei, Lawson, Jones.

1. Briefings and Presentations

a. Public Works Departmental Update

- i. State of Good Repair is a VDOT funded program where they have been able to create ADA repairs as well as paving projects.
- ii. SeeClickFix is working well for the Public Works Department. Closing out 2-3 a day, have closed out 110. Spoke on the importance of reporting and how this system has allowed for Public Works to track and swiftly handle issues as they come back.
- iii. Implemented Uptown Lighting Changes
- iv. Completed Over 100 Tons of Roadway Patches
- v. Upcoming Projects
 1. Liberty St Paving is out to bid and a contractor has been secured. Now working on Liberty St within next week. To be completed by October.
 2. 2026 Spring Paving
 - a. Bid Opening in Early October 2025 and Completion Date of October 2026.
 - b. Roads are chosen by reported potholes, SeeClickFix reporting is used as part of this process
 3. City-Wide Line Striping Project
 - a. Bid Opening Early October 2025 and Completing within the year.
 4. Fall Crack Filling
- vi. Refuse Collection
 1. Service over 5500 Customers Weekly
 2. Operate 4 Collection Trucks
 3. Manage over 300 Accounts
 4. 8 Full-Time Employees



5. Accomplishments

- a. Revised Refuse Code
- b. Swift Completion of SeeClickFix tickets
- c. 8 New Commercial Accounts

6. Park Maintenance

- a. New Pavilion at Wilson Park
- b. Successful Hooker Field and Southside Park Seasons
 - i. Southside Park
 - 1. Super Successful Baseball Season with every field being used
- c. Administered 40 Park Rental Permits
- d. Fitness Park at Baldwin Park is complete
 - i. Basketball park being considered

7. Fleet Maintenance

- a. 158 Light Trucks and Cars Maintained (including Police)
- b. Maintain 32 School Busses
- c. Provide Heavy Equipment Maintenance to over 40 pieces
- d. Maintain 4 Fire Trucks
- e. Provide Backup Snow Removal
- f. 8 Full-Time Employees

8. Moving the Bus Garage

- a. Working with the Schools to determine next steps

b. Water Resources Departmental Update

- i. Recently Completed
 - 1. Jones Creek Interceptor Project
 - a. 5,000 linear feet of 24-inch and 36-inch sewer line
 - b. Reduced inflow and infiltration and improved right of way access



ii. In Progress

1. Burgess Street Waterline Replacement Project
 - a. Upsized the line to allow fire protection to be added on the street
 - b. Construction completed in house
 - c. In progress - completion in October
2. Commonwealth Waterline Extension
 - a. 80% complete, will be complete in the next two weeks
3. Doe Run, Smith Lake Road, and Industrial Park Sewer Improvement Project
 - a. 6,674 linear feet of sewer rehab and replacement
 - b. Extends useful life of these collectors

iii. Upcoming

1. Asset Management Plan Completed
 - a. Several projects to be assessed and next steps to be determined in regards to funding and replacement

iv. Staffing

1. 5% per year increase in personnel for Water Resources

v. Revenue Needs

1. 5% per year increase to fund asset renewal needs and revenue increase of 5% per year for Water and 10% per year for Waste Water.

2. Discuss Consent Agenda Items

- a. Discuss and Consider August 26, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. Discuss and Consider Setting a Date for Interviews of Potential Board Appointments for Economic Development Authority
- c. Discuss and Consider Setting a Date for Precinct 5 Community Meeting
- d. Discuss and Consider Extending Charter Review Committee Terms to 12/31/2025



City Council took a brief recess at 6:40 until regular session began at 7 pm.

7 PM Regular Session

Martinsville Municipal Building; Council Chambers

Council Members Present: Rawls, Gravely, Mei, Lawson, Jones.

1. Call to Order
 - a. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order beginning at 7PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Invocation
 - a. Led by Pastor Avery Preston
4. Action Taken Out of Closed Session
 - a. Motion to approve Settlement Agreement as presented by legal counsel in regards to Retirement Litigation and Authorize the City Manager to sign made by Kathy Lawson and second by Julian Mei.
 - b. Approved with the following 4-1 recorded vote:
 - i. Council Member Rawls, no;
 - ii. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - iii. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - iv. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - v. Council Member Gravely, aye.
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Discuss and Consider August 26, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - b. Discuss and Consider Setting a Date for Interviews of Potential Board Appointments for Economic Development Authority
 - i. October 14th City Council Meeting at 5pm
 - c. Discuss and Consider Setting a Date for Precinct 5 Community Meeting
 - i. October 27 for Precinct 5, School Board Office
 - 5pm Tour, 6pm Start



- ii. November 17 for Precinct 6, Albert Harris
 - 5pm Tour, 6pm Start
- d. Discuss and Consider Extending Charter Review Committee Terms to 12/31/2025
 - i. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely.
 - ii. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.

6. Presentations and Proclamations

- a. Proclamation Honoring Week of September 17th - September 23rd as Constitution Week
 - i. Presented to History Teacher, Ms. Beverly Woody and Jade Holland Dallas, her History Student
 - ii. Ms. Jade Holland Dallas recited the preamble of the Constitution from memory
- b. Proclamation Honoring Week of September 18 through 22 as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week
 - i. Presented to Ms. Lealice Hagwood and both Pelzeta Perry & Alice Martin, Teachers in the program
- c. Proclamation Honoring September as National Recovery Month
 - i. Presented to Ariel Johnson and the Harm Reduction Center



- d. Update from Martinsville Blue Ridge Library
 - i. Update from Interim Blue Ridge Library Director, Melissa Chapman
 - Services include
 - a. Stellar customer service
 - b. Privacy pod for virtual meeting
 - c. Workspaces
 - d. Coffee Bar
 - e. Reading Roulette
 - f. Parent-Child Workstation
 - g. Books
 - h. DVDS
 - i. Audiobooks
 - j. Databases
 - k. Newspapers
 - l. Toys
 - m. Charging Stations
 - n. YMCA Day Passes
 - o. Computers for in-library use
 - p. Public Wifi
 - q. Literacy backpacks
 - r. Nature Backpacks
 - s. Magazines
 - t. Puzzles
 - u. Printing
 - v. Interlibrary Loan
 - w. VMNH Day Passes
 - Programming Includes
 - a. Kindness Rocks
 - b. Storytime
 - c. Movies
 - d. STEAM Club
 - e. Chair Exercises
 - f. Craft Classes
 - g. Books and Brews
 - h. Silent Reading Hour



- i. Movie Matinee
- j. Book Bingo
- k. Spring Book Bingo
- l. Keychain Class
- m. Summer Reading
- n. Saturday
- o. Board Game Day
- p. Harry Potter Day
- q. Cat Castles

e. Davenport Presentation

i. Financing Options Comparison

- On behalf of the City, Davenport distributed an RFP for a Direct Bank Loan with options for 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30-Year terms in an amount up to 2,600,000 to fund the purchase of a new substation transformer and related equipment as well as the related issuance costs.
- City Received Seven Proposals for Financing
 - a. Atlantic Union
 - b. Blue Ridge Bank
 - c. Capita One
 - d. Carter Bank
 - e. First Bank and Trust
 - f. Huntington Public Capital
 - g. Webster
- Davenport also reached out to Virginia Resources Authority (VRA), as VRA is known for their lower rates and flexible terms. Interest rates are down as of September 16, 2025. Rates projected at 3% for 10, 3.66% for a 15-year, 4.14% for a 20-year, 4.44% for a 25-year, and 4.62% for a 30 year term.
- Resolution allows that the term of the debt not to exceed 30 years, but with a provision to shorten. Not to exceed interest of 5.5% and not to exceed an amount of \$3,000,000.



7. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. Hold a Public Hearing concerning the intent of Martinsville City Council to authorize the issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Electric Utility Revenue Bonds for the purpose of financing improvements to the City's Electric Utility Facilities and Discuss and Consider Adoption of Resolution Approving Electric Utility System General Obligation and Revenue Bond to be Sold to the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA)

- i. Motion to Open Public Hearing made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Rawls.

1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:

- a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.

- ii. Motion to Close Public Hearing made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely.

1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:

- a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.

- iii. Motion to Approve Resolution Approving Electric Utility System General Obligation and Revenue Bond to be Sold to the Virginia Resources Authority made by Julian Mei and Second by Vice Mayor Lawson.

1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:

- a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.



- b. Hold a Public Hearing for Citizen Input of City and United Way Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) Application and Subsequently Discuss and Consider Approval of Request to Apply
 - i. Motion to Open Public Hearing made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - 1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.
 - ii. Motion to Close Public Hearing made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - 1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.
 - iii. All United Way needed was to have the Public Hearing for Citizen Input.
- c. Discuss and Consider a request from West Piedmont Planning District Commission for the Martinsville Redevelopment & Housing Authority to transfer ownership of the property located at 922 Boden Street to WPPDC for the purpose of developing the property into a single-family three bedroom home
 - i. Presented by WPPDC with the intention to use the Housing Construction to begin 60 days after approval. The contractor has been selected.
 - ii. Motion to Recess as Council and Convene as Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - 1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;



- c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.
- iii. Motion to Approve Request and transfer the property for the purpose of building a single family home made by Julian Mei and Second by Vice Chairwoman Lawson.
 - 1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Committee Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Committee Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Chairman Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Chairwoman Lawson, aye;
 - e. Committee Member Gravely, aye.
- iv. Motion to Recess as Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Reconvene as Martinsville City Council made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - 1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.



- d. Discuss and Consider A Resolution Adopting PPEA Guidelines and Standards
 - i. Allows for revenue sharing arrangements, cost-sharing arrangements to be made in the RFP process. This allows for the acceptance of a proposal of a project looking to partner with the City. Adds increased flexibility. Guidelines provided by Legal Counsel will reflect neighboring localities and are fairly standard.
 - ii. Motion to Approve Resolution and Adopt PPEA Guidelines and Standards made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Rawls.
 - iii. Motion to Amend the Motion on the Table made by Councilman Rawls. Retracted by Councilman Rawls.
 - iv. Motion to Approve Resolution and Adopt PPEA Guidelines and Standards made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Rawls.
 - 1. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Council Member Rawls, aye;
 - b. Council Member Mei, aye;
 - c. Mayor Jones, aye;
 - d. Council Member Lawson, aye;
 - e. Council Member Gravely, aye.

City Hall Reporting and Announcements

A. ARPA Report

- a. City received \$15,463,451 in ARPA funding. We have obligated the full amount in accordance with Treasury guidelines. After utilizing the Revenue Loss option, we still have \$2, 153, 752.02 to internally allocate towards unfinished ARPA projects and/or to address capital needs. Capital Committee will be working toward determining Capital Needs and findings will be brought back to Council.



B. Events and Announcements

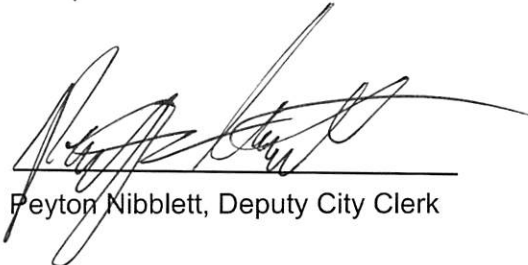
Business From the Floor

Adjournment

- a. Vice Mayor Lawson made the motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

 10-24-25

LC Jones, Mayor



Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk