



September 23, 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 New College Institute on September 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Julian Mei, Aaron Rawls; Rayshuan Gravely, and Mayor, LC Jones. Councilman Gravely entered at 5:15 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 Mei with the following 4-0 recorded vote:

Council Member Rawls, aye;

Council Member Mei, aye;

Mayor Jones, aye;

Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;

Council Member Gravely entered after the vote.

Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. 2.2-3711 (A8) In regards to Baldwin Building status. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.



5:25 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:

- a. 2.2-3711 (A8) In regards to Baldwin Building status. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

5:25 PM, Closed Session -

Martinsville Municipal Building; Room 208

Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Julian Mei, Aaron Rawls; Rayshuan Gravely, and Mayor, LC Jones. Economic Development Authority Members present included Olivia Garrett, Marcus Stone, Jim Frith, Ronnie Fultz, and Eric Phillips. Interim City Manager Robert Fincher, Legal Counsel at Sands Anderson, and Eric Payne, EDA Executive Director, were also presented.



Council and the Economic Development Authority convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. 2.2-3711 (A1) In regard to EDA Executive Director Memorandum of Understanding and discussion of EDA Board Application Process. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.
- b. 2.2-3711 (A5) In regards to a prospective business and the National Guard Armory. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.
- c. 2.2-3711 (A6) In regard to Competitive Grant Process and Discussion Concerning Grant Application Specifics. In regard to EDA Executive Director MOU. Additionally, with regard to possible acquisition of properties including but not limited to the Martinsville YMCA. 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.
- d. 2.2-3711 (A3) In regard to discussion concerning potential building acquisition(s) including, but not limited to, the Martinsville YMCA. and CPEG MOU. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.
- e. 2.2-3711 (A29) In regard to Armory RFP and Retail Strategies Engagement. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.



6:50 PM, Return to Open Session and Certification of Closed Session -
Martinsville Municipal Building; Council Chambers

With a Motion by Lawson and Second by Mei, and a Motion by Stone and Second by Frith, City Council and the EDA 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 10-0 vote:

COUNCIL

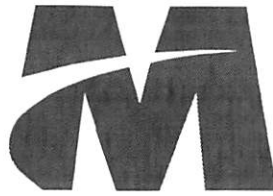
Councilman Rawls, aye;
Councilman Gravely, aye;
Councilman Mei, aye;
Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
Mayor Jones, aye.

EDA

Marcus Stone, aye;
Olivia Garrett, aye;
Ronnie Fultz, aye;
Jim Frith, aye;
Eric Phillips, aye.

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

- a. 2.2-3711 (A1) In regards to EDA Executive Director Memorandum of Understanding and discussion of EDA Board Application Process. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.



- b. 2.2-3711 (A5) In regards to a prospective business and the National Guard Armory. Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.
- c. 2.2-3711 (A6) In regard to Competitive Grant Process and Discussion Concerning Grant Application Specifics. In regard to EDA Executive Director MOU. Additionally, with regard to possible acquisition of properties including but not limited to the Martinsville YMCA. 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.
- d. 2.2-3711 (A3) In regard to discussion concerning potential building acquisition(s) including, but not limited to, the Martinsville YMCA and CPEG MOU. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.
- e. 2.2-3711 (A29) In regard to Armory RFP and Retail Strategies Engagement. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

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. Item from Closed Session will be presented and taken up on October 14th City Council Meeting
5. Presentations and Proclamations
 - a. Presentation by Joe Borgstrom was cancelled.
 - b. Transportation Safety Committee Update
 - i. Given by Chairman Douglas Sharpe
6. Consent Agenda
 - a. None was presented.
7. Regular Agenda or New Business
 - A. Presentation from Joey Arrington and Danny Turner "Virginia 250 Dodge Charger" & Discuss and Consider Approval of Sponsorship Match
 - a. Presented to the 250 Commission and Tobacco Commission has provided a match. Partnering with the MHC Historical Society, as the fiscal agent. The car project aims to highlight Southside Martinsville, has \$3,000 in funding from VA Commission, \$5,000 in funding from Henry County, \$5,000 in funding from Tobacco Commission, and \$10,000 from various businesses. Now seeking support from the City of Martinsville in the form of \$5,000 as a match with the County.
 - b. Motion by Julian Mei to contribute \$5,000 to the Virginia 2050 Car Project and Second by Kathy Lawson.
 - i. Approved with the following 5-0 vote:
 1. Councilman Rawls, aye;
 2. Councilman Gravely, aye;
 3. Councilman Mei, aye;
 4. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 5. Mayor Jones, aye.



- ii. City Manager Rob Flincher mentioned money in Community Engagement was set aside in the event supportive action was taken by Council.

B. Hold Public Hearing for Land Conveyance of 1020 E. Church St. as requested by Broadway 400 LLC and Discuss and Consider Approval of Conveyance

- a. Motion from Vice Mayor Lawson to open Public Hearing, Seconded by Councilman Gravely.

- i. Approved with the following 5-0 vote:

- 1. Councilman Rawls, aye;
 - 2. Councilman Gravely, aye;
 - 3. Councilman Mei, aye;
 - 4. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - 5. Mayor Jones, aye.

- b. Motion from Vice Mayor Lawson to close Public Hearing, Seconded by Councilman Gravely.

- i. Approved with the following 5-0 vote:

- 1. Councilman Rawls, aye;
 - 2. Councilman Gravely, aye;
 - 3. Councilman Mei, aye;
 - 4. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - 5. Mayor Jones, aye.

- c. Motion from Vice Mayor Lawson to approve resolution to convey 1020 E. Church St for the sum of \$1, Seconded by Councilman Mei.

- i. Approved with the following 5-0 vote:

- 1. Councilman Rawls, aye;
 - 2. Councilman Gravely, aye;
 - 3. Councilman Mei, aye;
 - 4. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - 5. Mayor Jones, aye.



C. Discuss and Consider a Resolution Formally Creating the Youth Advisory Committee

a. Motion from Vice Mayor Lawson to adopt Resolution and Formalize the Creation of the Youth Advisory Committee, Seconded by Councilman Mei.

i. Approved with the following 5-0 vote:

1. Councilman Rawls, aye;
2. Councilman Gravely, aye;
3. Councilman Mei, aye;
4. Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
5. Mayor Jones, aye.

City Hall Reporting and Announcements

A. News and Events

Business From the Floor

- a. Ural Harris
- b. Patti Covington
- c. Sylvia Dupre

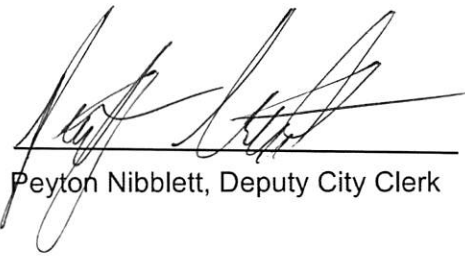
Adjournment

a. Mayor Jones made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM.



 10-24-25

LC Jones, Mayor



Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk