



March 25, 2025
Martinsville City Council Meeting Minutes

5:00 pm - Closed, Executive Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

All members were in attendance.

A Closed meeting of the City of Martinsville, Virginia's Council, was held on March 25th, 2025, at 5:00 PM in Room 208, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Councilman, Julian Mei; Councilman, Rayshaun Gravely; Councilman, Aaron Rawls, and Mayor Jones. Staff present included City Manager, Aretha Ferrell-Benavides; Assistant to the City Manager, Peyton Nibblett; Interim Managing Director of Development, Eric Payne; Managing Director of Public Works, Greg Maggard; and Water Resources Director, Mandy Muse. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order 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 Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Gravely with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Councilman Mei, Aye; Councilman Rawls, aye; Councilman Gravely, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.

Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. 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. Discussion of possible Commonwealth Boulevard Waterline Extension.
- b. 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. Discussion concerning Possible Commonwealth Boulevard Waterline Extension.
- c. 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. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against
- d. a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is



- e. in attendance or is consulted on a matter. Discussion concerning relocation options.

Certification of Closed Session

At 6PM, Vice Mayor Lawson motioned to adjourn the closed session and seconded by Councilor Mei that the City Council certify that only those matters permitted by the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 were discussed and specifically referenced in the motion to enter closed session were discussed during the closed session. Carried 5-0-0 by roll call vote: Ayes: Councilman Gravely, Councilman Mei, Councilman Rawls, Vice Mayor Lawson, Mayor Jones.

6:00 PM - Work Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

All members were in attendance.

1. Briefings and Presentations
 - a. Comprehensive Plan Kick-Off by the Berkley Group
2. Discuss Consent Agenda Items
 - a. Discuss and Consider Approval of March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM - Regular Session

Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building

3. Call to Order
4. Pledge to American Flag
5. Invocation
 - a. Reverend Hagwood
6. Presentations and Proclamations
 - a. Proclamation Honoring Martinsville Middle School Boys' Basketball Team on Championship Win
 - b. Proclamation Honoring Martinsville Middle School Girls' Basketball Team on Championship Win
 - c. Proclamation Honoring Martinsville High School Swim Team's State Champion



- d. Proclamation Honoring April as being Child Abuse Prevention Month
 - i. Presented to CASA Director
- e. First Quarter Community Voice Survey Presentation
 - i. Briefing of Community Voice Survey launched earlier in the year, gave updates on City alignment with Community Values and priorities.

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider Approval of March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - i. Consent Agenda Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Gravely. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.

8. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. Discuss and Consider Approval of Revenue Loss Designation of ARPA Funds
 - i. Presented by Chief Operating Officer, Edena Reese-Atmore. City Council considered redesignating approved ARPA projects as Revenue Loss Replacements to facilitate project completions and reporting requirements to the Treasury. Staff will complete the compliance reporting to the Treasury. Allows for the safe and timely completion of projects.
 - ii. Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Gravely. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.



- b. Discuss and Consider Budget Calendar
 - i. Presented by Budget Administrator, Robert Floyd. An overview of the Budget Calendar to date.
- c. Discuss and Consider Adopting a Reimbursement Resolution for Financing of Capital Equipment Replacement Expenditure
 - i. Presented by Chief Operating Officer, Edena Reese-Atmore. Council considered approving a reimbursement resolution to reimburse itself from the tax-exempt financing process. May 8th is anticipated to be the closing date for the transfer of financing process. The financing funds will be used to reimburse the city for purchases of the listed equipment.
 - ii. Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Mei. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.
- d. Discuss and Consider Appropriation of funds for 2025 Reassessment Consulting Services- Commissioner of Revenue
 - i. Presented by Robert Floyd, Director of Budget and Procurement, incomplete project requiring the appropriation of current funds to pay out the remaining contract.
 - ii. Approved with a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and seconded by Councilman Mei. The motion passed unanimously with a 5-0-0 vote. Councilor Mei, aye; Councilor Gravely, aye; Councilor Rawls, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye.



- e. Discuss and Consider Approval of Resolution Requesting for Joint Application to Opioid Abatement Authority Application to use Individual DIstribution and/or gold standard funds to support a kinship navigator serving City of Martinsville and Henry County
 - i. Presented by Amy Rice Director of the Department of Social Services and Eric Payne, Interim Managing Director of Development. HMDSS requests an Opioid Abatement funding consideration for a Kinship Navigator. Staff to research the prior commitment to funding Drug Court before committing to funds.
 - ii. Tabled until April 1, 2025 to allow staff to gather more information.
 - f. Discuss and Consider, Briefing on an ordinance amending Martinsville City Code, to amend exemptions for real property taxes.
 - i. Presented by Assistant to the City Manager & Deputy City Clerk, Peyton Nibblett and City Manager, Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides. Presentation included options to assist seniors and elderly with real estate tax burden that will be brought back at the next meeting.
9. Take any action necessary as a result of the Executive session.
10. City Hall Reporting and Announcements
- a. Human Resources Update
 - i. Presented by Travis Hodge, Managing Director of Administration. City of Martinsville Human Resources Overview of Mission, Team, Key Services, and Demographics.
 - b. Finance Update
 - i. Given by Edena Reese-Atmore, Chief Operating Officer. Overview of General Fund, Sales Tax, Major Enterprise Funds (Electric, Water & Sewer, Telcom & MiNet, Refuse Fund)
 - c. Public Information Update



11. Business From the Floor
 - a. Caleb Robertson
 - b. Jean Hairston
 - c. Charisse Hariston
 - d. Jerelle Carter
 - e. Johnny Robertson
 - f. Rico Johnson
12. Comments by Members of Council
13. Comments by City Manager
14. Adjournment
 - a. Mayor Jones made the motion to adjourn at 9:30 PM.