



October 28, 2025
Martinsville City Council
Meeting Minutes

5:00pm, Work Session

Martinsville Municipal Building; Council Chambers

A Work Session Meeting was held at Martinsville Municipal Building, on September 16, 2025 at 5:00 PM. The topic of discussion was the Comprehensive Plan, and the meeting was held jointly with the Berkley Group.

Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Julian Mei; Rayshuan Gravely, and Mayor, LC Jones. Council Member Aaron Rawls entered at 5:10 PM.

Committee Members participating included Joe Martin, Jonathan Martin, and William Pearson. Members absent were DeShanta Hairston, Nelson Evans, Brandon Martin, and Riggs Roberson.

Topics of Discussion

- Community Profile
- 5 Chapters of the City's ongoing Comprehensive Plan
 - Natural Environment
 - Strengthen City Resilience
 - Preserve Historic, Cultural, and Artistic Resources
 - Direct Development and Infrastructure away from ecological cores, floodplains, wetlands, and environmentally sensitive areas.
 - Amend Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to integrate green infrastructure principles and stronger protections for the City's existing tree canopy.



- Continue to participate in total maximum daily load implementation plans for impaired waterways.
- Periodically review landscaping regulations and update as needed to encourage planting of native species, prohibit planting of invasive species, and encourage other related best practices.
- Maintain both Tree City USA and Bee City USA designations.
- Review the Floodplain Ordinance to incorporate best practices and code of Virginia requirements. Codify floodplain management requirements in Zoning Ordinance
- Expand tree planting initiatives and aim to reduce urban heat.
- Provide education and outreach materials.
- Continue to meet or exceed national air quality standards.
- Consider amendments to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to further encourage installation of solar panels on brownfield sites and existing impervious surfaces, such as rooftops and parking lots.
- Community Health and Wellness
 - Encourage Healthy Lifestyles
 - Increase Access to Local Health Care
 - Strengthen Martinsville's Health and Safety Services
 - Identify regional stakeholders
 - Work with City Schools to incorporate locally grown foods into school meals and snacks
 - Leverage underutilized City-owned property to expand community health opportunities by converting vacant lots and brownfields into parks, community gardens, enhancing sidewalks, and multi-use paths for safe connectivity.
 - Host community-wide physical activity campaigns. Engage a variety of organizations in a highly visible, motivating, and multi-component effort to increase physical activity.



- Encourage City employees wellness incentives program that provides financial rewards.
- Work with regional and local providers to expand OB/GYN pediatric, and specialty care
- Support expansion of mobile clinics, satellite offices, and virtual appointments by providing space on City-owned property
- Work with City Schools to explore primary care for students and families at schools.
- Encourage PHCC and NCI to expand medical training programs.
- Work with local and regional organizations to provide a women's recovery housing program in Martinsville.
- Partner with VDH and other regional organizations to identify community health needs.
- Implement Martinsville-Henry Opioid Settlement Strategic Plan
- Invest in recruitment and retention initiatives for public safety and social services
- Conduct a strategic planning process to identify and provide for facility and capital improvement needs for public safety agencies.
- Improve collaboration between Department of Social Services
- Infrastructure
 - Modernize Parks and Recreation Infrastructure
 - Development Ready Infrastructure
 - Commit to partnerships that ensure excellent educational resources and opportunities for the City's Youth
 - Work with YMCA to expand programming options



- Expand recreational programming, festivals, and events that activate parks as Third Spaces, while engaging volunteers, local business, and nonprofits
- Continue efforts toward Amphitheater and outdoor event space
- Fund Capital improvement projects currently identified
- Invest in utility upgrades and MiNet
- Continue efforts to modernize City Hall and Courts
- Continue to provide Financial support to Martinsville Public Schools
- Continue to support Blue Ridge Regional Library
- Establish regular coordination meetings, shared communication tools, clear project tracking and reporting procedures to enhance collaboration
- Vibrant Social media presence with regular announcements
- Establish Citizens' Academy to educate residents on City functions and governance
- Continue to invest in City's Youth Programs and support City's YAC
- Economic and Workforce Development
 - Diversify Martinsville's Economic Base
 - Grow City-administered grant and or micro-loan programs through dedicated funding sources and expanded marketing
 - Create technical assistance workshops
 - Work with property owners and the Martinsville-Henry county EDA, EDC,
 - Strengthen influence of the EDA by expanding its decision-making capacity and use of financing tools
 - Prioritize Code enforcement, facade improvement grants, and small-scale redevelopment incentives
 - In the absence of robust state or federal programs to attract lodging and hospitality-oriented uses



- Formalize regular roundtables between City and County Leaders, Martinsville and Henry County public Schools, PHCC, NCI and local employers to align curricula with emerging industry needs
 - Partner with Piedmont Area Regional Transit to evaluate expanding bus routes
 - Celebrate resident success stories through newsletters and social media
 - Launch an annual event or campaign to highlight training programs, job fairs, and education opportunities
 - Continue partnering with regional and state partners to recruit new businesses
 - Collaborate with Henry County to align strategies for industrial site readiness, housing, and workforce initiatives to ensure regional growth
 - Continue working with regional and state agencies to market Martinsville for appropriate industries that complement the industrial focus in Henry County.
- Submit all remaining Comments from Worksession to City Staff by November 14, 2025
- Plan Policy Discussion

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 Elder Earnest Long
4. Presentations and Proclamations
- a. Proclamation Honoring November 1, 2025 as Extra Mile Day
 - i. Presented to Regina Jones for her volunteerism in the Martinsville-Henry County Area
 - b. Proclamation Honoring October as National Anti-Bullying Month Presented to Martinsville High School Student Council and Lori Haskew, Faculty Advisor
 - c. Update from City Schools
 - i. Dr. Talley and Mr. Clemmons from School Administration came to present to Martinsville City Council.
 - Family Nights open to the public
 - Middle School Students writing a newspaper column with the Henry County Enterprise
 - New Student Challenge created to combat absenteeism
 - Teacher recognition at a high
 - Fresh fruits and vegetables in school lunches
 - Robotics programs back in Schools and off to a great restart – Martinsville Maddogs, Student Built Robotics Program
 - Currently facing a deficit of 1.47 million dollar deficit, have taken steps to alleviate this, leaving a deficit of around 286,000.
 - a. 3 major Capital Projects totaling 244, 025.
 - Need for revamping teacher salary scales
 - a. May be able to do joint with City's Compensation Study
 - Health Insurance was a concern
 - Joint Parks and Recreation Manager
 - a. Joint with Schools and City
 - Carryover Funds were brought up, Schools would like for City Council to allow for Schools to just carry over



the funds rather than frequently having to request from City Council.

- d. MiNet and Information Services Department Update
 - i. Presented by CTO Jared Pruett
 - ii. MiNet is our City owned and operated internet services provider. Allows the City to offer affordable, community-based internet and telephone services. Great speeds at affordable prices with an easy to reach customer service network. Reaches Residential and Commercial.
 - iii. Seek to deliver affordable, high-speed fiber broadband internet and telephone services.
 - iv. Offer support for economic development, residents, and businesses.
 - v. MIS – Martinsville Information Systems
 - Provides IT Support
 - MiNet Providers
 - vi. Provides
 - Helpdesk and Troubleshoot
 - Network and Server Management
 - Cybersecurity and Data Protection
 - Application Support
 - Managed Services for City Operations
 - vii. Completed Projects
 - Ticketing SYstem
 - WIndows 11 Upgrades
 - 0365 to M365
 - Reduction in Servers
 - a. Retired outdated software systems and saves on power and maintenance costs
 - Managed Services Provider
 - Reduction in 3rd Party Platforms
 - Scanning into EERP
 - Enhanced Employee Communication
 - MUNIS - EERP Training



- a. Created onsite training for City employees
 - ARC and SLCGP Grants Received
 - Migrated Billing to Utility Billing for faster service and a more uniform billing experience to City residents
 - Has Saved the City between 100,000 to 150,000 in external telecom services.
- viii. Goals
 - Increase City Cybersecurity
 - EERP Utilization and Integration
 - Intune Management
 - Consolidate Applications and Services
 - Enhancing Communication through Technology
 - Disaster Proofing and Increasing Response Rate
 - Improvement of Citizen-facing services
- e. Charter Review Committee Presentation of Process, Findings, and Results
 - i. The Charter Review Committee, created by council vote on February 18, 2025, conducted a thorough modernization of the city's 1950 charter, resulting in a 31% page reduction and 45% word count reduction, simplifying language and aligning with Virginia law.
 - Does not direct Council on action.
 - ii. Appointees
 - Gene Teague - Chair
 - Jennifer Bowles
 - Andy Hall
 - Barbara Seymour
 - Kimble Reynolds - Advisor
 - Kaylin Hernandez
 - iii. Committee Guiding Principles
 - Foster Community Trust
 - Simplify language, organize chapters
 - iv. Key Deliverables
 - Clarity and Simplicity



- Relevance
 - Modernization
 - Organization
- v. Use of AI to enable work
- AI tool was used as a tool, not a replacement.
 - Very specific when asking it to create. The Committee reviewed and parched through the data, maintaining and ensuring the humanity of the document.
- vi. Charter Review Committee developed a revised Charter over 19 meetings.
- The committee focused on removing archaic language, redundant legal text, and gender-specific pronouns, reorganizing sections for clarity and improved readability
- vii. 8.29.25 Final Draft sent to Council, Constitutional Officers, and City Departments for review
- viii. Reduced Charter by 8 pages (from 26 to 18 pages), Word Count from 13, 286 to 7,285 (45% reduction)
- ix. Next Steps
- Document passed back to City Council for next steps
 - Council may present to General Assembly for passage
 - If Council desires to proceed to Phase II, it may establish another committee or extend the current committee
 - Consider publishing an infographic for public review and understanding of the Charter review process.
- x. Council Mei asked for clarity of Phase II, Gene Teague answered that it would include more of an in-depth review of the Charter.



5. Consent Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider October 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - i. Motion to Approve made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Julian Mei
 - ii. Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - Council Member Rawls, aye.
 - Council Member Mei, aye;
 - Mayor Jones, aye;
 - Vice Mayor Lawson, aye;
 - Council Member Gravely, aye.

6. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. Discuss and Consider Appointments to Community Criminal Justice Board
 - i. Presented by Freeda Holliday. Services rendered to all 6 regional partners, in 2023 list was approved.
 - ii. Motion to Approve Appointments made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Julian Mei.
 - 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. Discuss and Consider Approval of Rezoning Ordinances on Second Reading
 - i. Motion to Approve all Ordinances on Second Reading made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - 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.



- c. Hold a Public Hearing for and Discuss and Consider FY25 and FY26 Appropriations Ordinance with amending 3,4,5,6 to reflect FY26
 - i. Motion to Open Public Hearing made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Rayshaun Gravely.
 - 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.
 - 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 Adopt on First Reading to Approve Ordinance with amend made by
 - 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. Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Discuss and Consider transferring ownership of property located at the corner of Beaver and Fayette Streets from Martinsville Redevelopment & Housing Authority to West Piedmont Planning District Commission for the purpose of developing a neighborhood housing project



- i. The council authorized the transfer of seven lots at Fayette and Beaver Street to West Piedmont Planning District Commission (PDC) for development of 7 to 9 affordable homes, modeled after a successful Henry County project.
- ii. The PDC will cover all transfer and development costs, with approximately \$51,000 available by late December for site planning and architectural design. Partnerships with Virginia Housing, the Harvest Foundation, and the Virginia Statewide Community Land Trust will ensure long-term affordability. The Henry County project reduced build costs from \$200,000 to sale prices around \$160,000, serving as a replicable model. This initiative expands city housing options while maintaining affordability for future residents.
- iii. Motion to Recess as City Council and convene as Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - 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.
- iv. Motion to transfer property to West Piedmont Planning District Commission approved by Vice Chair Lawson and Second by Commissioner Rawls.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 recorded vote:
 - a. Commissioner Rawls, aye.
 - b. Commissioner Mei, aye;
 - c. Chairman Jones, aye;
 - d. Vice Chair Lawson, aye;
 - e. Commissioner Gravely, aye.



- v. Motion to Recess as Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority and convene as City Council made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.

City Hall Reporting and Announcements

A. Events and Announcements

Business From the Floor

- a. J. Brimmer
 - i. Five Points homeowner gave a list of some concerns.
 - 1. Have reached out to the City to resolve issues in regards to tractor trailers. Concerned about the heavy trucks driving by homes. Need for streetlight to illuminate “storm drain” impacted area.
- b. Dennet Grant
 - i. Five Points homeowner.
 - 1. Need for streetlight to illuminate “storm drain.” Reflected Mr. Brimmer’s concerns around safety and infrastructure concerns.

Adjournment

- a. Vice Mayor Lawson made the motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM.



PROCLAMATION FROM THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS ANTI-BULLYING MONTH

WHEREAS, bullying in any form—whether physical, verbal, emotional, or online—causes deep and lasting harm, leaving scars that affect confidence, learning, and the well-being of children and adults alike; and

WHEREAS, National Anti-Bullying Month, observed each October, calls upon communities across the nation to stand together in kindness and courage, reminding us that every person deserves to feel safe, valued, and respected; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville believes that the strength of our community is measured not only by our accomplishments, but by our compassion, and that a culture of empathy begins with teaching our young people to treat one another with dignity and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Martinsville High School Student Council Association has shown exceptional leadership, heart, and initiative in their ongoing efforts to promote anti-bullying education, awareness, and wellness, empowering students to become allies, not bystanders; and

WHEREAS, through their projects and outreach, the Student Council Association has inspired their peers, teachers, and the greater community to embrace kindness as a daily practice and to ensure that no student ever feels alone or unseen; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, L.C. Jones, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2025 as “National Anti-Bullying Month” in the City of Martinsville and urge all citizens, schools, and organizations to join together in standing up for respect, compassion, and inclusion for every member of our community.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the City of Martinsville extends its deepest gratitude to the Martinsville High School Student Council Association for their steadfast commitment to building a kinder, stronger, and more connected Martinsville—one where every voice matters and every person belongs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Martinsville to be affixed this 28th day of October, 2025.

L.C. Jones, Mayor
City of Martinsville, Virginia



PROCLAMATION HONORING NOVEMBER 1, 2025 AS EXTRA MILE DAY IN THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville recognizes that a strong community is built on the commitment of its citizens to go beyond what is expected by giving of their time, talents, and energy to lift others and improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, “Extra Mile Day” is a nationwide movement dedicated to acknowledging individuals and organizations who choose to create positive change in families, organizations, and communities by going the extra mile in service and effort; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville is proud of the countless residents, volunteers, educators, public servants, business leaders, and civic groups who daily demonstrate the “extra mile” spirit through acts of kindness, leadership, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, these efforts inspire others, strengthen the fabric of our city, and reflect Martinsville’s enduring values of resilience, generosity, and care for neighbor; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Martinsville wishes to join cities across the nation in recognizing November 1, 2025, as *Extra Mile Day*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, *L.C. Jones*, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **November 1, 2025, as EXTRA MILE DAY** in the City of Martinsville and call upon every citizen to take time to not only “go the extra mile” in their own life but also to celebrate and support those who enrich the lives of others through their extraordinary efforts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Martinsville to be affixed this 28th day of October, 2025.

LC Jones, Mayor
Mayor of the City of Martinsville

 11-5-2025
LC Jones, Mayor


Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk