



MARTINSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Martinsville's Vision

Martinsville is a thriving, full-service city centrally located in southern Virginia, offering excellent education and superior quality of life in a picturesque setting while embracing inclusivity and opportunities to ensure a sustainable and fulfilling lifestyle to live, visit, and grow.

Martinsville's Mission

Martinsville City proudly promotes a safe, healthy, thriving community dedicated to delivering excellent services and meaningful public participation.

PRESIDING: LC Jones, Mayor

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Kathy Lawson, Vice Mayor
Julian Mei
Rayshaun Gravely
Aaron Rawls

STAFF: Robert Fincher, Interim City Manager
Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk
Law Offices of Sands Anderson, Serving City Attorney



Closed Session 5pm, Rm 226; Municipal Building

- a. With regard to Boards and Commissions Applicants. 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; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals.

Work Session - 6pm, Council Chambers; Municipal Building

1. Briefings and Presentations

- a. Discuss Options for Animal Shelter

2. Discuss Consent Agenda Items

Regular Session - 7pm, Council Chambers

3. Call to Order

4. Pledge to the American Flag

5. Take Any Action Necessary as a Result of the Executive Session.

6. Invocation

7. Presentations and Proclamations

- a. Proclamation Honoring Johnathan Cox as Officer of the Year 2025
- b. Proclamation Honoring the Life of Martinsville High School Coach, Charlie Holland
- c. Presentation of Animal Shelter Community Honor Statement
- d. Tree Board Presentation

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider December 16, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes

9. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. Discuss and Consider Tree Board's Request for Social Media
- b. Discuss and Consider Appointments to City Boards and Commissions
- c. Discuss and Consider an Ordinance Repealing Section 2.4 of the City Code on Second Reading
- d. Discuss and Consider E-911 Appropriation Ordinance on Second Reading



- e. Discuss and Consider First Piedmont Refuse Fees on Second Reading
- f. Hold a Public Hearing for and Discuss and Consider Appropriations on First Reading
- g. Hold a Public Hearing for Request for Right of Way Abandonment and Approve Ordinance on First Reading

10. City Hall Reporting & Announcements

- a. News and Events

11. Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor

Description: The purpose of City Council Meetings is to conduct the City's Business. City Council allows for public comment, limited to matters on which the Council has the power and authority to act and are not listed on the printed agenda. Participation: Citizens who wish to participate in a meeting's public comment period may do so by signing up at the podium at the entrance prior to the beginning of the meeting, emailing their comments to Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk, at pnibblett@martinsvilleva.gov, calling in their comments to 276-403-5196, or mailing comments to the City of Martinsville, attn.: Peyton Nibblett, Martinsville, VA 24114 (a.) Comments, or a request to speak, must be received by noon the day before a Council meeting for consideration by the Council at the meeting. (b.) Any person submitting comments or requesting to speak must identify themselves by name and address, including zip code. (c.) Remarks are to be limited to 3 minutes or less (as read aloud), address a topic of City business, and refrain from making any personal references or accusations of a factually false and/or malicious nature. (d.) Priority for comments is given to City residents, taxpayers, and business owners. (e.) Speakers may not yield time. (f.) Groups of speakers on the same topic must designate a single representative. Comments violating these rules may not be presented at the Council meeting. (g.) Any speaker violating these rules may be removed from the podium or from the Council Chamber. (h.) This policy does not apply to public hearings, at which any citizen of Martinsville may appear and speak on the subject of the public hearing.

12. Comments by Members of City Council

13. Comments by City Manager

14. Adjournment



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Myiah Terry, Community Affairs Analyst

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider Tree Board's Request for Social Media

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Boards and Commissions

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Boards and Commissions interested in creating a social media account or page must seek approval from the City Council. Interested boards and committees are to fill out the Social Media Request for Approval Form located in the form center on the City's website.

- The office of Community Engagement shall serve as page administrators and are not to be removed from created accounts and pages. They shall perform routine reviews to ensure compliancy.
- All posts, comments, and content must adhere to the Social Media Policy and community guidelines of the platform under which it exists.
- All posts must be reviewed by the Staff Liaison prior to posting.

Tree Board would like to formally request permission for Social Media, namely Facebook and Instagram in order to better communicate events, initiatives, and updates. In addition, the Board seeks to educate residents on proper tree care, environmental stewardship, and the importance of trees.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

Per Social Media Policy, Boards and Commissions interested in creating a social media account or page must seek approval from the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

None

Available Budget: Not Applicable

Purchase Amount: Not Applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Approve Request for Facebook and Instagram, Motion and Second

ATTACHMENTS:

None



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Rob Fincher, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider an Ordinance Repealing Section 2.4 of the City Code on Second Reading

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: City Management

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

During the September 16, 2025 meeting, City Council approved the settlement agreement resolving the retirees' health-insurance litigation. At the recommendation of the City's legal counsel, John Neal White, Council was advised to repeal an Ordinance duly adopted on June 22, 2010, which enacted Section 2.4 of the City Code regarding health insurance benefits for City employees. Repeal of the ordinance is necessary to finalize the settlement and prevent future disputes or ambiguity regarding retiree benefits.

First Reading: 12/16/2025

Second Reading: 1/13/2026

POLICY EXPLANATION:

Code of Virginia § 15.2-1427 Subsection E.

An amendment or repeal of an ordinance shall be in the form of an ordinance which shall become effective upon adoption or upon a date fixed by the governing body, but, if no effective date is specified, then such ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

Not Applicable

Available Budget: Not Applicable

Purchase Amount: Not Applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council repeal 2010 Ordinance with the attached ordinance on second reading.

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	Repeal Ordinance - Martinsville Health insurance Benefits
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City of Martinsville, Virginia
ORDINANCE 2025-16

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2010, the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia adopted Ordinance 2010-____, effective July 1, 2010, enacting Section 2.4 of the City Code relating to Health Insurance Benefits for City Employees; and

WHEREAS, said ordinance has been the subject of protracted litigation between affected retirees and the City; and

WHEREAS, said litigation has now concluded; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it in the best interest of the City to repeal said ordinance to avoid any future disputes or confusion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session held on December 16 2025, as follows:

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF ORDINANCE 2010-____

That Ordinance 2010-____, adopted by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia on June 22, 2010, and effective July 1, 2010, which enacted Section 2.4 of the City Code relating to Health Insurance Benefits for City Employees, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be effective ten days from the date of adoption.

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Mayor L.C. Jones:	_____
Vice Mayor Kathy Lawson:	_____
Council Member Aaron Rawls:	_____
Council Member Julian Mei:	_____
Council Member Rayshaun Gravely:	_____

Attest:

Clerk of Council

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Rob Fincher, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider E-911 Appropriation Ordinance on Second Reading

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: City Management

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

From Tierra Dillard, E-911 Director

At its meeting on November 25, 2025, the Henry County Board of Supervisors approved an additional appropriation of \$54,100 from the County General Fund for the 911 Center's Mandatory Call Handling Equipment update, contingent upon approval of the City of Martinsville's share. The Board also awarded a \$354,100 contract to Mobile Communications America for the purchase and installation of the equipment.

Per the City's Finance Department, Martinsville's cost share is \$17,312.00. If approved, this amount will be included on the City's year-end settle-up invoice.

First Reading: 12/16/2025

Second Reading: 1/13/2026

POLICY EXPLANATION:

Code of Virginia § 15.2-2507

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

E-911 Expenditure Budget increased in the amount of \$17,312.00.

Available Budget: Not Applicable

Purchase Amount: Not Applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Approve Appropriation on Second Reading.

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	ORDINANCE NO. 2025 -15 (4)
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ORDINANCE NO. 2025-15

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025–2026

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-2507 and 15.2-1427 of the *Code of Virginia (1950), as amended*, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on December 16, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City’s budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is necessary to amend certain revenue and expenditure items to properly account for additional funding and operational needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia that the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budget be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

- The Fiscal Year 2025-26 E-911 budget shall be increased by Seventeen Thousand, Three Hundred, and Twelve Dollars (\$17, 312.00) from the City General Fund.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Date of Adoption:

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Aye

Nay

Abstain

Absent

ATTEST:

Deputy City Clerk



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Rob Fincher, Interim City Manager , Greg Maggard, Managing Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider First Piedmont Refuse Fees on Second Reading

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: City Management

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The City's current five-year refuse collection and disposal contract with First Piedmont is set to expire at the end of the calendar year. Under the existing agreement, annual rate increases were limited to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Because a new contract is required for the upcoming term, all rates are subject to renegotiation.

Since the start of the current contract, the landfills previously utilized by First Piedmont have closed, forcing the company to secure disposal capacity at a Pittsylvania County facility at an additional cost of approximately \$8 per metric ton. First Piedmont has worked with the City to limit the impact of these increased disposal costs by renegotiating its lease for the City's transfer station, thereby narrowing its margins. Under the proposed new contract, the City's disposal rate would increase by \$7 per metric ton, and First Piedmont would assume responsibility for necessary capital improvements at the transfer station. Future annual adjustments would again be capped at the CPI.

Despite these cost-containment measures, the City cannot absorb the increased disposal costs within the current refuse budget. Refuse operations are not revenue-positive and do not break even under existing rates. To remain financially sustainable, an increase in customer refuse fees appears necessary. The projected impact to residential customers is an estimated increase of **\$0.80 per household per month.**

First Reading: 12/16/25

Second Reading: 1/13/26

POLICY EXPLANATION:

§§ 15.2-107, 15.2-927 et seq, and 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

(a) Collection charges:

Individual living units (one (1) pickup per week), per month. \$20.60

8 yard Dumpster (scheduled collection) - \$28.62 per occurrence

8 yard Dumpster (on-demand collection) - \$33.97 per occurrence

Businesses not currently using dumpsters (for two (2) pickups per week), per month. – \$40.40

Available Budget: Not Applicable

Purchase Amount: Not Applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Approve Ordinance on Second Reading

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	ORDINANCE NO. 2025 -18
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ORDINANCE NO. 2025-18

ORDINANCE AMENDING REFUSE FEES

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-107, 15.2-927 et seq, and 15.2-1427 of the *Code of Virginia (1950), as amended*, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on December 16, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City's Refuse Collection Fee.

WHEREAS, increased operating costs incurred by First Piedmont Corporation, including but not limited to fuel, labor, equipment, and disposal expenses, have resulted in higher service delivery costs to the City; and

WHEREAS, the proposed adjustment to the Refuse Collection Fee is necessary to maintain continued, reliable solid waste collection services and to ensure the fiscal integrity of the City's sanitation operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia that Section 18-24 (a) Collection charges and Section 18-24 (b) Landfill charges of the Code of the City of Martinsville, be, and hereby are, amended to read as follows:

Sec. 18-24. Fee schedule,

(a) Collection charges:

- Individual living units (one (1) pickup per week), per month. \$20.60
- 8 yard Dumpster (scheduled collection) - \$28.62 per occurrence
- 8 yard Dumpster (on-demand collection) - \$33.97 per occurrence
- Businesses not currently using dumpsters (for two (2) pickups per week), per month. – \$40.40

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Date of Adoption:

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Aye

Nay

Abstain

Absent

ATTEST:

Deputy City Clerk



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Richard Stanfield, Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Hold a Public Hearing for and Discuss and Consider Appropriations on First Reading

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Finance

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The proposed amendments allow the City to properly account for grant reimbursements received, carry forward prior-year program funds, and incorporate newly awarded grant funding.

Specifically, the ordinance increases the Police Department's revenue and expenditure budgets by \$141,479 to recognize reimbursement grant funds received from the Operation Ceasefire, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for equipment purchases. The Drug Court budget is amended to increase revenues and expenditures by \$16,875 using available fund balance to carry forward prior-year program funds. Additionally, the Community Development budget is amended to recognize \$75,000 in YMCA Planning Grant funds and authorize related professional services expenditures.

A public hearing on the proposed budget amendments was duly advertised and held on January 13, 2025, in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

First Reading: 1/13/2026

POLICY EXPLANATION:

Code of Virginia § 15.2-2507

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

The amendments increase revenues and expenditures in equal amounts and do not result in a net impact to the General Fund beyond the use of existing fund balance as noted.

Available Budget: Not Applicable

Purchase Amount: Not Applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Open the Floor for a Public Hearing (Motion and Second)
City Council Close the Public Hearing (Motion and Second)
City Council Approve Appropriations on First Reading

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	ORDINANCE NO. 2026 -1
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ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025–2026

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-2507 and 15.2-1427 of the *Code of Virginia (1950), as amended*, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on January 13, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City’s budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is necessary to amend certain revenue and expenditure items to properly account for additional funding and operational needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia that the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budgets be, and hereby are, amended as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA:

The City of Martinsville’s Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budget be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

- That the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Police Department revenue budget be, and hereby is, increased in the amount of \$141,479.00 to recognize reimbursement grant funds received from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.
- That the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Police Department expenditure budget be, and hereby is, increased in the same amount for the purchase of equipment.
- That the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Drug Court revenue budget be, and hereby is, increased by \$16,875 from Fund Balance, and the Drug Court expenditure budget be increased in the same amount to carry over prior-year program funds.
- That the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Community Development revenue budget be, and hereby is, increased by \$75,000 to recognize YMCA Planning Grant funds, and the Community Development, Professional Services & Contractors, Expenditure Budget be increased in the same amount.
- That funds are hereby appropriated in accordance with the above-described budget amendment.

Funds are hereby appropriated in accordance with the above-described budget amendments.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Date of Adoption:

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Aye

Nay

Abstain

Absent

ATTEST:

Mayor

Deputy City Clerk



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Kris Bridges, Building Official

SUBJECT: Hold a Public Hearing for Request for Right of Way Abandonment and Approve Ordinance on First Reading

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Community Development

MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

This ordinance authorizes the abandonment of an approximately sixteen (16) foot public alleyway located adjacent to the property at 209 Cleveland Avenue (Tax Map ID 43 (02) B/A). The property owner submitted a formal request for the abandonment, and the alleyway has been determined to be no longer necessary for public travel or municipal purposes.

The proposed abandonment was reviewed by the Martinsville Planning Commission at its duly advertised public meeting on December 10, 2025, at which time the Commission recommended approval of the request. Following proper notice, the City Council will conduct a public hearing on January 13, 2026, to consider the proposed abandonment.

The ordinance finds that the abandonment is in the public interest and specifies that the action is subject to any existing utility or municipal easements. City staff are authorized to take all actions necessary to complete and record the abandonment in accordance with state law.

First Reading: 01/13/26

POLICY EXPLANATION:

§ 15.2-2272 et seq. of the Code of Virginia

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

None

Available Budget: Not applicable

Purchase Amount: Not applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Open the Floor for Public Hearing for Right of Way Abandonment (Motion, Second)

City Council Close the Floor for Public Hearing for Right of Way Abandonment (Motion, Second)

City Council Approve Right of Way Abandonment Ordinance on First Reading (Motion, Second)

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	ORDINANCE NO. 2026 -2
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ORDINANCE NO. 2026-2
RIGHT OF WAY ABANDONMENT
– 209 CLEVELAND AVENUE

WHEREAS, owner of real property located at 209 Cleveland Avenue, identified as Tax Map ID 43 (02) B/A, has submitted an application requesting the abandonment of an approximate sixteen (16) foot alleyway adjacent to said property; and

WHEREAS, the subject alleyway is no longer necessary for public travel or municipal purposes and its abandonment will not adversely affect public access, utilities, or surrounding properties; and

WHEREAS, the proposed abandonment was reviewed by the Martinsville Planning Commission at its duly advertised public meeting on December 10, 2025 and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the request; and

WHEREAS, the Martinsville City Council conducted a public hearing on January 13, 2026, after due notice as required by law, to consider the requested abandonment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA:

- That an approximate sixteen (16) foot public alleyway, located adjacent to the property at 209 Cleveland Avenue (Tax Map ID 43 (02) B/A), as shown on the official tax maps of the City of Martinsville, is hereby abandoned and discontinued as a public alleyway, pursuant to § 15.2-2272 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.
- That the abandonment of said alleyway is hereby determined to be in the public interest, and the City finds that the alleyway is no longer necessary for public use.
- That this abandonment is subject to any existing easements, rights, or interests held by public utilities or the City for the installation, operation, maintenance, or repair of utilities or public services, unless otherwise released by the appropriate authority.
- That City Staff are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate this abandonment, including the preparation, execution, and recordation of any documents required by law.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Date of Adoption:

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Aye

Nay

Abstain

Absent

ATTEST:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Deputy City Clerk