



February 10, 2026
Martinsville City Council
Meeting Minutes

Work Session - 5:30pm, Council Chambers; Municipal Building

Briefings and Presentations

A Comprehensive Plan Joint Update with the Planning Commission led by the Berkley Group.

Council Members in Attendance:

- Mayor LC Jones
- Vice Mayor Lawson
- Councilmember Gravely
- Councilmember Rawls
- Councilmember Mei

Planning Commission Members in Attendons:

- Joseph Martin
- Riggs Roberson
- Jonathan Martin
- William Pearson
- Nelson Evans
- Brandon Martin
- Deshanta Hairston

The Comprehensive Plan went over key elements: Housing and Neighborhoods, Mobility and Transportation, Future Land Use, with a full plan review slotted for Spring 2026. The Comprehensive plan began briefings in July 2025 and this is the third of the series.

Housing and Neighborhoods

Martinsville's housing stock has decreased over the last 20 years. Several types of "missing middle" housing require conditional approval from Council and cannot be built by-right, even with residential zoning districts. 20% of the City's housing stock is vacant and being used by seasonal occupants. 43% of housing is renter-occupied. Over half (53%) of the City's housing is at least 67 years old. 57% of survey respondents disagreed that there is a good mix of housing types.



Objective 7.1: Preserve and Revitalize Existing Housing

Objective 7.2: Expand the Availability of Safe, Affordable, and High-Quality Housing Options

Mobility and Transportation

Busiest Road segments in the City include portions of Commonwealth Blvd. and Memorial Blvd. Between January 2020 and April 2024, a total of 1,214 crashes were recorded - 4 resulted in fatal injuries, including 1 pedestrian fatality.

Crash hotspots are concentrated at key intersections with high traffic volumes and complex traffic patterns. Notable locations include the Commonwealth Boulevard and West Market Street intersection, the Fayette Street W/ Church Street/Memorial Boulevard/ intersection, and the Commonwealth Boulevard/Fairy Street/ Hooker Street.

76% of survey respondents said road maintenance is the top transportation priority. Perceptions of neighborhood connectivity are mixed with 46% of respondents agreeing their neighborhood is well connected and 41% disagreeing.

Residents support targeted pedestrian and bicycle improvements, particularly to address obstructed sidewalks, intersection visibility, and network gaps.

Objective 8.1: Enhance the Condition and functionality of roads, bridges, and intersections.

Objective 8.2: Expand alternative transportation infrastructure.

Objective 8.3: Improve overall safety and operational efficiency.

Priority Transportation Projects as Identified within the Comprehensive Plan as Presented:

- Number 1: Alcie and Pine Hall Road
- Memorial and Pine Hall
- Memorial Blvd. at Fayette Street Intersections
- Fayette and Swanson Street Improvements
- Dick and Willie Passage Spur Trail
- Fairy St and Watt St Intersection
- Intersection Safety and Operations Study
- Corridor and Walkability Improvements



Future Land Use

Most of the City's land area is zoned for residential use. Residential construction has been increasing slightly in the past five years, while commercial construction appears to be declining.

Tree canopy and green space cover a considerable portion of the City.

The most suitable areas for development of any kind are in the central area of the City around Uptown, Commonwealth Boulevard, and Liberty/Clearview Streets. Chosen by a mapping software with several infrastructure and development-ready assessments.

Objective 9.1: Promote efficient land use by directing growth and reinvestment to appropriate locations.

Objective 9.2: Ensure high-quality infill development and redevelopment.

Public Open House: Spring TBD

Final Joint Worksession: Spring TBD

Regular Session - 7pm, Council Chambers

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order beginning at 7pm. Councilmembers present: Mayor Jones, Vice Mayor Lawson, Julian Mei, Rayshaun Gravely, Aaron Rawls.

- Call to Order
 - Mayor Jones called the meeting to order beginning at 7PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
 - Led by Pastor Alan Preston
- Presentations and Proclamations
 - YAC Pinning Ceremony and Oath of Office
 - Proclamation Honoring Martinsville City Schools Accreditation
 - Proclamation Honoring Nancy McMillan
 - Tabled until 2/24/26



- Presentation from American Legion's Curtis Millner
 - Requested Consideration of \$2,000 for Capital Campaign. Pledged that none of the funds will be used for their activities.
 - Councilman Rawls requested for a potential work session to better assess how the City can better help.
- Arts and Cultural Committee Master Plan Update and Future Budget Request
 - Given by Kathleen Duncan, Chair of the Arts and Cultural Committee
 - Arts and Culture Master Plan is currently underway with an aim to be wrapped up around June. Asked for City Council to consider dedicated Arts and Culture funding to be considered. When asked, \$50,000 was suggested as a potential amount for murals, pop-up events, pop-up events, art installations, and art in public spaces.
- Electric Departmental Update
 - Given by City Electric Director, Durwin Joyce
- Planning Commission Monthly Update
 - Given by Joseph Martin, Planning Commission Chair
 - Would like to coordinate more joint meetings and public hearings with City Council
 - Would like to open up the discussion of the animal shelter and its fit in the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Mayor Jones would like the possibility of having a standalone meeting with the Planning Commission.



- Consent Agenda
 - Discuss and Consider January 13, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to Approve made by Kathy Lawson and Second by Councilman Rawls.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote
 - i. Councilman Rawls; aye
 - ii. Councilman Gravely; aye
 - iii. Councilman Mei; aye
 - iv. Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - v. Mayor Jones; aye
- Regular Agenda or New Business
 - Discuss and Consider Approval of November 12, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to Approve subject to the revisions of: In addition to the matters listed on the agenda, Council received legal advice regarding state conflict of interest requirements for local officials. All members of Council were present and received this advice. The consultation regarding the pending employment matter listed on the agenda did not occur because the meeting concluded early due to conflict of interest concerns.
 - Approved with the following 4-1 vote
 - vi. Councilman Rawls; aye
 - vii. Councilman Gravely; aye
 - viii. Councilman Mei; aye
 - ix. Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - x. Mayor Jones; no
 - Discuss and Consider Appropriations on Second Reading
 - Motion to Approve on Second Reading made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei..
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote
 - xi. Councilman Rawls; aye
 - xii. Councilman Gravely; aye
 - xiii. Councilman Mei; aye
 - xiv. Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - xv. Mayor Jones; aye



- Hold a Public Hearing for Request for Right of Way Abandonment and Approve Ordinance 2026-2 on First Reading
 - Motion to Open Public Hearing made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote
 - xvi. Councilman Rawls; aye
 - xvii. Councilman Gravely; aye
 - xviii. Councilman Mei; aye
 - xix. Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - xx. Mayor Jones; aye
 - Motion to Close Public Hearing made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote
 - xxi. Councilman Rawls; aye
 - xxii. Councilman Gravely; aye
 - xxiii. Councilman Mei; aye
 - xxiv. Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - xxv. Mayor Jones; aye
 - Motion to Table the Ordinance 2026-2 to next meeting made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote
 - xxvi. Councilman Rawls; aye
 - xxvii. Councilman Gravely; aye
 - xxviii. Councilman Mei; aye
 - xxix. Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - xxx. Mayor Jones; aye



Adjournment

A. Motion to adjourn made by Vice Mayor Lawson at 9pm.

LC Jones, Mayor

Attest:

Deputy Clerk of Council, City of Martinsville