



February 24, 2026
Martinsville City Council
Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order beginning at 5:30pm. Councilmembers present: Vice Mayor Lawson, Julian Mei, Rayshaun Gravely, Aaron Rawls, and Acting Councilmember Gene Teague. Mr. Teague was temporarily appointed to serve on Council according to Va. Code §24.2-236.

Call Open Session to Order - 5:30pm, Council Chambers;
Municipal Building

- a. Discuss and Consider Motion to go into Closed Session. Motion made by Councilman Mei and Second by Councilman Rawls.
- Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye

Closed Session 5:30pm, Rm 226; Municipal Building

- a. 2.2-3711 (A7) 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. With Regard to Facility Show Cause Order.
- b. 2.2-3711 (A1) 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. With regards to Applications for City Manager position.



All Councilmembers were in attendance. Staff in attendance: Robert Fincher, Stephen Durbin, Greg Maggard, and Peyton Nibblett. Robert Fincher and Greg Maggard exited for Item B; conversation about City Manager Applications.

Return to Open Session and Certification of Closed Session - 6:20 pm, Council Chambers

With a Motion by Councilman Mei and Second by Councilman Rawls, 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 Mei; aye
- Councilman Teague; aye
- Councilman Rawls; aye
- Councilman Gravely; aye
- Vice Mayor Lawson; aye

Motion to Recess until 6:30pm made by Kathy Lawson.

Work Session - 6:30pm, Council Chambers; Municipal Building

1. Briefings and Presentations

a. Workshop with American Legion's Curtis Millner

Continuation of discussion held on February 10, 2026. The City Council hosted a workshop with the American Legion.

- The MHC American Legion works to provide services and communities to the MHC Community's Veterans. They are doing a capital campaign to raise funds for parking lot upgrades, kitchen tile replacement, and flood repairs.
- Mr. Maggard offered to help by visiting the facility and seeing if Public Works can assist.
- Councilman Teague made the suggestion to loop in the Sheriff's crews.
- Councilman Mei suggested more social media presence and offered to help spread awareness of their efforts through his personal facebook page.



Regular Session - 7pm, Council Chambers

- Call to Order
 - Vice Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order beginning at 7PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
 - Led by Michael Hendricks
- Take Any Action Necessary as A Result of the Executive Session
 - Motion to Authorize Legal Counsel to Execute the Consent Order presented during the Closed Session made by Councilman Rawls and Second by Councilman Mei.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Presentations and Proclamations
 - Proclamation Honoring Nancy McMillan for her work with the MHC Warming Center
 - Proclamation Honoring Black History Month -- Presented to Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI)
 - Community Engagement Departmental Update
 - Community Engagement Responsibilities
 - Manage Social Media Pages
 - Oversee Special Events Requests
 - Maintain City's Website
 - Assist with Boards and Commissions
 - Maintain working relationships with media or local organizations
 - Operate MGTV Ch. 22
 - Organize Community Events
 - Video Streaming



- Internal Community Engagement and Events
- Social Media Growth
 - 44.6K content interactions
- Page Visits
 - 178.8k visits to profile, 51% growth
- New Followers
 - Our audience continues to grow, 9% growth this year
- Activities
 - Employee Recognition
 - Culture and Soul Expo
 - Salvation Army Bell Ringing
 - Door Decorating
- Challenges
 - Misinformation and Negative Perception
 - Lack of Proper Notification Tools for Utility Outages
 - Councilman Teague made the suggestion to increase the amount of Utility Outage Posts so residents are more aware of Outages and Restoration ETAs. Also made the suggestion to improve Holiday Garbage Pickup notifications.
- Next Steps
 - Podcast Content
 - Municipal Engagement over City-planned festivals and events
 - Increased Recognition Content for City Employees



- Consent Agenda
 - Discuss and Consider February 10, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to Approve made by Councilman Mei and Second by Councilman Rawls.
 - Approved with the following 4-0 vote
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; abstain
 - 1. Reason Cited: Was not on Council during this time.
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Regular Agenda or New Business
 - Hold a Public Hearing for and Subsequently Discuss and Consider Ordinance 2026-4 Codifying Previously Approved Amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance

Public Hearing was Duly Opened and Closed.

- Motion to Approve on First Reading by Councilman Rawls and Second by Councilman Mei.
- Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye



- Hold Public Hearing and Subsequently Discuss and Consider Appropriations Ordinance 2026-3 on First Reading

Public Hearing was Duly Opened and Closed.

- Motion to Approve on First Reading by Councilman Mei and Second by Councilman Rawls.
- Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Discuss and Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 2026-2 on First Reading for Right of Way Abandonment
 - Motion to Approve made by Councilman Mei and Second by Councilman Rawls.
 - Approved with the following 4-0-1 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; Abstain
 1. Reason Cited: Preferred to abstain out of an abundance of caution due to potential Conflict of Interest concerns.
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye



Adjournment

A. Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Mei at 8:15pm.

Kassius Lewson

Attest:
[Signature]
Deputy Clerk of Council, City of Martinsville