



January 8, 2026
Martinsville City Council
Special Called Closed Session
Meeting Minutes

Call Open Session to Order – 5PM Council Chambers

A. Discuss and Consider the Cancellation of the Closed Session for January 8, 2026 and Receive the Forensic Audit Report during Open Session on January 8, 2026 at 5pm.

- Stephen Durbin, of Sands Anderson Serving as City Attorney recommended not having the briefing in Open Session as it contains sensitive employee and personnel matters. Significant concerns to receiving Audit report in Public Session. The report was prepared for legal counsel to make recommendations to Council and there are substantial legal concerns for legal to disclose to City Council.
- Motion by Councilman Rawls and Second by Councilman Mei
 - i. Motion to Call to Order Approved with the following vote
4-1-0
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; abstain
 - Motion to Cancel Closed Session to receive the briefing in Open Session Failed with the following 1-3-1 vote
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; no
 - Councilman Mei; no
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; no
 - Mayor Jones; abstain

iii. Five (5) Minutes Recess called by Mayor Jones at 5:18 PM

iv. City Council Resumed Beginning at 5:22 PM



- Motion to Enter Closed Session made by Councilman Gravely, Second by Vice Mayor Lawson
 - i. Approved with the Following vote:
 - Councilman Rawls; no
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye

Special Called Closed Session City Council Meeting

Room 226, Municipal Building

A Closed meeting of the City of Martinsville, Virginia's Council, was held on January 8, 2026 at 5:25 PM in Conference Room 226, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Mayor, LC Jones; Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Julian Mei, Rayshaun Gravely, and Aaron Rawls. Staff present included external legal counsel and representatives from Sands Anderson, internal legal counsel. Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:25 PM.

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Council Member Gravely and seconded by Vice Mayor Lawson with the following 4-1 recorded vote: Council Member Mei, aye; Council Member Rawls, no; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Gravely, aye.

Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. 2.2-3711 A(1) 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; In regard to the City Manager Position and legal briefing concerning investigation.
- B. 2.2-3711 A (7) 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. In regard to the City



Manager Position and legal briefing concerning investigation.

- C. 2.2-3711 A(8) Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter. In regard to the City Manager Position and legal briefing concerning investigation.

**Return to Open Session and Certification of Closed Session - 7:45pm,
Council Chambers**

With a Motion by Lawson and Second by 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 Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye
1. Take Any Action Necessary as a Result of the Executive Session.
 - a. No Action was Taken
 - b. Vice Mayor Lawson asked if Sands Anderson had everything they needed to proceed to send to the Special Prosecutor. Stephen Durbin confirmed Sands Anderson has enough authority from prior meetings to send information gathered.
 2. Discuss and Consider the Release of Unredacted Written Reports from the Workplace Investigation Conducted by Sands Anderson; the Forensic Audit Conducted by Brown Edwards; and All Associated Memoranda, Correspondence, and Documents, Including Consideration of Referral to the Virginia State Police, Special Prosecutor, Assigned VSP Agent, and the Commonwealth's Attorney.



- Motion for Sands Anderson to provide summary without parallel efforts
 - Approved with the following 4-0-1 vote
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; abstain

3. Adjournment

- a. Vice Mayor Lawson made the motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Lawson".

Kathy Lawson, Vice Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peyton Nibblett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk