



March 24, 2026
Martinsville City Council
Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Lawson called the joint meeting with the Economic Development Authority to order beginning at 5:30pm in Gardner Board Room, New College Institute. Councilmembers present: Vice Mayor Lawson, Rayshaun Gravely, Aaron Rawls, and Acting Councilmember Gene Teague. Councilman Mei was absent for this portion of the meeting due to a promptly reported family emergency. EDA Members present: Olivia Garrett, Michael Scales, Marcus Stone, Lee Prillaman, Jim Frith, and Eric Phillips. Eric Payne, EDA Executive Director; Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk; Rob Fincher, City Manager; and Stephen Durbin, Legal Counsel from Sands Anderson were also present.

Call Open Session to Order - 5:30pm, Gardner Board Room; NCI

a. Discuss and Consider Motion to go into Closed Session. Motion made by Councilman Rawls and Second by Councilman Teague.

- Councilman Teague; aye
- Councilman Rawls; aye
- Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Councilman Gravely; aye
- Councilman Mei; absent

Closed Session 5:30pm, Gardner Board Room; NCI

- a. 2.2-3711(A5) Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. With regard to a Prospective Economic Development Project with the Economic Development Authority. With regard to a Prospective Housing Development Project with the Economic Development Authority.



- b. 2.2-3711 (A3) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. With regard to a Potential Economic Development Project with the Economic Development Authority.
- c. 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 Show-Cause Order.

Economic Development Authority and City Council Return to Open Session and Certification of Closed Session - 6pm, Gardner Board Room; New College Institute

- A. City Council and EDA recessed from their Closed Session at 6pm to receive a presentation from the EDA regarding Return on Investment for the City of Martinsville.
- B. Following their presentation, the EDA adjourned their meeting and City Council reconvened in Closed Session at 6:38pm.

Return to Open Session and Certification of Closed Session - 6:50 pm, Gardner Board Room

With a Motion by Councilman Rawls and Second by Councilman Gravely. 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 4-0 vote

- Councilman Gravely; aye
- Councilman Teague; aye
- Councilman Rawls; aye
- Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Councilman Mei; absent



Regular Session - 7pm, Council Chambers

Attendance: All City Council Members present. Councilman Mei participated virtually, with approval from the Presiding Officer, due to a sick family member. Councilman Mei entered at 7:30pm.

- Call to Order
 - Vice Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order beginning at 7PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
 - Led by Pastor Angela Zimmerman, Starling Ave Baptist Church
- Take Any Action Necessary as A Result of the Executive Session
 - None
- Presentations and Proclamations
 - Proclamation Honoring April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month -- Presented to Focus on Youth/ CASA
 - Proclamation Honoring April 2026 as Bee City Month in the City of Martinsville -- Presented to Bee City Martinsville
 - Community Development Update Presented By Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist
 - Update on Virginia 250 Committee
 - Opioid Abatement Authority Timeline and History
 - Presented by Sita Conde, Grants Manager; Ariel Johnson and Danny Clawson, Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition; Amy Rice, Department of Social Services
 - Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition
 - Nalozone Distribution
 - Health Supplies, Testing, and Treatment Navigation



- Care Coordination for
 - Incarcerated
 - Unhoused
 - Pregnant or Nursing
 - Points for Points
 - Incentive to return used syringes, rather than litter
 - MHC Trash Panda
 - Community-led litter pickup
- Consent Agenda
 - Discuss and Consider March 10, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to Approve March 10, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes by Councilman Mei and Second by Councilman Teague.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Regular Agenda or New Business
 - Discuss and Consider Appropriations Ordinance 2026-5 (Opioid Abatement Funds) on Second Reading

Public Hearing was Duly opened at the request of Council.

- Motion to Approve 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
- Hold a Public Hearing for and Discuss and Consider Appropriations Ordinance 2026-6 (Reappropriation of Prior-Year Funds) on First Reading

Public Hearing was Duly Opened.

- Motion to Approve Ordinance on First Reading by Councilman Mei and Second by Councilman Teague.
- Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye.
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Hold a Public Hearing for and Discuss and Consider Appropriations Ordinance 2026 - 7 on First Reading (Fire Programs)

Public Hearing was Duly Opened.

- Motion to Approve on First Reading by Councilman Teague 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 a Public Hearing for and Discuss and Consider Appropriation Ordinance 2026-8 (One Ellsworth)

Public Hearing was Duly Opened.

- Motion to Approve by Councilman Teague and Second by Councilman Gravely.
- Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- From Council Comments, Vice Mayor Lawson asked about Good Friday being a Holiday for City Employees. Following discussion, City Council Approved Building Closure for Good Friday with a Motion by Aaron Rawls and Second by Councilman Mei
 - a. Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Teague; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye



Adjournment

- A. Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Rawls and Seconded by Councilman Teague at 8:50 pm.


Kathy Lawson, Vice Mayor

Attest:

Deputy Clerk of Council, City of Martinsville