



May 12, 2026
Martinsville City Council
Meeting Minutes

Call Open Session to Order - 6:00pm, Council Chambers; Municipal Building; 55 W Church St, Martinsville VA

Council Members in Attendance: Mayor Jones, Kathy Lawson, Rayshaun Gravely, Julian Mei.

Councilman Rawls was absent due to reported illness.

a. Discuss and Consider Motion to go into Closed Session. Motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei. Council convened in Closed Session with the Following 4-1 vote.

- Councilman Mei; aye
- Councilman Gravely; aye
- Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Mayor Jones; aye

Closed Session 6:00pm, Rm 32; Municipal Building

City Council met in closed session beginning at 6:00pm to discuss the following:

- a. 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. With regard to employment legal matters.
- b. 2.2-37.11 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 regards to Boards and Commissions applications and appointees.



All City Council Members were in attendance: Kathy Lawson, Rayshaun Gravely, Julian Mei, and Mayor Jones. Staff in attendance were City Manager, Robert Fincher and City Attorney Representative, Stephen Durbin of Sands Anderson.

Mayor Jones left Closed Session for the discussion of employment legal matters.

Return to Open Session and Certification of Closed Session - 7:00pm, Council Chambers; Municipal Building

A. Upon a motion by Councilman Mei, and second by Councilman Gravely, City Council certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge:

(i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Section 2.2-3711; and

(ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by Council.

B. Approved with the following 4-0 vote.

- Councilman Mei; aye
- Councilman Gravely; aye
- Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Mayor Jones; aye

Regular Session - 7:10pm, Council Chambers

Attendance:

- Call to Order
 - Hailey Coleman, winner of the VML "If I were Mayor Contest" called the meeting to order, per City tradition, beginning at 7pm.



- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
 - Led by Pastor Michael Hendricks, Orchard Drive Baptist Church
- Presentations and Proclamations
 - VML Presents "If I Were Mayor" Contest Award to Hailey Coleman for Her Award-Winning Essay
 - Proclamation Honoring Zay Tinsely for Outstanding Achievement in Basketball -- Presented to Zay Tinsely from Martinsville High School
 - Proclamation Honoring the 70th Anniversary of the Martinsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc
 - Proclamation Honoring May as Business Appreciation Month -- Presented to Theresa Walsh of Walsh's Chicken & More
 - Human Resources Departmental Update



- Take Any Action Necessary as A Result of the Executive Session
 - Upon a motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei, the following individuals have been appointed to the respective Boards and Commissions:

Lindsey Godlove	West Piedmont Planning District Technical Advisory Committee	December 31, 2028
Lindsey Godlove	Transportation Safety Commission	December 31, 2029
Doug Sharpe (Incumbent)	Transportation Safety Commission	December 31, 2029
Ouss Sahar (Incumbent)	Patrick and Henry Community College Board	December 31, 2029
Annabelle Sechrist	Tree Board	December 31, 2028
Joseph Martin	West Piedmont Planning District Board of Commissioners	December 31, 2028
Michael Greene (Incumbent)	Architectural Review Board	December 31, 2028

C. Approved with the following 4-0 vote.

- Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye
- Regular Agenda or New Business
 - Discuss and Consider Items of Consent
 - Confirmation of the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - April 28, 2026
 - April 30, 2026
 - May 2, 2026
 - May 5, 2026
 - May 6, 2026
 - Consideration of a Resolution Appropriating Funds (BELOW)



WHEREAS, the Martinsville City Council desires to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget; and

WHEREAS, Section 15.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia authorizes the governing body to amend the adopted budget and make supplemental appropriations during the fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby approves the following budget adjustments:BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these amendments adjust revenues and expenditures accordingly across the listed funds, resulting in no net change to the overall budget where offsets are present.

- The Council hereby appropriates \$18,343 in grants funding for use by the Police Department.
- The Council hereby appropriates \$12,675 in donations received for the Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Honor Guard programs.
- The Council hereby appropriates \$163,887 from the General Fund balance for radio leases and garbage truck lease.
- The Council hereby reclassifies GCS Radio Rental expenditures from the current Radio
- Maintenance budget line to the Equipment Rentals budget line to ensure proper accounting and alignment with the nature of the expense.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these amendments adjust the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget accordingly.

Motion to Approve Items of Consent made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei.



- Approved with the following 4-0 vote:
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye

- Hold a Public Hearing for School Board Names
 - Motion to Open Public Hearing made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei
 - Approved with the following 4-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye

 - Names given for consideration and interview
 - Miyana Smith
 - Tony Jones
 - Nekia Blackwell
 - Elizabeth Sharp
 - Micheal Kirby
 - Donna Dillard
 - Melody Cartwright
 - Cody Williams

 - Motion to Close Public Hearing made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei
 - Approved with the following 4-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye



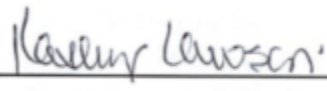
- Discuss and Consider Setting a Public Hearing for May 26, 2026 for the City Manager's Proposed FY 26-27 Total Operating Budget
 - Motion to Set a Public Hearing for the Next City Council Meeting to hear names for City School Board made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei. Approved with the following 4-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye
- Discuss and Consider Adoption of 2026-2028 Strategic Plan
 - Motion to Adopt the 2026-28 Strategic Plan made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely
 - Approved with the following 4-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye

Adjournment

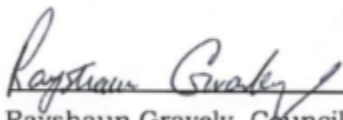
- A. Motion to adjourn made by Vice Mayor Lawson at 9pm.




LC Jones, Mayor


Kathy Lawson, Vice Mayor

Aaron Rawls, Councilmember (ABSENT)


Rayshaun Gravely, Councilmember


Julian Mei, Councilmember

Attest:

Deputy Clerk of Council, City of Martinsville