



MARTINSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Martinsville's Vision

Martinsville is a thriving, full-service city centrally located in southern Virginia, offering excellent education and superior quality of life in a picturesque setting while embracing inclusivity and opportunities to ensure a sustainable and fulfilling lifestyle to live, visit, and grow.

Martinsville's Mission

Martinsville City proudly promotes a safe, healthy, thriving community dedicated to delivering excellent services and meaningful public participation.

Regular Session -- 7:00pm, Council Chambers; Martinsville Municipal Building

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge to the American Flag**
- 3. Invocation**
 - a. Pastor Whitfield, First Baptist Church
- 4. Presentations and Proclamations**
 - a. Proclamation Honoring July as National Parks and Recreation Month, Presented to Martinsville Parks and Recreation Department
 - b. Piedmont Community Services Annual Update
 - c. Departmental Update from the Fire Department
- 5. Regular Agenda or New Business**



a. Items of Consent

The following items on the agenda do not generally require any discussion or debate, because they are routine procedures:

- A) June 8, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
- B) June 23, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
- C) June 30, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

D) Community Development Request to Apply for Virginia Department of Forestry Grant for Kudzu Removal

- Reimbursement Grant with award amounts up to \$50,000

- b. Discuss and Consider Approval of Letter of Support (Resolution) for Virginia Department of Transportation, Commonwealth Blvd, Liberty Street, and Market Street SMART Scale Project
- c. Discuss and Consider A Resolution Requesting that a Referendum be placed on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot Regarding an Additional One Percent (Penny-Tax) Local Sales and Use Tax for School Capital Projects
- d. Hold a Public Hearing for and Subsequently Discuss and Consider Approval on First Reading of An Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2026-13) Appropriating for Water/Wastewater Design
- e. Hold a Public Hearing for and Subsequently Discuss and Consider Approval on First Reading of An Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2026-16) Rezoning 59 parcels, generally located along Liberty Street and York Street

6. City Hall Reporting & Announcements

- a. News and Events

7. Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor

Description: The purpose of City Council Meetings is to conduct the City's Business. City Council allows for public comment, limited to matters on which the Council has the power and authority to act and are not listed on the printed agenda. Participation: Citizens who wish to participate in a meeting's public comment period may do so by signing up at the podium at the entrance prior to the beginning of the meeting, emailing their comments to Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk, at pnibblett@martinsvilleva.gov, calling in their comments to 276-403-5196, or mailing comments to the City of Martinsville, attn.: Peyton Nibblett, Martinsville, VA 24114 (a.) Comments, or a request to speak, must be received by noon the day before a Council meeting for consideration by the Council at the meeting. (b.) Any person submitting comments or requesting to speak must identify themselves by name and address, including zip code. (c.) Remarks are to be limited to 3 minutes or less (as read aloud), address a topic of City business, and refrain from making any personal references or accusations of a factually false and/or malicious nature. (d.) Priority for comments is given to City residents, taxpayers, and business owners. (e.) Speakers may not yield time. (f.) Groups of speakers on the same topic must designate a single representative. Comments violating these rules may not be presented at the Council meeting. (g.) Any speaker violating these rules may be removed from the podium or from the Council Chamber. (h.) This policy does not apply to public hearings, at which any citizen of Martinsville may appear and speak on the subject of the public hearing.



a. Lynn Muhammad

8. Comments by Members of City Council

9. Comments by City Manager

10. Adjournment



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Greg Maggard, Managing Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider Approval of Letter of Support (Resolution) for Virginia Department of Transportation, Commonwealth Blvd, Liberty Street, and Market Street SMART Scale Project

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Public Works

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The City of Martinsville has historically partnered with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to complete roadway modifications and improvements. As part of this partnership, VDOT requires a Letter of Support from the locality affirming its commitment to the project. The project includes intersection improvements at Commonwealth Boulevard, Liberty Street, and Market Street to include the following: Realignment of the southbound right-turn lane and the installation of an additional southbound right-turn lane on Liberty Street, the conversion of a southbound right-turn from a yield to a signalized stop control, and the installation of a thru-cut on Market Street.

A key outcome of the City of Martinsville's Strategic Plan is to produce clean, attractive, and vibrant neighborhoods and communities. Better designed roadways aid in achieving this goal by increasing the aesthetics and safety of the roadway system.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

Not Applicable

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

This project is funded 100% by VDOT through the SMART Scale Program.

Available Budget: Not Applicable

Purchase Amount: Not Applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Approve Attached Letter of Support (Resolution)

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	SmartScale2026Martinsville
2.	Smart Scale Resolution 2026



West Piedmont Planning District Commission

Serving Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania Counties - Cities of Danville and Martinsville - Town of Rocky Mount - Since 1970

P.O. Box 5268
Martinsville, VA 24115-5268
Phone: (276) 638-3987
Fax: (276) 638-8137
e-mail: staff@wppdc.org

Resolution

by the

WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Endorsement of Virginia Smart Scale Application (2026)

City of Martinsville, Virginia

At a meeting held May 28, 2026, the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) authorized the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville is submitting a Virginia Smart Scale application for transportation project funding to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for the following project:

- Intersection improvements at Commonwealth Boulevard, Liberty Street, and Market Street to include the following: Realignment of the southbound right-turn lane and the installation of an additional southbound right-turn lane on Liberty Street, the conversion of a southbound right-turn from a yield to a signalized stop control, and the installation of a thru-cut on Market Street.

WHEREAS, this application addresses needs identified in the Commonwealth of Virginia's Statewide Transportation Plan, VTrans, and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission therefore supports this application; and

WHEREAS, on this date the West Piedmont Board of Commissioners considered and reviewed this project; and

WHEREAS, based on this review it has been determined the proposed project listed in this resolution will improve the flow and safety of traffic along the Commonwealth Boulevard corridor in the City of Martinsville.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WPPDC hereby agrees to endorse and support the Smart Scale application being submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board by the City of Martinsville.

WPPDC Officer

Executive Director

May 28, 2026



Council Members

LC Jones, Mayor

Kathy Lawson, Vice-Mayor

Julian Mei

Rayshaun Gravely

Aaron Rawls



City Manager

Robert Fincher

Deputy Clerk of Council

Peyton Nibblett

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE
SUBMITTAL OF A TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FOR THE VIRGINIA SMART SCALE
FUNDING PROCESS**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Smart Scale Funding process, the Virginia General Assembly has created a means of funding proposed transportation projects across the Commonwealth that is based on scoring criteria that emphasize safety, accessibility, environmental quality and economic development (hereinafter referred to as "Smart Scale Process"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville desires to submit a local transportation project for potential funding under the Smart Scale Process; and

WHEREAS, under the requirements of Smart Scale, a resolution of support from the local governing body is required for the application to be considered for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Martinsville City Council supports the submittal of a local transportation project for intersection improvements at Commonwealth Boulevard, Liberty Street, and Market Street to include the following: Realignment of the southbound right-turn lane and the installation of an additional southbound right-turn lane on Liberty Street, the conversion of a southbound right-turn from a yield to a signalized stop control, and the installation of a thru-cut on Market Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Martinsville that the City Council hereby approves the submittal of the above-mentioned transportation project for funding under the Smart Scale Process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Martinsville City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, to file the above application through the Smart Scale Process online portal on or before the application deadline.

Adopted this 14th day of July, 2026.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Attest:



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Rob Fincher, City Manager

SUBJECT: Discuss and Consider A Resolution Requesting that a Referendum be placed on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot Regarding an Additional One Percent (Penny-Tax) Local Sales and Use Tax for School Capital Projects

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: City Management

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

The proposed resolution requests that the Circuit Court of Martinsville and Henry County and the General Registrar place a referendum on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot asking City voters whether to authorize an additional one percent (1%) local sales and use tax for eligible school capital projects, as permitted under § 58.1-605.1 of the Code of Virginia.

If approved by the voters, revenues generated by the tax would be used solely for the construction, renovation, or improvement of school facilities within the City of Martinsville. The resolution specifies that the tax is not anticipated to be used to repay bonds or loans and, therefore, would expire on July 28, 2046, as provided by state law.

Adoption of the resolution does not impose the tax. Rather, it authorizes the placement of the referendum on the ballot so that qualified voters may decide whether to approve the additional sales and use tax. If adopted, the City Clerk will transmit certified copies of the resolution to the appropriate election officials to facilitate the referendum process.

Resolution was drafted reflecting the election ballot question used by Henry County during their 2020 election.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

Available Budget:

Purchase Amount:

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Approve Resolution and Request Referendum be placed on November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA, REQUESTING THAT A REFERENDUM BE PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION
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**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE,
VIRGINIA, REQUESTING THAT A REFERENDUM BE PLACED ON THE
NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT REGARDING AN
ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT (1%) LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR SCHOOL
CAPITAL PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Martinsville recognizes the importance of providing safe, modern, and effective educational facilities for current and future generations of students; and

WHEREAS, § 58.1-605.1 of the Code of Virginia authorizes localities to seek voter approval of an additional one percent (1%) local sales and use tax to finance capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the citizens of Martinsville should have the opportunity to determine whether an additional local sales and use tax should be utilized to support school capital improvements within the City; and

WHEREAS, any such tax must be approved by the voters through a referendum prior to its implementation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council anticipates that revenues generated from the proposed tax will be used directly for eligible school capital projects and not for the repayment of bonds or loans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, that the Circuit Court of Martinsville and Henry County and the General Registrar are hereby requested to place on the ballot for the General Election to be held on November 3, 2026, a referendum asking the qualified voters of the City whether an additional one percent (1%) local sales and use tax should be imposed pursuant to § 58.1-605.1 of the Code of Virginia, with revenues to be used solely for capital projects involving the construction, renovation, or improvement of school facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, because the capital projects to be funded by the proposed tax are not anticipated to be financed through bonds or loans, the additional local sales and use tax, if approved by the voters, shall expire on **July 28, 2046**, in accordance with § 58.1-605.1 of the Code of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ballot question shall be substantially in the following form:

QUESTION: May the City of Martinsville levy a general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed one percent (1%) as determined by its governing body to provide revenue solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools in the City of Martinsville, such tax expiring July 28, 2046?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the General Registrar, and such other officials as may be required by law to conduct the referendum.

Adopted this 14th day of July, 2026.

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Rob Fincher, City Manager

SUBJECT: Hold a Public Hearing for and Subsequently Discuss and Consider Approval on First Reading of An Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2026-13) Appropriating for Water/Wastewater Design

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: City Management

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Reviewed by Legal Counsel last month.

The City has been awarded a revolving loan of up to \$16,672,000 through the VRA Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund to finance the Wastewater Plant Improvement Project. This appropriation is to receive the funds and then allow the Water Resources Department to administer the funds toward consultative design services for the project.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

Not applicable

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

No net fiscal impact

Available Budget: Not applicable

Purchase Amount: Not applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council Hold Public Hearing

City Council Approve the Ordinance on First Reading

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	Ordinance 2026 - 13 (Appropriations for Water_Wastewater Design) (1)
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ORDINANCE NO. 2026-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY BUDGET

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025–2026

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 15.2-2507 and 15.2-1427 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, the Martinsville City Council has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on **July 14, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Martinsville Municipal Building to consider amendments to the City’s budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Water and Sewer Fund budget to recognize additional grant funding, loan proceeds, and related capital project expenditures; and

WHEREAS, these adjustments are necessary to properly account for revenues received and to appropriate funds for approved capital infrastructure improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA, that the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budget be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

The Water and Sewer Fund budget is hereby amended to recognize additional revenues and to appropriate an equal amount of expenditures. All appropriations are fully supported by the funding sources identified below as follows:

Water – Grants (State DEQ)	\$9,169,600.00
Water – Loan Proceeds	\$7,502,400.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$16,672,000.00

The above revenues are hereby appropriated for the following expenditure. This expenditure is fully supported by the identified grant revenues and loan proceeds.

Water/Sewer – Buildings & Building Improvements	\$16,672,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE(S)	\$16, 672,000.00

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Aye

Nay

Abstain

Absent

ATTEST:

Mayor

Deputy City Clerk



STAFF REPORT

TO: City Council

FROM: Hannah Powell, Community Development Specialist

SUBJECT: Hold a Public Hearing for and Subsequently Discuss and Consider Approval on First Reading of An Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2026-16) Rezoning 59 parcels, generally located along Liberty Street and York Street

STAFF/ DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: City Management

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Reviewed by Planning Commission on June 17, 2026.

Community Development staff have been approached by two developers who are interested in constructing multi-family housing on York Street. Currently, York Street and Liberty Street are zoned C-C, Commercial Corridor, which does not allow for multi-family dwellings by-right. Staff noted that the area had already been identified for rezoning to R-T, Residential Transitional, as part of the ongoing zoning ordinance update process, as reflected on the draft zoning map previously reviewed by the Planning Commission. To avoid the issue of spot zoning, staff recommended rezoning properties along Liberty Street and York Street to R-T, Residential Transitional, to allow for multi-family dwellings by-right.

Rezoning properties is often necessary to address existing non-conforming uses and correct past spot zoning mistakes that conflict with the community's comprehensive land use plan. Non-conforming uses—where properties are being used in ways not permitted under current zoning—can lead to inconsistencies, enforcement challenges, and hinder orderly development. Additionally, prior instances of spot zoning, where parcels were improperly zoned for uses incompatible with surrounding areas, can create legal vulnerabilities and disrupt neighborhood cohesion. Updating the zoning ordinance through targeted rezonings helps ensure alignment with present-day realities, promotes compatible land uses, and supports balanced growth.

POLICY EXPLANATION:

VA Code § 15.2-1813

FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE:

No Fiscal Impact

Available Budget: Not Applicable

Purchase Amount: Not Applicable

ACTION REQUESTED/ALTERNATIVES

City Council hold a Public Hearing

City Council Approve Ordinance on First Reading

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	Ordinance 2026 - 16 (Rezoning 59 parcels totaling 24.44 acres, generally located along Liberty Street and York Street)
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ORDINANCE NO. 2026-16

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA, BY REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED ALONG LIBERTY STREET AND YORK STREET FROM C-C, COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT, AND R-N, NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, TO R-T, RESIDENTIAL TRANSITIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Martinsville has reviewed the proposed amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the City of Martinsville in accordance with Chapter 15.2 of the Code of Virginia and Chapter 21 of the City Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council conducted a public hearing on the proposed rezoning on **July 14, 2026**, after notice was duly published and all other requirements of law were satisfied; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that the proposed rezoning promotes compatible land use patterns, supports appropriate residential redevelopment and investment, and advances the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Martinsville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, that the Official Zoning Map of the City of Martinsville is hereby amended by rezoning the following parcels from **C-C, Commercial Corridor District** and **R-N, Neighborhood Residential District** to **R-T, Residential Transitional District**:

Tax Map Parcels:

12(06)00/01-03, 12(06)00/11, 12, 13, 05(06)00/14, 05(06)00/04-05, 05(06)00/16, 05(06)00/06, 05(06)00/16A-17, 05(06)00/07, 05(06)00/08, 05(06)00/18, 05(06)00/19, 05(06)00/09, 05(06)00/10, 05(06)00/20, 05(01)00/10B, 05(01)00/09R, 05(01)00/08RR, 05(01)00/06, 05(01)00/06A, 05(01)00/05A, 05(01)00/05-05A, 05(01)00/04, 05(01)00/03B, 05(01)00/03A, 05(10)00/01XB-01XC, 05(10)00/01X-AR, 05(08)00/108A, 05(08)00/103R-M, 05(01)00/01, 05(11)00/08, 05(11)00/09, 05(02)00/01, 05(03)00/08, 05(03)00/07, 05(03)00/06, 05(03)00/05, 05(03)00/04, 05(03)00/03, 05(03)00/02, 05(03)00/01, 05(04)00/15R, 05(04)00/13, 05(04)00/11-12, 05(04)00/09-10, 05(04)00/07-08, 05(04)00/05-06, 05(04)00/03-04, 05(04)00/01-02, 05(05)00/11, 05(05)00/01A, 05(09)00/17, 05(09)00/15, 05(09)00/03, 05(09)00/04, 05(09)00/02B, 05(09)00/02A, 05(09)00/01, 05(01)00/AR, and 02(03)00/PR.

The foregoing parcels consist of approximately **59 parcels totaling 24.44 acres**, generally located along **Liberty Street and York Street**, as more particularly depicted on the rezoning map maintained by the City's Department of Community Development.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Recorded Roll Call Votes:

Aye

Nay

Abstain

Absent

ATTEST:

Mayor

Deputy City Clerk