



June 23, 2026
Martinsville City Council
Meeting Minutes

Call Open Session to Order - 5:30pm, Council Chambers; Municipal Building; 55 W Church St, Martinsville VA

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

Councilman Rawls was absent.

a. Discuss and Consider Motion to go into Closed Session. Motion made by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely. Council convened in Closed Session with the Following 4-0 vote.

- Councilman Rawls: absent
- Councilman Gravely; aye
- Councilman Mei; aye
- Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
- Mayor Jones; aye

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

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

- a. 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 regard to Boards and Commissions.



- b. 2.2-3711 (A7 & A8) 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. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. With Regard to Facility Show-Cause Order.

The following City Council Members were in attendance: Kathy Lawson, Rayshaun Gravely, Julian Mei, and Mayor Jones.

Staff in attendance were City Manager, Robert Fincher; City Attorney Representative, Stephen Durbin of Sands Anderson; Greg Maggard, Director of Public Works; Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk.

Consultants from Mosely Group were also present.

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

- A. Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Lawson, and second by Councilman Mei, 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
 - Councilman Rawls: abstain



Regular Session - 7:00pm, Council Chambers

Attendance: All members were in attendance.

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
 - Led by Pastor Chris Bennett, Wesley Memorial
- Take Any Action Necessary as A Result of the Executive Session
 - Motion to hold a special-called meeting on June 30, 2026 to discuss show-cause order by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely.
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye
 - Councilman Rawls: aye
 - Motion to Appoint to School Board for terms ending June 30, 2029
 - a. Yani Smith
 - b. Nekia Blackwell
 - Approved with the following 5-0 vote.
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye
 - Councilman Rawls: aye



- Presentations and Proclamations
 - Proclamation Honoring Proclamation Honoring Independence Day & America's 250th Anniversary Presented to the American Legion Homer Dillard Post #78 and MHC AMVETS
 - Proclamation Honoring June as National Safety Month Presented to the Fire & EMS Department, Police Department, and Sheriff's Office
 - Proclamation Honoring June as NLC National Small Cities Month
 - Planning Commission Update
 - Robinson, Farmer, & Cox Audit Report
 - Police Departmental Update
- Regular Agenda or New Business
 - Discuss and Consider Items of Consent
 - Confirmation of the Following Meeting Minutes:
 - June 9, 2026
 - Consideration of a Resolution Appropriating Funds
 - Consideration by the Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority of a Resolution Approving an Extension of the Commitment Letter in Support of the Aaron Street Lofts Affordable Housing Project
 - Upon a Motion by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Mei, Items of Consent Approved with the following 5-0 vote:
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; aye
 - Upon a Motion by Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely, Recess as City Council and Convene as Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye



- Mayor Jones; aye

- Upon a Motion by Commissioner Lawson and Second by Commissioner Gravely, Appropriations Resolution Approved with the following 5-0 vote:
 - Commissioner Mei; aye
 - Commissioner Rawls; aye
 - Commissioner Gravely; aye
 - Commissioner Lawson; aye
 - Chairman Jones; aye

- Upon a Motion by Commissioner Lawson and Second by Commissioner Mei, Aaron Mills Extension Request Resolution Approved with the following 5-0 vote:
 - Commissioner Mei; aye
 - Commissioner Rawls; aye
 - Commissioner Gravely; aye
 - Commissioner Lawson; aye
 - Chairman Jones; aye

- Upon a Motion by Commissioner Lawson and Second by Commissioner Gravley, Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Recessed and City Council reconvened with the following vote 5-0 vote:
 - a. Commissioner Mei; aye
 - b. Commissioner Rawls; aye
 - c. Commissioner Gravely; aye
 - d. Commissioner Lawson; aye
 - e. Mayor Jones; aye



Resolution to appropriate Funds No. 2 - 2026

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA
RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FY 25-26

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:

General Fund	Revenue	Appropriation from Fund Balance	\$16,667
General Fund	Expense	Transfer to MHRA Fund	\$16,667
MRHA Fund	Revenue	Transfer Received from General Fund	\$16,667
MRHA Fund	Revenue	Appropriation from MHRA Fund Balance	\$483,000 ▼
MRHA Fund	Expense	Increase Housing Program Appropriation	Increase of \$500,000

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

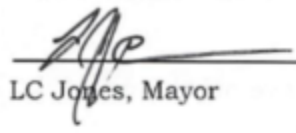
- Discuss and Consider Adoption of Budget Ordinance for FY 26-27 on Second Reading
 - a. Motion to approve on second reading the budget as presented from Vice Mayor Lawson and Second by Councilman Gravely. Approved on Second Reading with the following 3-2 vote:
 - Councilman Mei; aye
 - Councilman Gravely; aye
 - Councilman Rawls; no
 - Vice Mayor Lawson; aye
 - Mayor Jones; abstain
 - a. Reason: Allegations of the prior year

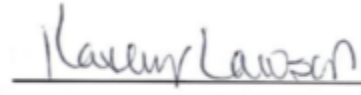


Adjournment

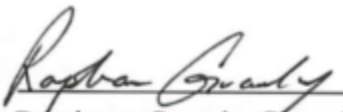
A. Motion to adjourn made by Vice Mayor Lawson at 9pm.



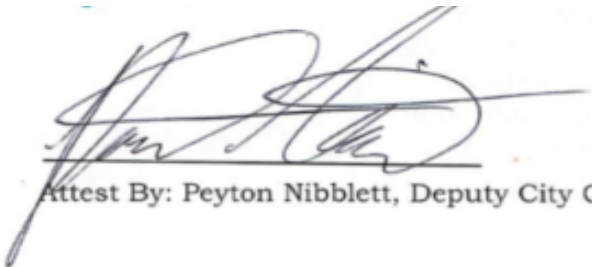

LC Jones, Mayor


Kathy Lawson, Vice Mayor

Aaron Rawls, Councilmember (Voted Yes, Did not Sign)


Rayshaun Gravely, Councilmember

Julian Mei, Councilmember (Absent)


Attest By: Peyton Nibblett, Deputy City Clerk

