

April 13, 2021 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on April 13, 2021 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:00 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Danny Turner, Jennifer Bowles, and Tammy Pearson. Council Member Martin participated by phone. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Community Development Director Mark McCaskill, Water Resources Director Mike Kahle and Police Chief Eddie Cassady.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation, Mayor Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lawson explained that the meeting would follow COVID guidelines, allowing limited attendance and recognizing social distancing recommendations. City Attorney Monday stated that Council Member Martin would be allowed to participate by phone pursuant to Code of Virginia 2.2-3708.2A1B with Council's approval. Council Member Martin contacted Mayor Lawson and City Manager Towarnicki earlier in the day stating that his employment will keep him out of town and he would not be able to physically attend the Council meeting. While this code normally limits absences to two meetings per calendar year, the emergency ordinance adopted during the pandemic is still in effect and is also addressed by an executive order. Vice Mayor Bowles made the motion to allow Martin to participate electronically. The motion was seconded by Council Member Pearson with all four Members in attendance voting in favor.

Approve minutes from the March 23, 2021 Meeting – Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Consider adoption of a resolution committing the City to certain in-kind contributions related to the Pine Hall Road Community Development Block Grant Project application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development – Community Development Director Mark McCaskill explained the need for the resolution and answered questions related to the contributions. Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to adopt the resolution committing the City to certain in-kind contributions related to the Pine Hall Road Grant; Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor



RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville, Virginia has identified revitalization of the City as a priority need through housing rehabilitation and the removal of blighting influences; and

WHEREAS the City is eligible for and wishes to apply for Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the 2021 Competitive Grant Funding cycle; and

WHEREAS, the title of the City's grant project is the Martinsville Pine Hall Neighborhood Housing Rehabilitation 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City is requesting \$1,183,303.99 Virginia Community Development Block Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the City has obtained or will obtain \$599,944.73 in in-kind services or additional funds consisting of **\$372,069.73** in street improvements, street resurfacing and stormwater improvements as listed in the Cost Estimate Addendum dated 03-15-2021 to the Preliminary Engineering Report with the remaining funds and in-kind services consisting of the following: Investor-Owner investment (**\$39,520**), : application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Single Family Housing Repair Grant Program (**\$45,000 - Will Apply**), the USDA RD Housing Preservation Grant Program (**\$19,000 - Will Apply**), in-kind services by City staff (**\$124,355**) including but not limited to: Contract Monitoring, Legal Services, Advertising, Workshop Expenses, Clearance and Demolition, Testing (Asbestos and Lead), Permit Costs, Construction Related Soft Costs and other in-kind expenses for a total project cost of \$1,783,254.72; and

WHEREAS, the housing needs assessment and surveys identified deteriorating and dilapidated residential property as a significant problem in the targeted portion of the Pine Hall neighborhood as a blighting influence on the area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville has properly advertised and conducted public hearings on January 26, 2021 and March 9, 2021 which addressed the CDBG program and the CDBG project application, thereby meeting citizen participation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia on this 13th day of April, 2021, that:

1. The City of Martinsville wishes to apply for a 2021 CDBG Community Improvement Grant in the amount of **\$1,183,303.99** for the Martinsville Pine Hall Neighborhood Revitalization Project; and hereby commits a total of **\$496,424.73** in City in-kind investment combined with a solicited **\$103,520** in private investment and other grant funds for a total project cost of **\$1,783,254.72** for the purpose of rehabilitating or substantially reconstructing seventeen (17) residential housing units through a Housing Rehabilitation Program, and demolishing up to 6 blighting structures.
2. The City hereby authorizes the City Manager, the City's chief administrative official, to execute and file all appropriate documents necessary for submission of the City of Martinsville's 2021 Community Development Block Grant application, and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Kathy Lawson, Mayor

Attest: Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider adoption of a resolution authorizing staff to execute an agreement for the City of Martinsville to participate in the statewide Virginia Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (VA WARN) – Water Resources Director Mike Kahle explained VA WARN; explaining the intent is to pool municipalities all over the state in case of natural or man-made disaster while those communities affected wait for federal aid. Council Member Pearson made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing staff to execute an agreement for the City to participate in VA WARN; Vice Mayor Bowles seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.



RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE VIRGINIA WATER AND
WASTEWATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK
MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, the National Infrastructure Protection Plan and in particular the Sector Specific Plan for the Water Sector developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency identifies the development of a Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network in each State as an important means of helping to ensure resilient water and wastewater infrastructure in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of such national Water Sector plan, Virginia's longstanding, nationally-recognized professional associations known as the Virginia Section of the American Water Works Association ("VA AWWA") and the Virginia Water Environment Association ("VWEA") have jointly formed the Virginia Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network ("VA WARN") Committee to develop the EPA-recommended network and associated procedures for implementation in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the VA WARN Committee has developed the attached form of a VA WARN Mutual Aid Agreement for use by public and private Water Sector utilities for purposes of requesting assistance and responding to such requests as well as a related form of an Event Agreement for providing assistance of a defined scope on defined terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, this VA WARN Mutual Aid Agreement is intended to supplement and integrate with the Statewide Mutual Aid Program administered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, with the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and with other mutual aid agreements of local, intrastate and interstate scope; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville owns and operates water and wastewater facilities, is responsible for public water supply and wastewater management in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is therefore eligible to participate in VA WARN and the VA WARN Mutual Aid Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Martinsville that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the VA WARN Mutual Aid Agreement, which is hereby approved. Adopted by the Council of the City of Martinsville this 13th day of April, 2021.

Kathy Lawson, Mayor

Attest: Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

Consider adoption of a joint Resolution with Henry County in support of construction of the Martinsville Southern Connector and to request funding for the project to be included in the upcoming Infrastructure Plan – City Manager Towarnicki detailed the need for the resolution, stating that there has been a lot of discussion regarding the connector and the route that it would take due to environmental concerns. This resolution was approved earlier today by Henry County. Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to adopt the joint resolution in support of construction of the Southern Connector and to request funding for the project to be included in the upcoming infrastructure plan; Council Member Pearson seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor.



Martinsville
A CITY WITHOUT LIMITS



JOINT RESOLUTION

OF THE

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MARTINSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Henry County and the City of Martinsville have long recognized the importance of transportation infrastructure in promoting employment, growing the local economy, attracting capital investment, and enhancing travel, tourism, recreation and other economic development avenues; and

WHEREAS, improvements to U.S Route 220 from the North Carolina state line to the existing U.S Route 220/58 Bypass through Henry County are vital to our area's business and economic future and has been a primary point of discussion for many years; and

WHEREAS, after much study and public input, a route designated as the **Martinsville Southern Connector Route** located on the west side of U.S. Route 220 has been identified as the preferred option with the least impact to residential and business properties, while also connecting Commonwealth Business Centre, the mega-site business park located in southern Henry County; and

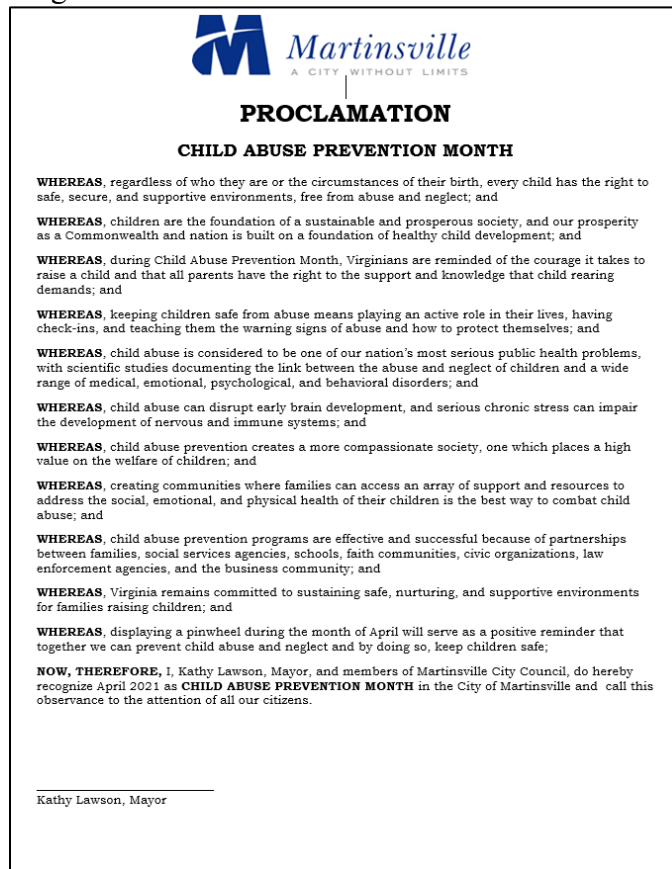
WHEREAS, working in concert with the Virginia Department of Transportation's Martinsville Southern Connector initiative, the route could potentially be linked to future additional expansion and improvement of the Route 220 corridor north toward Roanoke;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT JOINTLY RESOLVED, on this 13th day of April, 2021, that the Henry County Board of Supervisors and Martinsville City Council hereby support the construction of the Martinsville Southern Connector and request funding for the project be considered for inclusion in the upcoming Infrastructure Plan that will be presented to the United States Congress.

Jim Adams, Chairman
Henry County Board of Supervisors

Kathy Lawson, Mayor
City of Martinsville

Read a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month – Vice Mayor Bowles read the proclamation. Kerry and Ricky Walker arrived later during the meeting and Bowles presented them the proclamation. Mr. Walker thanked Council for the proclamation. FOCUS on Youth and CASA supports the volunteer advocates who work with the children and families while they navigate through the court system to ensure the best outcome for them. This month is all about highlighting what the organization does throughout the year. With the assistance of the Exchange Club, the Field of Flags was set up at the entrance to Roselawn Cemetery.



Read and present a proclamation recognizing April 18, 2021 as National Lineman Appreciation Day – Mayor Lawson read the proclamation which was presented to Jimmy Rigney, representative of the City Electric Department who thanked Council for honoring the City lineman. Council Member Martin recognized the lineman, the dangerous job they have and stated that they are appreciated. Vice Mayor Bowles said the lineman do an amazing job and the City is lucky to have them. Mayor Lawson said surrounding community residents comment often about how fast the City gets power restored compared to other locations.



PROCLAMATION

**NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY
APRIL 18, 2021**

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2013, the United States Senate recognized linemen, the profession of linemen, and the contributions of the brave men and women of this profession who protect public safety by expressing support for the designation April 18, 2013 through Senate Resolution 95, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, linemen are often first responders during storms, emergencies, and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes; and

WHEREAS, linemen must often work under dangerous conditions with thousands of volts of electricity in all weather conditions high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to construct, repair, and maintain infrastructure to keep electricity flowing; and

WHEREAS, linemen put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the community regarding the danger of their work; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville's electric linemen are; Daniel Morrison, Jimmy Rigney, Austin Johnson, Brian Collins, Chase Cooper, Kyle Fulkerson, Bryar Turner, Austin Shumate, Curt Compton, Jimmy Blankenship, Tim Agee, Ryan Emberson, Brandon Martin, and Todd McCrickard.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kathy Lawson, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, along with Martinsville City Council members, do hereby proclaim April 18, 2021, as National Lineman Appreciation Day and encourage residents to recognize and appreciate the work of the linemen of the City's Electric Department in providing and maintaining electric service for the City of Martinsville.

Kathy Lawson, Mayor

Consider a request by the Virginia Municipal League to submit nominations for membership on the VML 2021 Policy Committees – Council agreed on the following VML Policy Committee Nominations: Community and Economic Development will be Council Member Pearson and Council Member Martin, Environmental Quality will be City Attorney Eric Monday, Finance will be City Manager Towarnicki, General Laws will be Council Member Tuner, Human Development and Education will be Vice Mayor Bowles, and Transportation will be Mayor Lawson.

VML's Legislative and Policy Committee Process

Each year the Virginia Municipal League develops two types of documents -- a legislative program and a compilation of policy statements -- through a process that involves the Legislative Committee and six separate policy committees. The Legislative Committee is responsible for developing the legislative program, but it may also rely on input from the policy committees to do so. The policy committees develop broad policy statements, in addition to submitting specific legislative recommendations for consideration by the Legislative Committee.

Legislative Committee

What is the role of the Legislative Committee?

The Legislative Committee is responsible for considering and developing positions on existing or proposed state and federal legislation or regulations, and urging the enactment or amendment of, or opposition to, such legislation or regulations.

How is the Legislative Committee appointed?

VML's Constitution spells out the composition of the Legislative Committee. The committee consists of 24 individuals holding local elective or appointed positions, all appointed by VML's Executive Committee. Of the 24 members, 12 must be representatives of cities and urban counties with populations in excess of 35,000, six must be representatives of cities and urban counties with populations of 35,000 or less, and six must represent towns.

What is included in VML's Legislative Program?

The legislative program adopted by the Legislative Committee reflects specific legislative objectives that VML hopes to achieve during the upcoming legislative session. It is subject to the approval of VML's membership at the annual conference.

What is the relationship between the legislative committee and VML's policy committees?

The Legislative Committee meets prior to the policy committees to identify issues that it would like the committees to consider for potential inclusion in the league's legislative program. It meets again after the policy committees have met to consider their recommendations.

Policy Committees

What is the role of the policy committees?

Policy committees receive briefings on select statewide issues, consider possible changes to the policy statement, and develop legislative recommendations for the Legislative Committee to consider.

How are policy committees appointed?

Policy committee membership consists of elected and appointed officials of full-member local governments. Nomination information is sent in the spring to each locality, and each local government determines which of its officials will be nominated for each of the six policy committees. Each local government may nominate up to two people per policy committee, at least one of whom must be an elected official.

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What are the benefits of serving on a policy committee?

VML policy committees offer members an opportunity to learn about current and emerging statewide issues that affect local governments, to develop through policy statements the broad philosophical framework that guides the league, and to network with local officials with similar policy interests.

How many policy committees are there?

There are six policy committees: community and economic development, environmental quality, finance, general laws, human development and education, and transportation.

What issues does each policy committee cover?

- **Community & Economic Development:** Authority, administration, and funding of local governments to manage a full range of community and economic development issues, including business development and retention, international competitiveness, infrastructure development and investment, planning, land use and zoning, blight, enterprise zones, housing, workforce development and historic preservation.
- **Environmental Quality:** Natural resources and the authority of local governments to manage the environment, including water resources and quality, solid and hazardous waste management, air quality and the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Finance:** Powers, organization and administration of local government financing, including taxing authority, debt financing, state aid to local governments and federal policies affecting local finance issues.
- **General Laws:** Powers, duties, responsibilities, organization and administration of local governments, including state-local and inter-local relations, conflicts-of-interest, freedom-of-information, information management and personnel, telecommunications, utilities and law enforcement, jails and courts issues.
- **Human Development and Education:** Management and funding of social services, pre-K-12 education, health, behavioral health, juvenile justice, recreation, rehabilitation and aging.
- **Transportation:** Development, maintenance, and funding of a comprehensive land, sea and air transportation system for the Commonwealth, and federal, state and local roles in the provision and regulation of transportation.

What is a policy statement?

Each policy committee develops a policy statement that covers issues in its respective area. The policy statement expresses the agreement of VML's membership on matters of interest to local governments. The statement generally addresses broad, long-term, philosophical positions. The VML membership approves the policy statements at its annual meeting.

How do policy statements differ from VML's legislative program?

Policy statements are general in nature. They reflect local governments' positions on a range of issues. The Legislative Program is more specific and immediate. It is limited to legislative positions that VML expects to lobby on during the upcoming legislative session.

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March 23, 2021

To: VML Key Officials and Clerks

From: Michelle Gowdy, Executive Director

Subject: 2021 VML Policy Committee Appointments and Meetings

It's time once again to begin the VML policy process.

Each year we ask our full-member local governments to nominate their governing body members and appointed staff who are interested in participating in VML policy committee.

The policy committees will meet once this year in late July; the meetings will be held virtually via Zoom. Committee meeting dates and times will be announced soon.

We are attaching the 2020 committee lists so you can see who from your local government served on the committees last year. Your representatives can stay on the same committees as in the past or they can move to a different committee. If no one served, you can make some appointments this year! Just remember that an individual can only serve on one committee per year.

Please use the nominations form to fill in your committee nominees for this year and email the form to Joni Terry at VML, jterry@vml.org by May 14. Changes due to spring elections can be made until July 5.

An explanation of the areas covered by the policy committees and an explanation of the policy process is attached.

Please email Janet Areson (jareson@vml.org) if you have any questions.

cc: Legislative Liaisons

P.O. Box 12164
Richmond, VA 23241

804/649-8471
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Consider approval of consent agenda- Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Vice Mayor Bowles seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

April 13, 2021 Council Meeting

Business from the Floor – Council Member Martin said residents had concerns about a recent water main break. Mike Kahle detailed the break Friday morning which occurred due to a “water hammer” effect while accessing a hydrant during a fire. Virginia Department of Health requires the City to distribute boil water notices in situations like this; this time it was localized and not City-wide. Some areas that were not affected may still have had low water pressure but were not required to boil the water. Pearson asked that communication be shared to the website also in the future. Turner suggested the 911 system to get the word out.

Comments by City Council – Council Member Turner offered his condolences to the Wood Brothers Racing Team and family for the passing of Bernice Wood. Council Member Pearson wished Mayor Lawson a belated happy birthday and thanked her for her friendship and leadership. Being in the restaurant business, Pearson spoke to race fans the previous week and she wanted to thank everyone who planned and executed a successful race weekend. Thank you to local businesses and hotels. Pearson said she only heard positive remarks and comments on how welcoming Martinsville residents were. Council Member Martin stated what Mr. Walker and the FOCUS on Youth and CASA organizations do for the youth is amazing. Vice Mayor Bowles said that it’s exciting to hear positive things from visitors and thanked residents for their support. Bowles also wished Mayor Lawson a happy belated birthday. Mayor Lawson commented again on the Field of Flags and encouraged residents to visit. VDOT says that is the busiest intersection in the City with over 10,000 vehicles passing through each day so it is the perfect place to help raise awareness. Lawson reminded residents of Hazardous Waste Day on April 24 in Bassett. Lawson said the race last weekend was handled well and professional and drew a good crowd. It was one of the better races in Martinsville.

Comments by the City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki reminded Council of the reversion work session tomorrow (Wednesday) 530-730pm; this will be a closed session. Towarnicki shared that April 11-17 is National 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators week and thanked all of the local dispatchers. There will be a notice in the utility bills regarding a scheduled power outage on May 8 and 9 from midnight – 4:00am due to AEP work. Additional information will be provided on the website, on utility bills and via a media release. City magnets are available with important information and emergency contact numbers, and will be distributed. Monday reminded residents that April 21 is Historical Garden Week and tickets must be purchased in advance

There being no further business, Council Member Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bowles with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Kathy Lawson
Mayor