



MINUTES -- CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025

5:00 pm - Closed, Executive Session Meeting

Room 208, Municipal Building

Present: Jones, Lawson, Mei, Gravely.

Absent: Rawls.

A Closed meeting of the City of Martinsville, Virginia's Council, was held on February 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM in Conference Room 208, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Vice Mayor, Kathy Lawson; Julian Mei, Rayshaun Gravely, and Mayor Jones. Council Member, Aaron Rawls was absent. Staff present included City Manager, Aretha Ferrell-Benavides; Assistant to the City Manager, Peyton Nibblett, City Attorney Designee and Interim Managing Director of Development, Eric Payne; Outside Legal Counsel, Stephen Durbin; Chief Operating Officer, Edena Reese-Atmore; and Managing Director of Public Works, Greg Maggard. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:00 PM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Council Member Lawson and seconded by Council Member Mei with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Council Member Mei, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; Vice Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Gravely, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for appointment in relation to Martinsville Land Bank Authority and Charter Review Committee.
- b. Discussion or Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7. In relation to Building Show-Cause Litigation.

6:00 pm - Work Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

Present: Jones, Lawson, Mei, Gravely, Rawls.

Discuss Consent Agenda Items

- a. Council discussed January 28th 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes.



MINUTES -- CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

2. Briefings and Presentations

- a. A Briefing on Outside Agencies was given by Director of Budget & Procurement, Robert Floyd. The briefing contained information in regards to the submitted applications.

3. Refuse Ordinance Workshop with Planning Commission

- A. Uptown Businesses currently receive five-days a week trash pickup which goes against the set City policy of Trash pickup two-days a week. This causes a budget shortfall that the refuse ordinance seeks to correct. In addition, the refuse ordinance seeks to correct the accessibility and safety of City streets and sidewalks. The City of Martinsville Planning Commission recommended adding dumpsters for high-use and multi-family housing, rather than enforcing city-wide and trash pick-up three days a week. The City Manager pitched the idea of rolling out dumpsters to pilot areas to observe the effect and necessary additions or revisions to the service.

7:00 pm - Regular Session

City Council Chambers, Municipal Building

Present: Jones, Lawson, Mei, Gravely, Rawls.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order beginning at 7:00 PM

2. Pledge to the American Flag

3. Invocation

- a. Led by Damian Wainwright

4. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. Citizen Presentations: Brad Kinkema on City Support of YMCA
 - i. CEO Kinkema gave a presentation on the Lester Family YMCA with key features: Splash Pad and Early Learning Center. Requested the City to consider \$500,000 towards the project.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Discuss and Consider January 28th, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes



MINUTES -- CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

- i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 - ii. Approved with 5:0 Vote
 - b. Discuss and Consider Reappointment to West Piedmont Planning District Commission
 - i. Reappointment **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 - ii. Approved with 4 and 1 Abstain Vote
- 6. Public Hearing
 - a. None
- 7. Regular Agenda or New Business
 - a. Discuss and Consider Second Reading of Refuse Ordinance
 - i. **Discussionary Period Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei.
 - ii. **Tabled for 90 days, to be revisited May 27th, 2025** with Motion made by Councilor Rawls and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye.
 - b. Discuss and Consider Adopting Rules of Council
 - i. **Discussionary Period Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Mei and Seconded by Councilor Lawson.
 - ii. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 - c. Discuss and Consider Approval of Resolution 2025-1, Creating a Charter Review Committee
 - i. **Discussionary Period Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Mei and Seconded by Councilor Lawson.
 - ii. **Motion to establish the committee will be approved by Resolution at February 25th Meeting**, Motion made by Councilor Mei and Seconded by Councilor Lawson. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; Rawls, aye; Gravely, aye; Jones, aye.



MINUTES -- CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

8. Actions necessary as a result of the Executive Session

- a. Consider authorizing agreed order setting forth courthouse evaluation and remediation plan in Show Cause litigation
 - i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Mei and Seconded by Councilor Kathy Lawson. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 - ii. Approved with 5:0 Vote
- b. Consider Appointment of Charter Review Committee Members
 - i. **Barbara Seymour**
 1. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Ralws and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 2. Approved with 5:0 Vote
 - ii. **Gene Teagues**
 1. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 2. Approved with 5:0 Vote
 - iii. **Andy Hall**
 1. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 2. Approved with 5:0 Vote
 - iv. **Jennifer Boyles**
 1. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Gravely and Seconded by Councilor Lawson. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye; Rawls, no; Mei, no.
 2. Approved with 3:2 Vote
 - v. **Kimball Reynolds**
 1. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Mei and Seconded by Councilor Lawson. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye
 2. Approved with 5:0 Vote
- c. Consider Appointments to Martinsville Land Bank Authority
 - i. Removed



MINUTES -- CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

9. City Hall Reporting and Announcements

A. Public Information Officer

10. Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor

A. Dean Johnston

11. Comments by Members of City Council

12. Communications by City Manager

13. Adjournment