

June 27, 2023 Council Meeting

A meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on June 27, 2023 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:00 PM with Mayor LC Jones presiding. Other Council Members present included Kathy Lawson, Aaron Rawls, Lawrence Mitchell and Tammy Pearson. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, City Attorney Dan Siegel, Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Public Information Officer Kendall Davis, Water Resources Director Mandy Muse, and Deputy Police Chief Chad Rhoads.

Vice Mayor Rawls called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:30 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 Pearson with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Rawls, aye; Council Member Pearson, aye; Council Member Mitchell, aye; and Council Member Lawson, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; Appointment to Boards and Commissions, as authorized by Subsection 1, (B) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized but Subsection 3, and (C) Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City of Martinsville would be adversely affected, as authorized by Subsection 6. Mayor Jones joined closed session later.

At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Lawson and seconded by Vice Mayor Rawls with the following recorded vote: Mayor Jones, aye; Vice Mayor Rawls, aye; Council Member Lawson, aye; Council Member Mitchell, aye; and Council Member Pearson, aye.

Council Member Lawson made a motion to appoint Lucy Treado to the Arts and Cultural Committee (VMNH) for a 3-year term ending March 31, 2026; Council Member Pearson seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

No other action was taken out of closed session.

Pledge to the flag and invocation were led by Council Member Pearson. Mayor Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that agendas could be found in the back of the room and on the City website.

Approve minutes from the May 10, 2023 Work Session, May 16, 2023 Work Session, May 17, 2023 Work Session, May 22, 2023 Work Session, May 23 Council Meeting, June 12, 2023 Neighborhood Meeting, and June 13, 2023 Council Meeting – Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Vice Mayor Rawls seconded the motion with all

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Council Members voting in favor.

Recognize City employees who are eligible for Service Awards for the period April 1 – June 30, 2023 – City Manager Towarnicki recognized employees who received service awards and thanked them for their years of service to the city.

SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS FIRST QUARTER - FISCAL YEAR 22-23 FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2023			
First Name	Last Name	Location	YOS
JASON	VAUGHAN	POLICE DEPT	10
JORDAN	COOPER	ELECTRIC	10
TIMOTHY	AGEE	ELECTRIC	25
RONALD	NANCE	UTILITY BILLING	35
JAMES	BLANKENSHIP	ELECTRIC	35

Hear an update from Brad Kinkema of the Martinsville-Henry County Family YMCA regarding their Facility Strategy and Design project – Kinkema presented a PowerPoint to update Council on the Facility Strategy and Design Project detailing the site plan, the addition of a splash pad and plaza, the early learning center, outdoor sports courts and playground including pickleball, soccer, and lacrosse practice, and the proposed floor plans. Kinkema said they do not plan to increase member rates to finance the new facility, but they hope to have more members join. The YMCA does not turn people away due to inability to pay, financial assistance is offered. 53% of the 3200 members have their membership paid for by a third party. Kinkema said they plan to sell the current building strategically so that it'll be a benefit to the neighborhood and community. They have held a "listening" session but did not hear much concern about the relocation of the YMCA or the closing of the Family Dollar store. Council Member Mitchell questioned the traffic pattern; Kinkema said that was reviewed and they did not see any major concern. Kinkema would like the City to support this project with a \$1million gift to ensure this project moves forward.





YMCA | 9 **AQUATICS CENTER** gro>



YMCA | 10 **CHILD WATCH / KIDS ADVENTURE** gro>

COMMUNITY
Community Multipurpose Rooms
450 SF & 750 SF; 80 occupants

Multipurpose Community Rooms for community meetings, education, gathering, and education.

Ability to be combined (1,200 sf total) for Y activities. Also can be combined with Intergen for 1,950 sf total (130 occupants)

gro>

COMMUNITY
S.T.E.A.M. Lab
1,100 SF; 31 occupants

Specialty room with an emphasis on education, arts, and exploration for children over the age of 10 years.

Part of the exploration suite of venues.

gro>

COMMUNITY
Community Kitchen
400 sf; 15 occupants

Community Kitchen for cooking classes, nutrition consulting, catering events, and open programming

Residential appliances with an emphasis on flexible programming and usage.

gro>

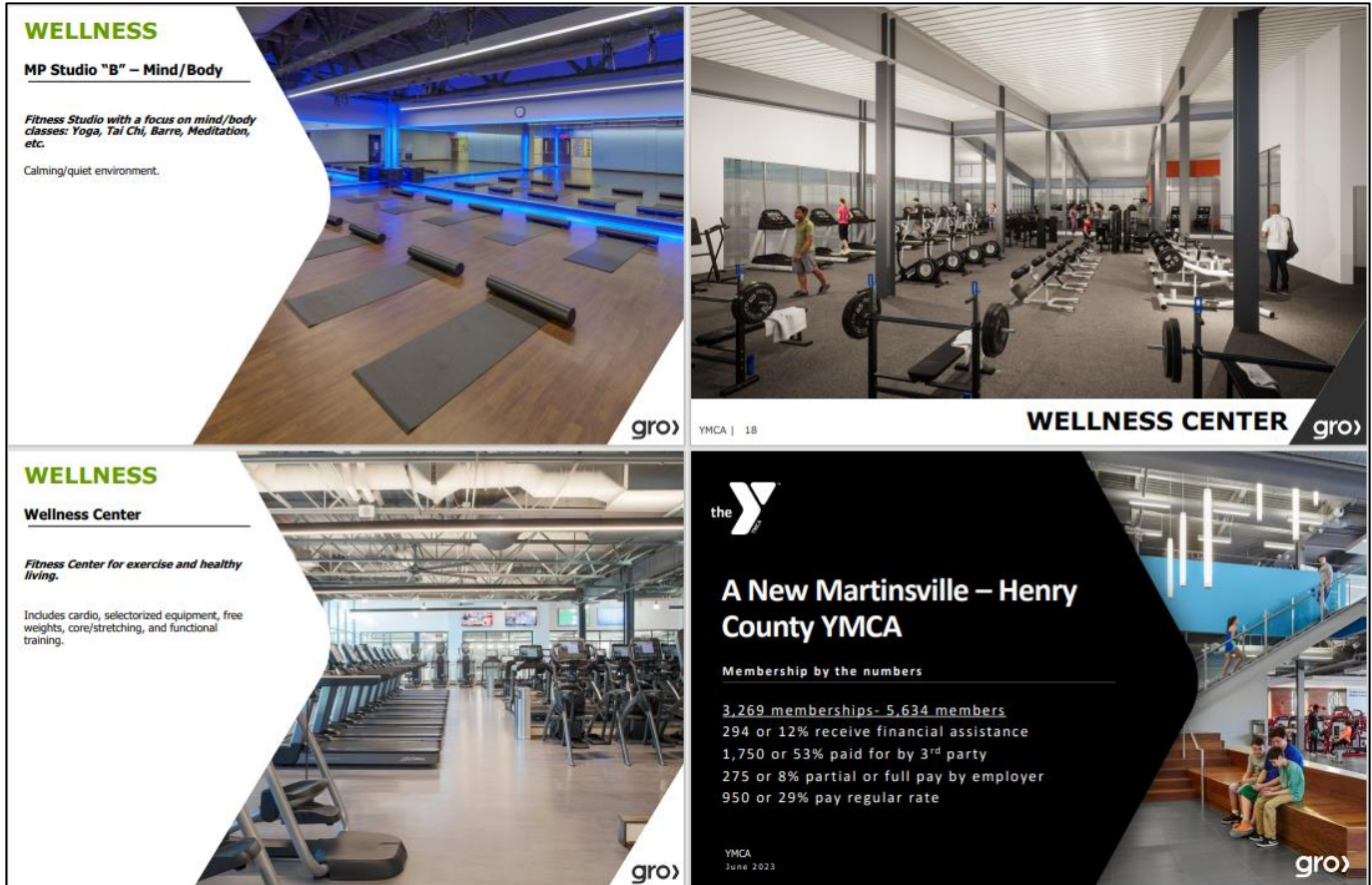
YMCA | 14 **SECOND FLOOR PLAN** gro>

YMCA | 15 **GYMNASIUM, TRACK, & GROUP EX** gro>

WELLNESS
MP Studio "A" - General

Fitness Studio with a focus on aerobics, dance, and high intensity group exercise classes

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Hear an update from Virginia Career Works – Natalie Hodge shared updates on Virginia Career Works. Hodge said it is commonly mistaken as the “unemployment office” but says it’s a space focusing on employment instead of unemployment with opportunities beyond employment including training and creating new employment experiences. They partner with other organizations including Southern Area Agency on Aging, Career Coaches and Staff, the Virginia Employment team and many others. Hodge encourages residents to visit the office if they need assistance. There are several program subsidiaries for employers in the area to hire someone in a training role. The Work Force Grant will pay a percentage of the employee’s salary to get a hands-on experience with an employer and the employer can see if the employee would be a good fit before officially hiring them. Hodge said they work with larger employers like Drake Extrusions and Monogram to smaller “Mom and Pop” shops. There is a resource room available to residents who need a computer, copies, etc.

Hear an update on expenditure of funds the City received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – City Manager Towarnicki presented a PowerPoint and updated Council on the ARPA funding including expenditures from July 2021 to May 2023, earmarks remaining from prior Council approval, and remaining estimated available funding. The funding must be committed by December 2024 and paid out by December 2026. Towarnicki thanked the Finance Department, stating that there is a lot of work that goes into recording and reporting of these funds.

ARPA FUNDING UPDATE

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2023

ARPA EXPENDITURES - CUMULATIVE - JULY 2021 THROUGH MAY 2023

	ACTUAL	OPEN POS	TOTAL EXP	% OF TOTAL
22112091 PPE-PUB HEALTH EC 1.5	765.20	0.00	765.20	0.01%
22112094 COM DEV EC 2.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
22112095 TOUR/HOSP EC 2.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
22112096 PUB HEALTH OTH EC 1.12	150,550.80	148,068.25	298,619.05	3.40%
22112097 PUB HEALTH PRYS PLANT EC 1.7	10,151.00	0.00	10,151.00	0.12%
22113095 TOURISM/HOSPITALITY EC 2.35	1,241,875.58	1,034,593.60	2,276,469.18	25.90%
22113096 AFFORD HOUSING EC 2.15	287,810.15	29,513.12	317,323.27	3.61%
22113099 DEMOLITION/REHAB EC 2.23	39,550.00	23,950.00	63,400.00	0.72%
22114097 PH-CAP/IN/PHY PL EC 1.7	27,317.94	0.00	27,317.94	0.31%
22122825 ADMINISTRATIVE EXP EC 7.1	9,117.79	0.00	9,117.79	0.10%
22126418 REVENUE REPLACE EC 4.1	3,162,094.30	92,666.00	3,254,760.30	37.02%
22311825 LAW ENFORCEMENT EC 4.1	200,229.00	0.00	200,229.00	2.28%
22322825 EMS EC 4.1	143,497.45	0.00	143,497.45	1.63%
22331825 SHER CORR EC 4.1	110,664.20	0.00	110,664.20	1.28%
22528850 STORM WTR EC 5.6	69,456.50	0.00	69,456.50	0.79%
22538850 BROADBAND EC 5.21	848,711.15	0.00	848,711.15	9.65%
22548850 WATER/INFRASR EC 5.15	0.00	750,000.00	750,000.00	8.53%
22568850 SEWER/INFRASR EC 5.5	214,840.38	194,850.00	409,690.38	4.68%
TOTAL ARPA FUNDS 2021 - EXPENDITURES	6,516,631.44	2,274,129.97	8,790,761.41	100.00%
	ACTUAL REV	TOTAL EXP	REMAINING	% REMAINING
TOTAL ARPA FUNDS 2021 - REVENUES	16,463,451.00	8,790,761.41	6,672,689.59	43.15%

Updated: May 30, 2023

ARPA EARMARKS REMAINING PRIOR COUNCIL APPROVAL

- Stormwater \$200,000 \$130,544 remaining
- Southside Park \$400,000 \$400,000 remaining
- Housing \$500,000 \$182,677 remaining
- Demolition \$500,000 \$436,600 remaining
- Park Upgrades \$500,000 \$500,000 remaining
- Incubator Roof/Other Work \$200,000 (roof \$108,950)
- Loan Commitment Aaron Mills \$500,000
- One Ellsworth Asbestos \$175,000 (for consideration)
- Law Clerk from FY24 Budget \$85,000
- TOTAL ESTIMATED REMAINING EX \$2,609,821**

ESTIMATED REMAINING AVAILABLE FUNDING

\$6,672,690
- **\$2,609,821**
\$4,062,869

SUGGESTED TARGET FOR CURRENT CONSIDERATION APPROX \$3,000,000

Consider approval on first reading Ordinance 2023-1 amending Section 21-103 of the Martinsville City Code to reflect an increase in the cigarette tax from \$0.30 per pack, to \$0.40 per pack effective September 1, 2023 and Ordinance 2023-2 amending Section 21-117 of the Martinsville City Code to reflect an increase in the transient lodging tax from two (2) percent to seven (7) percent effective September 1, 2023 – City Manager Towarnicki summarized Ordinances 2023-1 for the cigarette tax and 2023-2 lodging tax and explained the action required. Council Member Lawson pointed out that Council did receive an email opposing the increase on the cigarette tax from a lobbyist group. Towarnicki stated that \$0.40 is the highest the City can go on the cigarette tax. Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve both ordinances on first reading; Council Member Pearson seconded the motion with the following 5-0 roll call vote: Council Member Lawson, aye; Council Member Mitchell, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; Council Member Pearson, aye; and Vice Mayor Rawls, aye.

City of Martinsville, Virginia
Ordinance No. 2023-1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in Regular Session held on June 27, 2023, that Section 21-103 of the Code of the City of Martinsville be, and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21-103. Tax levied.

There is hereby levied and imposed by the city upon each and every sale of cigarettes after midnight of August 31, 2023, a tax equivalent to forty cents (\$0.40) for each pack of cigarettes sold within the city. The amount of such tax shall be paid by the seller, if not previously paid, in the manner and at the time provided for in this article.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

July 11, 2023
Date Adopted

September 1, 2023
Date Effective

City of Martinsville, Virginia
Ordinance No. 2023-2

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in Regular Session held on June 27, 2023, that Section 21-117 of the Code of the City of Martinsville be, and is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21-117. – Levy of tax.

There is hereby levied and imposed on each transient a tax equivalent to seven (7) percent of the total amount paid for lodging after midnight of August 31, 2023, by or for any such transient, to any hotel.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

July 11, 2023
Date Adopted

September 1, 2023
Date Effective

Business from the Floor – Resident of Childress Drive expressed concern about road work on Forest Street and a pothole with a steel plate in the road. The resident said that Smith Lake Road should have been repaired better and they need more police patrolling at night with an increase in crime in the area. City Manager Towarnicki detailed the repairs made to Smith Lake Road, stating that estimates to repave would have cost the entire paving budget for the year so with the amount of traffic on that road, it was decided to do chip and seal which is used often in surrounding counties on secondary roads. VDOT concurred that would be a suitable solution for that location. Towarnicki said if there is a steel plate on the road, then there is probably ongoing work being done by the gas company. Towarnicki said they would look into why it's taking so long to repair.

Comments by members of City Council – Council Member Mitchell thanked Brad Kinkema for the YMCA presentation and believes it will be a great development. Council Member Pearson said there are a lot of “listening” sessions and suggested that he combine and share ideas with the organization handling the park rehabilitation. Pearson wished residents a happy July 4 holiday. Council Member Lawson shared that Tuesday is the July 4 holiday so flags will be out Uptown. The Martinsville Mustangs will play Thursday along with several nights over the next two weeks; Lawson encouraged resident to attend the games and stated that they recently had a record number of attendees. Lawson asked about MiNET services provided to Martinsville students set to expire in 2024. When students graduate, are the households sent a letter about the cost to continue the service at the city rate and are new students offered the opportunity to

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receive those services? School Superintendent Tally said he believes so. Vice Mayor Rawls thanked Kinkema also, stating that the YMCA project is monumental along with the services that will be provided; Rawls also mentioned the opportunity to beautify an entry way to the City. Rawls said there are a lot of exciting projects ongoing. Council Member Lawson questioned the service station on the corner and asked Kinkema to take into consideration the future of that building. Council Member Mitchell reminded residents that July 2 is the 57th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act; it's been 57 years since this act was passed and the country is a better place for it. Mayor Jones thanked everyone for coming out and extended congratulations to those who received service awards. Thanks to the Public Works, Electric Department, and the Public Information Officer for working hard to address issues recently caused by severe weather.

Comments by City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki shared that Tuesday is July 4 so the City Municipal Building will be closed. On Monday July 3, some offices will be closed including the courts but as of now, the building overall will be open. Towarnicki invited Assistant Deputy Chief Police Chad Rhoads to address the City ordinance on fireworks. Rhoads reminded residents that fireworks are illegal by ordinance in the City of Martinsville and officers will enforce that ordinance. He asked the public to be careful and respectful, use common sense, monitor children and consider pets during the holidays. Firing a gun in the City limits is also illegal and enforceable.

There being no further business, Council Member Pearson made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

LC Jones, Mayor