

April 23, 2024 Council Meeting

A Work Session was held at 5:00 pm on April 23, 2024, in Room 208, Conference Room, Municipal Building. Mayor Jones, Vice Mayor Rawls, Council Member Lawson, Council Member Pearson, Council Member Mitchell, City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, Deputy Clerk of Council Richard Phipps, Chief Operating Officer Edena Reese-Atmore, Public Information Officer Kendall Davis, Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Assistant Finance Director Crystal Ferguson, IT Director Matthew Eggleston, MiNET Director Mike Scaffidi, Public Works Director Greg Maggard, Water Resources Director Mandy Muse, Community Development Director Keith Holland, Fire Chief Dan Howell, Emergency Manager John Turner, Registrar Sara Workman and the Electoral Board members were in attendance.

A presentation was given by Ariel Johnson and Pam Chitwood regarding the Community Overdose Spike Response Planning Team objectives.



Making ODMAP Work for You!



Today's Agenda

- What is ODMAP?
- How does it work?
- What are the benefits?
- How will it impact my community?
 - Spike Responses

What is ODMAP?

ODMAP is an online tool that allows us to monitor overdoses in real time!

Data is entered by state, local, federal, and tribal public safety agencies, including first responders and hospital staff.



How Does it Work?

Data entered by public safety agencies automatically link to ODMAP through an Application Programming Interface (API)

API: a software that allows programs to communicate with one another and allows data sharing between and within organizations

***No extra effort required!!!**



How Does it Work?



What are the Benefits?

The ultimate benefit is the reduction of overdoses in MHC.

ODMAP Data also helps us identify:

- Where overdoses are happening
- Resource/Staffing needs
- Identify the trail/source of fatal substances

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How will ODMAP Impact Martinsville and Henry County?

ODMAP Spike Response System



Reduction of Disease

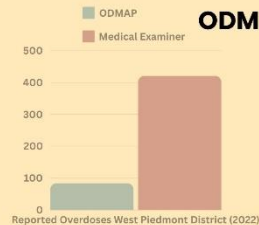
ALL DRUGS

The total number of fatal drug overdoses statewide has increased each year. In 2013, fatal drug overdoses became the number one method of carnage deaths in the Commonwealth, surpassing both motor vehicle-related fatalities and gun-related fatalities. In 2014, fatal drug overdoses became the leading cause of accidental death in Virginia. Preliminary numbers for 2022 indicate that fatal overdoses, as a percentage, increased by approximately 3.2% when compared to 2021.

Total Number of Fatal Drug Overdoses by Quarter and Year of Death, 2007-2022*



Current Usage of ODMAP



337 unreported overdoses in 2022 in West Piedmont

Almost 1 every day!

ODMAP Spike Response System

When overdoses go over a certain threshold, an alert is sent to local agencies and community partners.

The alert allows local agencies to prepare resources and educate the public.

Flags are used around the area to show the current status.

ODMAP Spike Response System

When the alert is received, we can use our networks to warn others about a harmful batch.



ODMAP Spike Response System

How do we know that it works?

This system was recently implemented in Roanoke County.

Roanoke County saw a 60% decrease in overdoses.

When surveyed, 95% of people who used drugs in Roanoke were more cautious after receiving information from the Spike Alerts.

Primary Objectives

- Early Detection and Rapid Response:** Establishing protocols and mechanisms for early detection of overdose spikes and facilitating a swift response to mitigate their impact.
- Resource Coordination:** Identifying and coordinating available resources, including emergency services, healthcare facilities, treatment centers, and community organizations, to provide timely support to individuals and families affected by overdose spikes.
- Education and Prevention:** Developing educational campaigns and outreach initiatives to raise awareness about substance misuse, overdose prevention strategies, and available support services within the community.
- Data Collection and Analysis:** Collecting and analyzing data on overdose incidents to identify trends, patterns, and emerging risk factors, thereby informing evidence-based interventions and policy decisions.

What We Need From You

- Volunteer Recruitment:** Encourage community members with relevant skills (such as healthcare professionals, social workers, or counselors) to volunteer their time for the response team.
- Your Voices:** You all have the connections and community support we need to ensure our overdose spike response team is effective in reducing deaths and costs that this crisis within our community.
- Your Influence**

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The Electric Department, Registrar and Electoral Board, Fire Department and Safety Department shared budget information during the budget workshop.

The Work Session was recessed at 6:05pm and will reconvene after the closed session.

City Council Executive Session began at 6:00 PM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act to discuss the following: (1) 2.2-3711.A.1: 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, concerning Board and Commission appointments, (2) 2.2-3711.A.3: Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose or 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, concerning the former BB&T Building agreement , and (3) 2.2-3711.A.7: Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the City's negotiation or litigating posture, concerning the deliberation on proposal related to previous employee litigation. 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; seconded by Vice Mayor Rawls with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Council Member Lawson, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; Council Member Mitchell, aye; Vice Mayor Rawls, aye; and Council Member Pearson, aye.

Regular Session began at 7:00 PM with additional attendees including Clerk of Council Karen Roberts.

Call to Order – Mayor Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting, pointing out that agendas could be found in the back of the room and on the City's website.

Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Council Member Pearson.

Proclamations and Presentations

Proclamation for Gbs-Cidp Awareness Month – Council Member Lawson read the

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proclamation which will be mailed to Rick Forney, Liaison for the local Gbs-Cidp chapter.



Proclamation

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF MAY 2024 AS GBS/CIDP AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, The Month of May has been designated as " GBS and CIDP Awareness Month " to educate the public and to focus attention on Guillain-Barre' Syndrome (GBS) and Chronis Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), rare, paralyzing, and potentially Catastrophic disorders of the peripheral nerves; and

WHEREAS, the cause of GBS and CIDP is unknown. The length of the illness is unpredictable. It is characterized by rapid onset of weakness and, often, paralysis of the legs, arms, breathing muscles, and face. Usually, months of hospital care are required with patients and families facing an uncertain future, not knowing if and when recovery will occur. Some may face long-term disabilities of varying degrees. GBS or CIDP can develop in any person at any age, regardless of gender or ethnic background; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the Guillain-Barre Foundation International (now the GBS/CIDP Foundation International), was founded to provide a support network to patients and their families through the national office headquartered in Philadelphia and its 180 chapters with more than 40,000 members throughout the United States, Canada, Asia, Europe, Australia, South America, and South Africa; and

WHEREAS, Rick Forney is the Liaison for the local area chapter serving as the link between patients, physicians, nurses, and families. The Foundation provides educational materials including a comprehensive booklet, " GBS, an Overview for the Layperson, " and newsletters as well as funding medical research and conducting symposia; and

WHEREAS, the Foundations Medical Advisory Board includes prominent neurologists active in GBS and CIDP research, leading physicians in rehabilitation medicine, and physicians who, themselves, have had the disorder;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LC Jones, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2024 as " GBS/CIDP AWARENESS MONTH "in the City of Martinsville and I encourage all the citizens to recognize the importance of raising awareness of GBS and CIDP.

LC Jones, Mayor

National Correctional Officers and Employees Week – Council Member Pearson read the proclamation which will be forwarded to the Sheriff's Department

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PROCLAMATION

National Correctional Officers and Employees Week

WHEREAS, in 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5187, creating "National Correctional Officers' Week" and each year the first full week in May is recognized to commemorate the contributions of correctional officers and personnel who work in jails, prisons, and community corrections across the country; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary goals for the City of Martinsville is to provide its citizens with an effective judicial system that concentrates on quality for all of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville's dedicated correctional officers are essential to the success of our judicial process, and our correctional officers' work includes daily exposure to a hostile environment with many of the most dangerous individuals in our society; and

WHEREAS, correctional officers contribute daily to the protection of our citizens by housing dangerous felons in a humane environment, often at great risk to the officers' own protection; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville is pleased to join with officials and distinguished correctional officers across America to recognize the achievements of these dedicated individuals. We are indebted to the International Association of Correctional Officers for continuing to emphasize the accomplishments of correctional officers worldwide;

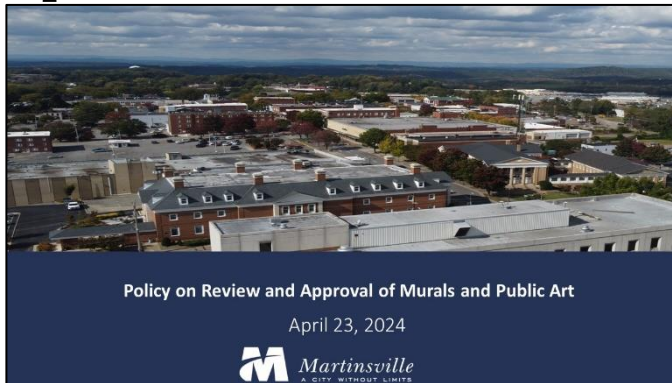
NOW, THEREFORE, for these significant reasons, I, LC Jones, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, do hereby proclaim May 5-11, 2024, as **NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK** in the City of Martinsville and commend this observance to all of our citizens.

LC Jones
Mayor

Proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week – moved to Thursday

Consent Agenda - Community Development Director Keith Holland presented a PowerPoint and explained the need for the policy for review and approval of Murals and Public Art. Council Member Pearson questioned what defines a mural and wanted to ensure that various forms of art such as stained glass are not excluded. Having two committees is a concern of hers and could cause some issues. Pearson questioned the size restrictions listed in the draft also. If Arts and Cultural have questions, they can work with the ARB on the historical components for a proposed area. Vice Mayor Rawls questioned if there would be any cost to the City since in the past, these type projects were handled by the Chamber or uptown organizations. Pearson made a motion to approve the policy with the change to have the Arts and Cultural Committee take the lead with the requirement to consult with the ARB Board; Council Member Lawson seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

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Purpose

- Public art is generally commissioned by government or private property owners and is considered culturally enriching, socially acceptable, and viewable from the public realm. Martinsville has several existing examples of public art that help to define our history and promote the vitality of our community.
- The Community Development office was recently contacted by Sarah Capps, who is coordinating a mosaic mural in a public alley in Uptown in memorial to her brother.
- A mural that does not expressly advertise or promote a business does not meet the definition of a sign, and thus not subject to approval or permits typically issued by the Zoning Administrator.
- No current policies or procedures are in place for City staff or public body to review or approve the painting of murals on private buildings or other public art initiatives such as sculptures, statues, mosaics, photography, textile hangings, etc.
- The MHC Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Partnership, and the Harvest Foundation have largely led the development and placement of public art.

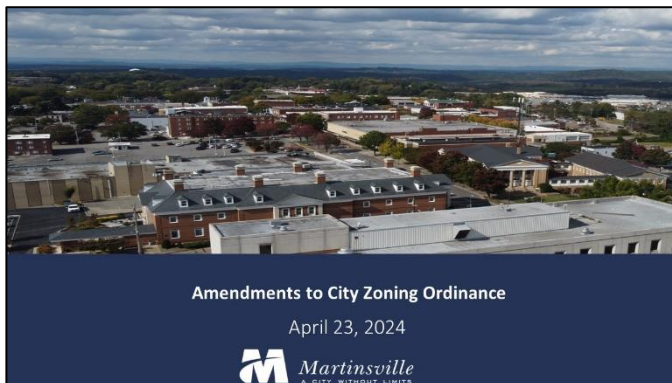
Purpose

- In 2022, the City Council established an Arts & Culture Committee to promote and encourage various arts and cultural amenities that can increase tourism and visitation, spur economic activity, enhance revitalization efforts, as well as promote local artists and crafts persons in Martinsville and Henry County.
- Utilizing the Virginia Institute of Government, several examples of similar policies were received by staff and reviewed to incorporate best practices for Martinsville. The cities of Manassas, Roanoke, Fredericksburg, Williamsburg, Alexandria, and Lynchburg, as well as the town of Purcellville, provided information that staff reviewed for common practices.
- The proposed policy allows for murals and other public art throughout the city to be reviewed and approved by the Martinsville Arts & Cultural Committee. Any public art proposed in any of the city's 3 historic districts must also be reviewed and approved by the Architectural Review Board for appropriateness using the criteria and guidelines listed in the policy.
- The policy allows appeal of decisions made by the ARB and ACC to City Council to be filed within 15 days of such decisions.



Questions?

Public Hearing - Community Development Director Keith Holland presented a PowerPoint explaining the need for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance related to building height restrictions and handicapped parking space requirements. Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing. No one approached the podium, so the public hearing was closed. Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve the amendment, Rawls seconded the motion with all Members in favor. The second reading will be added to the next agenda.



Purpose

- **Zoning Amendment Procedures** (Section VII.-Zoning Amendments)
 - To allow for future changes to the city's zoning ordinance
 - To accommodate broad changes that affect the city as a whole
 - To accommodate specific proposals on individual parcels
- **Removal of Building Height Restrictions**
 - Current building height restrictions would prohibit future develop in the city, including the proposed Holiday Inn Express on Commonwealth Blvd.
 - Building height restrictions are not required in the Zoning Ordinance as they are regulated by the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and fire code.
 - Elimination of regulation redundancy
- **Removal of Handicap Space Requirements**
 - Handicap Space Requirements are currently regulated by the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) and are not necessary in the Zoning Ordinance.
 - Elimination of regulation redundancy

Ordinance Sections Containing Amendments

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| ➤ Section I. Administration and Enforcement | ➤ Section XIV. C-UB, Uptown Business District |
| ➤ Section III. General Provisions | ➤ Section XV. C-C, Corridor Commercial District |
| ➤ Section IV. Site Plan Regulations | ➤ Section XVI. ED-MA, Economic Development District- Medical & Academic |
| ➤ Section V. Nonconformity | ➤ Section XVII. ED-G, Economic Development District- General |
| ➤ Section IX. R-E, Estate Residential District | ➤ Section XVIII. ED-I, Economic Development District - Intensive |
| ➤ Section X. R-N, Neighborhood Residential District | ➤ Section XIX. TND-O, Traditional Neighborhood Development Overlay District |
| ➤ Section XI. R-C, City Residential District | ➤ Section XX. EC-O, Entrance Corridor Overlay District |
| ➤ Section XII. R-T, Residential Transitional District | ➤ Section XXIII. Off-Street Parking and Loading |
| ➤ Section XIII. C-N, Neighborhood Commercial District | |

Questions?

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Set a public hearing date for the proposed FY2025 City budget - City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides explained the need for two public hearings to comply with state law. Those recommended dates would be May 9, along with the first reading on May 16, with final adoption. Vice Mayor Rawls made a motion to schedule the first public hearing for May 9. Council Member Lawson seconded the motion, and all Council Members voted in favor.

Take any action necessary because of the Executive Session - Mayor Jones explained that he, Council Member Mitchell and City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides all participated in mediation regarding former City Attorney Eric Monday's settlement. Mitchell read a statement explaining that a settlement of \$110,000 would be in the best interest of the community regarding the Monday case. Mitchell made a motion to approve the settlement agreement, Vice Mayor Rawls seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

MiNET Director Mike Scaffidi and Public Works/Refuse/Street Maintenance Director Greg Maggard carried out the budget presentations that were not presented in the Work session.

Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor – Michael Green 402 Oakdale Street and a member of the ARB said that the website documents are incomplete. The Virginia Department of Historical Resources, 2022 boundary adjustment to the historical district update dated December 2022 should be available on the city website and says this may be something that needs to be addressed with the zoning department. Vice Mayor Rawls recommended a joint meeting with Council and the ARB in June/July. Murals in historical districts must go in front of the ARB for approval. Green explained that they are down two board members on the ARB and asked Council to consider the knowledge of applicants before appointing them to the board.

Police Chief Rob Fincher shared that Saturday April 27 would be drug takeback at the Fire Department from 10:00am-2:00pm; this is a drive thru event and any unwanted, unused, outdated drugs can be disposed of. Please do not flush dispose of drugs down the drain.

Public Information Officer Kendall Davis shared details on the Get Fit Celebration for Saturday at 10:00 at Martinsville High School. Meal prep classes will be available to the community on May 7 at NCI at 6:00pm. On May 4, there will be a Cinco de Mayo event at Broad Street parking lot with food music drinks, and cultural activities.

Comments by Members of City Council – Council Member Mitchel saw Police Chief Fincher on bike patrol on the West End Friday and said it's good to see him out in the community. Council Member Pearson shared details about the farmers market on Saturday April 27 from 730am-12:00noon and recommended residents get there early. Pearson is a member of the Martinsville Garden Club; for the Virginia Historic Week, there will be a garden tour tomorrow 1030am-430pm. Council Member Lawson also shared details about the drug takeback day and the farmer's market. Thursday is Kawanis Pancake Day. Lawson shared information about Refuse Temple Church's clothing giveaway on Saturday from 8:00am-12:00noon. Mayor Jones thanked those for attending and thanked City staff for their work on the budget.

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Comments from City Manager – City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides thanked the Finance Department and Department Directors for their hard work on the budget. On May 2, there will be a community budget briefing; more information will be available soon. A copy of the budget will be available on the city website.

Adjournment – Council Member Lawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 900pm

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

LC Jones, Mayor