October 13, 2009

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, was held on October 13, 2009, in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM, with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Council Members present included: Mayor Kathy Lawson, Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds, Gene Teague, Mark Stroud, Sr., and Danny Turner. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager, Brenda Prillaman, Eric Monday, Wayne Knox, Ruth Easley, Tim Porter, Scott Coleman, and Cindy Dickerson.

Following the invocation by Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds and Pledge to the American Flag, Mayor Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On a motion by Kimble Reynolds, seconded by Gene Teague, with a 5-0 vote, Council approved the minutes of the Sept 8, 2009 tour, Sept. 8, 2009 Neighborhood meeting, Sept. 22, 2009, and Sept. 29, 2009 Council meetings.

Mayor Lawson read the proclamation proclaiming the week of October 12-23, 2009 as GED Week and Lifelong Learning Week and presented it to Kim Adkins of the West Piedmont Workforce Investment Board.

Mayor Lawson read the proclamation proclaiming October 2009 as Community Planning Month and presented it to Wayne Knox, Community Development Director.

Dave Maddox, a member of the Green Committee, made a presentation to Council reporting on issues discussed and suggestions for the city in moving forward to be proactive or reactive on the green initiative. The committee feels the city should report a full disclosure of the city's current greenhouse gas emissions footprint now and then decide what we need to do as more regulations and restrictions are coming out. He pointed out several areas to be addressed in going forward including General Garbage and Trash, Electricity, and Water & Sewer. Also, need to determine what the City of Martinsville's written environmental policy is. Council members' comments included: setting up goals and how Stanley did this; should look at other communities and what they have done rather than re-inventing the wheel; have to lead by example through top down leadership; need more public outreach and PR to the community as to what the city is already doing in recycling.

Mark Heath of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation presented his monthly report to Council outlining current projects and statistics within each division of the EDC, noting their website is being updated. He also reported the EDC is now interviewing for a tourism director and should have a decision by mid November.

Ruth Easley briefed Council on the ordinance that would provide a tax credit for certain real property rehabilitation and renovation. The draft ordinance presented would allow a partial exemption for substantially rehabilitated and renovated residential, commercial and industrial properties that are outside of the City's Enterprise Zone. There was discussion regarding the 20% figure and the Mayor noted it would not be a negative impact on revenue. Easley reported that once Council approves the tax credit, she will have the application posted on the city's website. A motion to approve the ordinance as presented on second reading was made by Gene Teague, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, and with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Stroud, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, Council approved the following ordinance as originally presented, on second reading,

City of Martinsville (8-11-09 with Council Changes) **Partial exemption of taxes on substantially rehabilitated real estate**

Sec. 21-12. Policy and intent. This section authorizes a partial exemption for substantially rehabilitated or renovated residential, multi-family, commercial or industrial real estate located anywhere within the City of Martinsville by providing tax credits in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 58.1-3220 et seq, as amended, and the provisions of this article. The partial exemption will provide an economic incentive for improvement of such real estate and will prevent the deterioration and vacation thereof, which is harmful to the health and welfare of the city.

Sec. 21-12.1. Definitions. The words and phrases defined in this section, when used in this article, shall have the following meaning except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Base value means the assessed value of any structure covered by this section prior to the commencement of rehabilitation or renovation work, as determined by the commissioner of the revenue upon receipt of an eligible application for rehabilitated or renovated real estate exemption and after a physical inspection by an assessor from the commissioner's office.

Commercial or *industrial* use means improved real property that is used for commercial or industrial purposes, but that term does not include any hotel or motel. Such use also includes mixed use projects containing revenue-producing properties.

Commissioner means the commissioner of the revenue for the City of Martinsville or the designated agent of the commissioner.

Exemption means the real estate taxes resulting from the increase in the assessed value of a qualifying property attributable to the substantial rehabilitation thereof. In no case shall an exemption be permitted if the assessed value falls below the base value in any given year.

Exemption district means:

(1) The City of Martinsville Enterprise zone as defined in Sec. 7.5 of this Code.

(2) The City of Martinsville Historic District as defined in Section XXV of the Martinsville Zoning Ordinance.

Mixed use structures means structures used for both residential and commercial purposes.

Multifamily residential real estate use means improved real property containing two or more dwelling units, and not classified as a single family attached dwelling.

Owner means the person or entity in whose name the structure is titled or a lessee who is legally obligated to pay real estate taxes assessed against the structure.

Qualifying property means an improvement to real property that is qualified to receive a tax credit pursuant to this article.

Replacement means the complete removal of an existing structure and the erecting of a new commercial structure, which may exceed the total square footage of the removed building by no more than one hundred (100) percent.

Residential real estate use means improved real property containing no more than one dwelling unit.

Special district taxes or levies mean any tax or levy that is assessed by council in a defined area of the city in addition to the general city levy. Such districts may encompass all or a part of the city.

Structure means a building not less than twenty-five (25) years old on the date of the application, or fifteen (15) years old if located within the city's Enterprise Zone.

Substantially rehabilitated, renovation means improvements to an existing structure, and that phrase does not mean the construction of a freestanding, independent structure that is merely connected to an existing structure by an atrium, a breezeway or similar connecting element. For example, and without limitation, an existing commercial structure would not be substantially rehabilitated or renovated by the construction of a new, freestanding structure that is connected to that existing structure, but an existing commercial structure could be substantially rehabilitated or renovated by expanding the existing structure.

Taxable year is the fiscal year from July 1 through June 30 for which such real estate tax is assessed for the exemption claimed.

Transient housing structure means improved real property that is used for any facility, with or without separate cooking facilities within the unit, where overnight lodging for transients is provided to the public with or without compensation on a nightly, weekly, or monthly basis for a period of less than 90 nights per individual per year. This definition includes hotels, motels and bed and breakfast facilities, as that term is defined by Section II of the Martinsville Zoning Ordinance.

Sec. 21-12.2. Eligibility. For purposes of this section, real estate shall be deemed to be substantially rehabilitated, renovated or replaced when a structure, which is no less than 25 years old, has been so improved or replaced so that the fair market assessed value of the improved or replacement structure, as determined by the commissioner, is increased by no less than 20 percent.

(a) In order for an addition to an existing residential or multifamily structure to qualify as substantial rehabilitation or renovation, the addition must be for improvements to living areas of the structure, such as bathrooms, kitchens, bedrooms and similar facilities. Additions for such things as garages, swimming pools, patios and similar facilities that are not used for living areas for the structure shall not be eligible for a tax exemption.

(b) No improvements made to unimproved real property shall be eligible for partial property tax exemption pursuant to this section.

(c) No property shall be eligible for a partial property tax exemption pursuant to this section unless all appropriate building permits have been acquired for the substantial rehabilitation, renovation or replacement of the structure on the property.

(d) No property shall be eligible for a partial property tax exemption pursuant to this section if that property is substantially rehabilitated by the demolition and replacement of any structure that (i) is a registered Virginia landmark, or (ii) is determined by the department of historic resources to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district.

Sec. 21-12.3. Administration. The commissioner shall prepare and distribute application forms for persons who apply for partial property tax exemption pursuant to this article. The commissioner may prescribe rules and procedures for the administration of this article that are not in conflict with this article. Copies of such application forms and any prescribed rules and procedures shall be available to the public during regular office hours at the office of the commissioner.

Sec. 21-12.4. Application procedure and processing fee. The owner of any real estate who seeks to obtain the partial property tax exemption authorized by this section shall apply for such an exemption to the commissioner at the same time that the owner applies for a building permit to rehabilitate, renovate or replace the structure. Upon receipt of an application for partial property tax exemption, the commissioner shall determine a base fair market value assessment (hereinafter "base value") for the structure prior to commencement of rehabilitation, renovation or replacement. That base value shall serve as the basis for determining whether the rehabilitation, renovation or replacement increases the fair market value of the structure by at least 20 percent. The application to qualify for tax exemption shall be effective until June 30 of the third fiscal year following the year in which the application is submitted. If by such expiration date, the rehabilitation, renovation or replacement has not progressed to such a point that the assessed fair market value of the improvement to the property is at least the minimum required percent greater than the base value of such structure, and if the applicant desires to proceed with the application, then a new application for partial tax exemption shall be filed with the commissioner, and thereafter the commissioner shall establish a new base value.

(a) All initial and subsequent applications for the partial exemption authorized by this section shall be accompanied by payment of a nonrefundable fee of $50.00 for processing the application.

(b) During the period between the receipt of the application and the time when the commissioner may ascertain that the fair market value of the structure has increased in value by at least the minimum percent specified in subsection (a) of this section, the owner of the property shall be subject to real property taxation upon the full fair market value of the property. At any time prior to May 1 of any fiscal year in which rehabilitation, renovation or replacement of a structure is complete, an owner may submit a written request to the commissioner to inspect the structure to determine if it then qualifies for a partial real property tax exemption. After the commissioner has determined that the assessed fair market value of a substantially rehabilitated, renovated or replaced structure exceeds the base value by the percentage specified by subsection (a) of this section, the tax exemption shall become effective beginning on July 1 of the next fiscal year.

(c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section and to sections 21-12.5 and 21-12.6, the owner of any residential or multifamily residential structure qualifying for partial exemption from the real estate tax because of substantial rehabilitation, renovation or replacement shall be issued a credit for the general real property tax otherwise due on the fair market value of that property in the amount that is equal to the value of the real property tax levy calculated on the difference in value between the base value and the initial fair market value of the substantially rehabilitated, renovated or replaced structure. That credit shall be applied for the first year of a five-year period following completion of the substantial rehabilitation, renovation or replacement. In each year of the four-year period following the first year period, the owner of a qualifying property shall be issued a credit for the real estate tax otherwise due on the fair market value of that property in an amount equal to the value of the real property levy calculated on the difference in value between the base value and the initial fair market value of the substantially rehabilitated, renovated or replaced structure, less 50 percent for year 2 through 5 of the exemption period. Credits against the real estate tax for any real estate qualifying pursuant to this section shall run with the land, and, except as otherwise provided by subsection (e) of this section and by sections 21-12.5 and 21-12.6, the owner of such property during each of the five years of the exemption period shall be entitled to receive a credit in the amount specified by this subsection.

(d) In the event that the fair market value of a qualifying residential or multifamily residential structure increases after the first year of such substantial rehabilitation, renovation or replacement, the credit specified by subsection (d) of this section shall not be increased. In the event that the fair market value of a qualifying property decreases after the first year of substantial rehabilitation, renovation or replacement, the credit specified in subsection (d) of this section shall be limited to the extent that the credit shall not reduce the real property tax on a qualifying property below an amount equal to the amount of the real property tax computed on the base value. If any tax credit computed in accordance with subsection (d) of this section is reduced in accordance with this subsection, that credit reduction shall not be applied to any other property or to real property taxes assessed in any other calendar year. If the fair market value of any qualifying property decreases below the base value, then that qualifying property shall be assessed at the fair market value, and no credit against the general real property tax shall be allowed. If no tax credit can be granted because the fair market value of a qualifying property is below the base value, that unused credit shall not be applied to any other property or to real property taxes assessed in any other calendar year.

(e) The credits against the real estate tax specified in subsection (d) of this section shall not affect any special district taxes or levies that may be imposed within the city. All ad valorem special district taxes or levies shall be computed on the full fair market value of all qualifying property.

(f) In determining the base value of any structure, and in determining whether any structure has been substantially rehabilitated, renovated or replaced to the extent that the fair market value of the improved or replaced structure exceeds the base value by the percent specified in this section, the commissioner shall employ usual and customary methods of assessing real property and improvements thereon.

(g) This section shall be applicable to assessments of qualifying real estate made on and after July 1, 2009.

Sec. 21-12.5. Limitations on eligibility for partial tax exemption and tax credit.

(a) The title of the property for which the partial exemption is claimed shall be held, or partially held, on the first day of the taxable year by the person or persons claiming the exemption, whether or not that person or persons initially performed the rehabilitation.

(b) No property owner shall be eligible to apply for the partial tax exemption and tax credit provided by this article for any property which has delinquent taxes, penalties, or interest due the city.

(c) If any property, for which an application for the partial tax exemption and tax credit provided by this article is made, has been damaged or destroyed as a result of a sudden natural or manmade disaster prior to the application, and that property will be repaired, rehabilitated or replaced through the use of any insurance or self-insurance proceeds, then the base value of the property, as provided herein, shall be computed based upon the fair market value of the property immediately prior to the sudden disaster. For purposes of this article, a sudden natural or manmade disaster shall include, but is not limited to damage or destruction caused by fire, flood, windstorm, and explosion.

Sec. 21-12.6. Failure to pay real estate taxes in a timely manner; forfeiture of partial exemptions and tax credits, and further qualification limitations.

(a) No tax credit described in Sec. 21-12.4 shall be issued to any owner of any substantially rehabilitated, renovated or replaced structure if the real estate tax on that property has not been paid on or before June 5 and December 5 of any year as required by Sec. 21-2(1) of this Code. Failure to pay the real estate tax on improved real property in any year on, or before, the date on which the real estate tax is due shall result in the forfeiture of any partial tax exemption and tax credti that otherwise would have been applied to the real estate tax due in that year and in any future year. In such cases, the property shall be removed from the partial tax exemption program and the annual real estate tax shall be assessed on the full fair market value of the improved real property. Late payment of the real estate tax on real property and any substantially rehabilitated, renovated or replaced structure thereon shall be subject to late payment penalties and interest in accordance with Sec. 21-3 of this Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, no improved property which has qualified for a tax credit in accordance with this article by means of substantial rehabilitation, renovation or replacement shall be eligible to submit any application for further tax credits based on subsequent improvements during the initial or additional tax credit period.

Sec. 21-12.7. Commencement of exemption; land books.

(a) The partial exemption shall commence in the tax year following the completion of the rehabilitation, inspection and verification by the assessor, and determination by the commissioner of the revenue that the requirements of the section have been met.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the commissioner of the revenue to list upon the land books and reduced assessed value due to the partial exemption created by this section.

On a motion by Kimble Reynolds, seconded by Danny Turner, with a 5-0 vote, Council authorized the City Treasurer to issue a refund effective October 13, 2009 for a total of $8,177.78 (with calculated interest of $730.40 included). The overpayment was by a local business that had failed to file its 2008 tangible personal property listing with the Commissioner of Revenue so a statutory assessment was done. Because the refund amount is over the $2,500 Code of Virginia limit, Council had to authorize the City Treasurer to issue the refund.

Council Member Teague suggested the state code needs to be changed so refunds are paid back at current interest rate. As it is now, the "refundee" is receiving an interest rate that is excessive. City Attorney Eric Monday said this should be included in the legislative package this year.

Council continued discussion on dog defecation ordinance. Council members reported they had heard from citizens asking for a broad application of the dog ordinance. The Mayor pointed out that the City of Danville is considering a similar ordinance. It was pointed out this ordinance applies to city owned property and not to private property. On a motion by Danny Turner, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Stroud, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, 5-0 recorded vote, Council approved the following ordinance on first reading:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session held on October 13, 2009 that Section 5-49 of the City Code, currently reserved, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5-49. Removal of dog defecation.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping, or having in his care or custody any dog, to fail, refuse, or neglect to remove any feces of such dog immediately and to dispose of it in a sanitary manner whenever such dog has defecated upon the following described property located within the city:

(1) All city parks;
(2) Any historic district established in the City of Martinsville;
(3) All public school property;
(4) The property on which the Martinsville Municipal building is located; and
(5) Any other publicly maintained rights-of-way and paved sidewalks, streets, and bicycle paths.

(b) This section shall not apply to a person with a disability being accompanied by a guide dog; and provided further, that this section shall not be construed to require or countenance any act of trespass upon public or private property.

(c) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

City Manager, Clarence Monday, briefed Council on FY10 state budget reductions. He reported that on September 8, 2009, Governor Kaine announced FY10 state budget reductions resulting in loss of aid to localities. This reduced city revenue by $256,968 and without budget adjustments, staff took action to keep the budget in balance. Most revenue reductions were from reimbursement for constitutional offices while the General Fund was affected by a lesser amount. Input was sought from the constitutional officers so they could determine adjustments best for their respective offices. The following memo summarizes a plan to reduce spending and to keep the FY10 budget in balance:

To: Mayor Lawson, Members of City Council
From: Clarence C. Monday, City Manager
Date: October 1, 2009
Subject: FY10 State Budget Reductions

As you know, Governor Kaine announced FY10 state budget reductions on September 8th, resulting in loss of aid to localities. Staff has analyzed the state plan, examined the City's first quarter report for FY10, and weighed the associated effects of the same. Below is a chart that summarizes city reductions:

State Budget Reductions: Effect on Martinsville

Department	Amount	City General Fund and Enterprise Funds	Constitutional Offices
Comm. Attorney	31,051		31,051
Clerk of Circuit Court	25,805		25,805
Comm. Of Revenue	7,865		7,865
Sheriff	112,589		112,589
Treasurer	5,099		5,099
Registrar	4,827		4,827
HB599	66,732	66,732	
Loss of utilities/museum	3,000	3,000	
Total	**256,968**	**69,732**	**187,236**

Of the reductions, the impact to the city is $69,732 in the General and Electric Funds combined, while $187,236 is for the constitutional offices as illustrated in the table above. Due to the continued recession, the city's personal property and real estate tax deadline not being until December 5th, recent expenditures for the DSS re-location, use of cash reserves to balance the FY10 budget, and the unknown possibility of another mid-year state budget reduction, staff recommends that action be taken now to keep the budget in balance. Such recommendations are made with the assumption that "the city", thus General Fund/Enterprise Fund departments will take care of its loss from the state while the constitutional offices deal respectively with their losses directly. Keep in mind one important fact. When the FY10 budget was prepared, staff reduced budgets of General Fund and Enterprise Fund Departments by $2.1M while not taking such a drastic position on the Constitutional Offices.

Staff recommendations are presented as follows: In order to develop recommendations to keep the FY10 budget balanced, staff first examined the city's finances for the first quarter of FY10, with emphasis on the financial report made to Council at the September 22 Council Meeting. Since revenues are higher than anticipated and expenditures are less than expected, staff does not recommend additional budget reductions at this time, other than the amount of such reductions announced by the Governor.

Savings already realized from not filling vacant positions, delaying the filling of vital positions, and savings from the bus system, has more than offset the General Fund reductions imposed by the state.

Savings Realized to Offset the Loss of State Funds in General and Electric Funds

HR Director, unfilled 1/3 of year	28,000	vacant July - Oct, plan to fill Nov. 1
Customer Service Position, unfilled 2 months	5,800	now filled
Electric Engineer, unfilled 1/2 of year	46,000	to be filled January 1st
PART Savings	12,400	actual vs. budgeted
Total savings:	**92,200**	

Now the focus shifts to the loss of revenue for the constitutional offices. We all know that the burden on localities is increasing with localities supplementing constitutional offices more and more each year, as illustrated below.

COMPARISON OF CONSTITUTIONALS REVENUES/EXPENSES				
FY	REVENUES	EXPENSES	% REIMB BY STATE	
08	2,948,004	4,944,846	0.596	ACTUAL
09	2,916,924	5,207,350	0.560	ACTUAL
10	2,944,086	5,243,223	0.562	BUDGETED
10*	2,756,850	5,243,223	0.526	ESTIMATED
**THIS LINE ACCOMODATES STATE FUNDING REDUCTIONS*				

While constitutional offices exist primarily for state functions, staff also realizes that all constitutional offices located within the city provide many local services in a manner more effective and efficient than if the city had to absorb such duties on its own. The city is however not in a position to absorb the magnitude of FY10 state budget cuts that have been imposed on the constitutional offices. I requested that each constitutional office submit a plan as to how they would deal with the imposed cuts. All officials submitted their report and were very cooperative in minimizing the effect on the city.

Consideration was also given for constitutional offices that made voluntary reductions during the development of the FY10 budget, specifically the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Commissioner of the Revenue. These efforts were initiated in anticipation of state budget reductions during the budget year, with each office reducing expenditures as follows:

- Commonwealth Attorney $6,000
- Commissioner of Revenue $5,869

Savings within the City's General Fund is used to offset these concessions made by the CA's Office and Commissioner of the Revenue. The plan for each constitutional office follows.

Office	Amount	Reduction Plan	Consequences
Comm. Attorney	31,051 -6,000 $25,051	Furlough all employees, each approx. 17 days without pay during remainder of FY10.	Furloughs scheduled in cooperation with courts, spread thru holidays and budget year.
Clerk of Circuit Court	25,805	New grant revenue , eliminating PT employee expenses, reducing office expenses.	Will maintain full office hours and services and will not lay off employees.
Comm. of Revenue	7,865 -5,869 $1,996	Various line items including overtime, training, maintenance, and others related to office operations.	Most savings already realized through reductions made voluntarily before budget adoption. Less training & office operations.
Sheriff	112,589	Remove work crew transportation van & staff car from capital budget, freeze vacant jail medical position (retirement), and reduce various jail line items.	Freezes one FT position and leaves a 1983 van in service.
Treasurer	5,099	Reduce PT employee hours.	Short handed during busy days and due dates. May have to close drive thru for brief periods.
Registrar	4,827	Reduce travel/training, postpone purchasing (2) PCs and software.	Less training and delaying needed up-to-date technology.

Although each constitutional office plans to deal with their reductions in their own suggested method, please note a couple of points. The furloughs in the Commonwealth's Attorney Office is extreme in that the CA's staff, including Ms. Ziglar, will be furloughed approximately 17 days each so that the reduction will be realized before FY10 ends. The impact in the CA's office and the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue is reduced somewhat due to their efforts in voluntarily reducing their budgets before budget adoption.

Summary Staff recommendations and subsequent action as outlined will more than offset the $256,968 FY10 state budget reduction. The General Fund has already saved more than its share of the loss due mainly to delays in filling vital positions. All constitutional officers submitted their own plans to offset losses of state aid for their respective offices. Some offices will be affected more than others due to opportunities and issues facing them at the time.

These recommendations accommodate this state budget reduction on a one-year basis instead of with the assumption that such state budget cuts will be permanent. Staff feels that making these reductions permanent is premature due to not knowing what budget action will be taken by the General Assembly when legislature considers budget amendments for FY10 and in development of the new biennial budget.

Since the FY10 budget was adopted authorizing expenditures of an amount higher than the revised total after reduction in state revenue, it is not necessary for you to approve the staff recommendation by formal vote. However if you wish to discuss and/or go a different direction, this item will be placed on the October 13 agenda for further discussion.

The City Manager reported that no further action is needed unless Council wants to proceed in another direction. The Mayor commended Mr. Monday for the good job done by him and city department heads regarding budget.

On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, with a 5-0 vote, Council approved the following consent agenda:

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 10/13/09

ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT

FY10

GENERAL FUND

01101917	442701	Categorical Other State - Fire Programs Fund		7,531
01321102	506110	Fire Department - Fire Programs	7,531	
		additional funding rec'd from state		
01101918	416506	State Grant - Rescue Squad Assistance Fund		1,740
01322105	506004	EMS - Emergency Medical Supplies	1,740	
		for purchase of surgical masks		
01100908	480410	Miscellaneous Revenue - Donations to Fire Dept.		300
01321102	505500	Fire Department - Travel/Training	300	
Total General Fund:			9,571	9,571

There was no business from the floor.

Comments by Council members: Reynolds-reported Martensville, Saskatchewan, Canada citizens will be visiting our area for race weekend; Stroud-commented on the local GED program and his personal past experience; Turner-reported Last American Hero movie will be playing Uptown on race weekend; Teague-expressed his condolences in the death of former City Finance Director Dick Fitts and noted Mr. Fitts' contributions to the city, also reported the VML Conference is to be held next week in Roanoke; Lawson-reminder to citizens about Saturday's Oktoberfest, reminder to citizens to change batteries in smoke detectors, commended Wayne Knox and staff on the recent 100% score for the City Housing Department from HUD, reported that Ginny Wray agreed to print green tips in the Martinsville Bulletin, and the Mayor noted these green tips could be printed on the city's utility bill form as well.

Comments by City Manager: Clarence Monday reported the contract has been signed with LPDA to produce the Uptown Master Plan and work is going forward with plans, and the plan should be delivered by end of calendar year. City Attorney Eric Monday noted the recent death of a former MHS science teacher, Joe Starr.

There being no further business, Mayor Lawson adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Clarence C. Monday
Clerk of Council

Kathy C. Lawson
Mayor