

August 26, 2014

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, was held on August 26, 2014, in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM, with Mayor Kim Adkins presiding. Council Members present included: Mayor Kim Adkins, Vice Mayor Gene Teague, Sharon Brooks Hodge, Mark Stroud and Danny Turner. Staff present included: Leon Towarnicki, City Manager, Brenda Prillaman, Eric Monday, Linda Conover, Wayne Knox, Zach Morris, Sean Dunn, Jeff Joyce, Ted Anderson, Andy Powers, Jim Minter, and Ruth Easley.

Following the invocation by Mayor Kim Adkins and Pledge to the American Flag, the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Mark Stroud, with a 5-0 vote, Council approved the minutes of the June 24, 2014 and July 8, 2014 meetings.

Employee Service Awards: Mayor Adkins read the list of names and recognized employees eligible for Service Awards from July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014:

TERRY LAYMAN	Waste Water Plant	5
STEPHAN MARQUARDT	Central Garage	10
DENNIS NAPIER	Central Garage	10
CAROL SCHMIDT	Commissioner of the Revenue	10
AMBER FULCHER	Police	10
JEREMY PURVIS	Police	10
ERNEST BARGER	Waste Water Plant	10
RUTH EASLEY	Commissioner of the Revenue	15
CHAD DODSON	Maintenance	15
RANDY MARTIN	Parks and Recreation	15
DEAN COMER	Sheriff's Department	15
RICHARD REEVES	Utility Billing	15
VICKY BELCHER	Victim Witness	15
DONNIE BROOKS	Armory	20
ROBERT FINCHER	Police	20
RANDY CRAIG	Telecommunications	25
RHONDA GREGORY	Central Garage	30
TERRY AGEE	Public Works	30
JEAN NUNN	Circuit Court Clerk's Office	35

Proclamation National Baby Safety Month: Mayor Adkins presented a proclamation to Nancy Kennett of the Martinsville Exchange Club recognizing Baby Safety Month September 2014.

OneVirginia2021 Presentation: Matt Scoble of the Sorensen Institute at the University of Virginia co-authored an article that appeared in the June, 2014 edition of Virginia Town and City magazine titled "Redistricting – In Search of a Better Solution" outlining reasons to support reform of redistricting in Virginia and discussed potential redistricting issues that may arise after the 2020 census and the continuing growth of population in the northern Virginia area. Mr. Scoble briefed Council on the efforts of the organization he leads, OneVirginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting, in regard to redistricting reform. Mr. Scoble asked that Council support the organization's efforts by considering a resolution. Vice Mayor Gene Teague who serves on VML's General Laws Committee reported that the VA Municipal League made a general statement to support a better process. Opposing views from area current legislators will be sought out for further consideration by Council.

Personal Property Tax Rate FY14: Commissioner of Revenue Ruth Easley briefed Council with following information: On December 13, 2005 city council adopted an ordinance that established a local program of personal property tax relief that requires the Martinsville City Council to annually set the relief allocation percentage that is anticipated to fully use the PPTRA relief funds provided to the City by the

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Commonwealth. The commissioner of the revenue has completed the annual assessment of motor vehicles that have a Martinsville tax situs for tax year 2014. By ordinance, qualifying vehicles assessed at \$1,000, or less, receive 100% relief. Qualifying vehicles with assessed values between \$1,001 and the first \$20,000 receive a calculated annual percentage of relief based on the number of qualifying vehicles and their associated assessments. The commissioner of the revenue estimates that a percentage rate of 57.52% will fully use all state PPTRA funds allocated to the city for Tax Year 2014 and asked that Council consider adoption of a resolution setting the allocation percentage for personal property tax relief for qualifying vehicles in the City of Martinsville for tax year 2014. A motion was made by Gene Teague, seconded by Mark Stroud, with a 5-0 vote to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION  
SETTING THE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY  
TAX RELIEF IN THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE FOR TAX YEAR 2014**

**WHEREAS**, on December 13, 2005 by Ordinance 2005-8 the Martinsville City Council established a local program of tax relief that serves the best interests of its citizens regarding personal property tax on qualifying use vehicles, pursuant to modifications made by the General Assembly of Virginia to the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 (PPTRA); and

**WHEREAS**, the city's relief program requires the city council to adopt an annual percentage of local tax relief for personal use vehicles valued between \$1,001 and the first \$20,000 that will fully exhaust the PPTRA relief funds provided to the city by the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the commissioner of the revenue has completed the annual assessment of motor vehicles with Martinsville tax situs for Tax Year 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the commissioner of the revenue estimates that a percentage of relief of 57.52% applied to the first \$20,000 of assessed values for qualifying vehicles valued over \$1,000 will fully use all available state PPTRA relief allocated for tax year 2014.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Martinsville City Council that 57.52% shall be the percentage of relief to be applied to the first \$20,000 in value of each qualifying vehicle with an assessed value more than \$1,000 pursuant to and in accordance with provisions of Sec. 21-10 of the Martinsville City Code.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim E. Adkins, Mayor

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Pullaman  
Clerk of Council

Kim E. Adkins	VOTE
Sharon Brooks Hodge	AYE
Mark C. Stroud, Sr.	AYE
M. Gene Teague	AYE
Danny Turner	AYE

Update on Parks and Recreation activities: Zach Morris briefed Council on Parks & Recreation activities and Senior Services activities. He highlighted events at Beaver Creek Reservoir and improvements made on parks and the number of youth participants. Council commended him on the Activities Guide and asked that the guide be publicized on the city website home page so it is easy to get to. Also, he was asked to publicize all events and availability of activities brochure on MGTV so citizens would know where to go for information.

Update on Nuisance Ordinance enforcement: Fire Marshal/Building Official Ted Anderson and Deputy Fire Marshal/Property Maintenance Official Andy Powers briefed Council with the following information:

<b>Concerns/Needs Addressed</b>	<b>Nuisance Ordinance Enforcement Changes</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Time of process from complaint-abatement               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time cut to less than half</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Repeat offenders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers have decreased</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Tracking of complaints               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andy Lash's Program very successful</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Landlords dumping entire home contents at street               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Works posting properties by complaints &amp; proactively</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Backyard enforcement               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus primarily on new program. Received one complaint meeting new enforcement criteria</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Complaints regarding bill received and no notice mailed               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have received less than 6 complaints</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Concerns regarding confrontation with residents &amp; dogs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had one injury to an inspector from dog bite</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Involve additional City staff in taking complaints, inspections, and notification of owners; Training of staff to occur to ensure consistency               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Posting of property at time of inspection to provide notice and start the abatement process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Record data in program designed to track all information associated with the complaint               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed thanks to Andy Lash</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Notify crew to abate violation at time of reinspection               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Either internally (PW or Sheriff) or contract, with collection of fees used to provide on-going funds for the program               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At present, Public Works has been able to handle</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Expected /Actual Results</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Additional staff will allow for inspection within 48 hours of receipt of complaint, and reinspection within 48 hours of deadline             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ All inspections have primarily been performed by three personnel within 24 hours majority of time</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Staff can be proactive with enforcement as they carry out daily duties             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Posting properties proactively while investigating complaints</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Time for mailing notices will be eliminated             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Additionally, notices are costing less than postage, envelopes, letters, and staff time to mail</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">All data can be retrieved as needed Andy Tech's program is working great</p>																		
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Old Process vs. New</h2> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white;"> <th>Year (March -August)</th> <th>Property Maintenance</th> <th>Nuisance Ordinance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011 (with 1 additional)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">34</td> <td style="text-align: center;">233</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013 (with 1 Additional)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">51</td> <td style="text-align: center;">258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">324</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year (March -August)	Property Maintenance	Nuisance Ordinance	2010	1	87	2011 (with 1 additional)	34	233	2012	18	159	2013 (with 1 Additional)	51	258	2014	23	324	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Inspections &amp; Code Enforcement Division of MF &amp; EMS</h3> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">55 West Church Street Room 217 Martinsville, VA 24112 (276) 403-5365</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Fire Marshal/Building - Ted Anderson             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ (276) 403-5202</li> <li>◦ twanderson@ci.martinsville.va.us</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Deputy Building Official - Kris Bridges             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ (276) 403-5171</li> <li>◦ kbridges@ci.martinsville.va.us</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Deputy Fire Marshal/Property Maintenance Official - Andy Powers             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ (276) 403-5202</li> <li>◦ apowers@ci.martinsville.va.us</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Permit Technician - Tammy Davis             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ (276) 403-5173</li> <li>◦ tdavis@ci.martinsville.va.us</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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2010	1	87																	
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Council commended the inspections department personnel for strides made in improving the process.

Ordinance first reading regarding electronic summons court assessment: Police Chief presented the following information related to e-ticketing program:

Background: The Police Department was awarded the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in 2010 to initiate an Electronic Summons System, E-Ticketing. The purpose of E-Ticketing is to allow an officer to more quickly issue summonses in a safer manner for the officer with fewer data entry errors. The implementation of E-Ticketing, along with other new software programs, allowed the Police Department to eliminate one (1) civilian position.

It should be noted MPD was one of two test sites in VA when E-Ticketing was first introduced.

The E-Ticketing program requires support from three (3) programs, Advanced Public Safety, Interact, and DaPro, which results in a combined annual maintenance and support cost of \$25,550. It should be noted that Interact and DaPro would be needed by the PD without E-Ticketing but E-Ticketing would not function without all three (3) program packages. This does not include the cost of the wireless data transfer or paper.

Effective July 1, 2014, Virginia adopted legislation, HB 477, which allows localities to collect a maximum \$5 fee as part of the costs collected following convictions in criminal or traffic cases in district or circuit court to be used for the implementation and maintenance of electronic summons systems.

The City of Danville has adopted this fee and numerous cities throughout the state are moving toward similar fees.

Considerations: The hardware costs for E-Ticketing in one (1) vehicle is \$3,500. This cost includes the laptop, printer, mount, card reader, installation, etc. There is no budgeted funding for the replacement of the hardware. There also is no budgeted funding for expanding the current program.

Financial Impact: The total funding with the implementation of this fee would cover a large portion of the current costs associated with the E-Ticketing program, roughly \$21,000, based on CY2013 cases. Unfortunately, court fees are not always collected so we expect this fee to cover approximately half of the actual costs with the current program, roughly \$14,000. Initial revenue from E-Ticketing fees will be utilized for replacement of hardware.

Analysis and Recommendation:

A brief analysis of the current costs and funding associated with the E-Ticketing program reveals a project that is currently underfunded. It is strongly recommended that the City approve the proposal to add a \$5 fee to court costs to be used exclusively for the implementation and maintenance of the Police Department's electronic summons system.

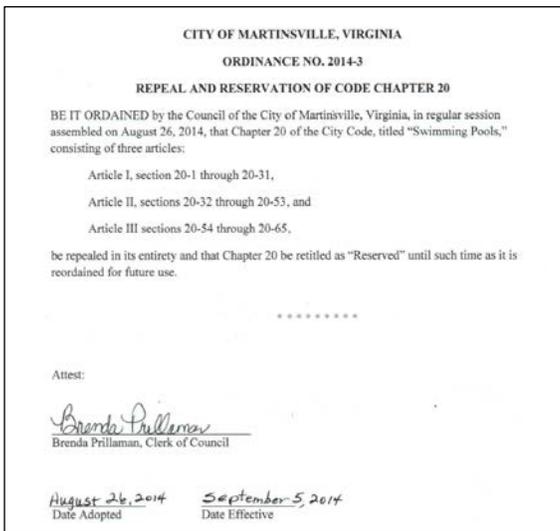
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It is also recommended that the fee be reviewed every year by staff during the start of the budget process in order to assemble as part of the overall Police budget submission.

Anticipated Revenue      Total Project Costs      Shortfall w/ no Expansion  
 \$14,000                      -                      \$25,500                      =                      -\$11,500

On a motion by Danny Turner, seconded by Sharon Brooks Hodge, with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Adkins-aye; Teague-aye; Stroud-aye; Hodge-aye; Turner-aye, Council approved the ordinance on first reading approving the electronic summons court assessment fee. The ordinance will be considered for final adoption on second reading at the September 9, 2014 meeting.

Ordinance second reading, repeal of City Code Chapter 20, Pools: City Attorney Eric Monday briefed Council on the ordinance to repeal City Code Chapter 20, Pools which was approved on first reading at the previous meeting. On a motion by Mark Stroud, seconded by Gene Teague, with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Adkins-aye; Teague-aye; Stroud-aye; Hodge-aye; Turner-aye, Council approved the ordinance on second reading to repeal City Code Chapter 20, Pools.



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

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 8/26/2014				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
<b>FY14</b>				
<b>CDBG Fund:</b>				
47103919	443136	Private Grant - Phoenix Façade Grants		4,400
47823521	506325	Uptown - Phoenix Façade Program	4,400	
		Façade grant program funding from Phoenix CDC		
47102926	447061	Categorical Federal - NCI Comm. Improv. Grant		42,001
47833380	503191	NCI CIG - Prof. Services - Contractors	42,001	
		NCI pass-through funding		
<b>Total CDBG Fund:</b>			<b>46,401</b>	<b>46,401</b>

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 8/26/2014				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
<b>FY15</b>				
<b>General Fund:</b>				
01100909	490104	Advanced/Recovered Costs		500
01321102	506130	Fire Dept - Repair/Maint - Burn Building	500	
		Reimbursement for training		
01101917	442402	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - C Atty		554
01221082	506105	Comm Atty - Conf Assets State	554	

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01101917	442401	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - Police		1,600
01311085	506078	Police Dept - Conf Assets State Asset Forfeiture Proceeds	1,600	
1100909	490104	Advance/Recovered Costs		2,148
1331108	501300	Sheriff/Corrections - Part-time & Temporary Wages	1,570	
1331108	502100	Sheriff/Corrections - Social Security	97	
1331108	502110	Sheriff/Corrections - Medicare	23	
1331108	506008	Sheriff/Corrections - Vehicle Equipment & Maint.	314	
1331110	506200	Sheriff/Annex - Prisoner Allowance Reimbursement from Henry County for litter pickup for July	144	
<b>Total General Fund:</b>			<b>4,802</b>	<b>4,802</b>
<b>CDBG Fund:</b>				
47102926	447061	Categorical Federal - NCI Comm. Improv. Grant		55,999
47833380	503191	NCI CIG - Prof. Services - Contractors NCI pass-through funding	55,999	
<b>Total CDBG Fund:</b>			<b>55,999</b>	<b>55,999</b>

Business from floor: Ural Harris, 217 Stuart St.—comments and questions regarding power generation at the landfill and Prairie State; Mr. Harris will email the specific questions to the City Manager; Chad Martin and Chief Sean Dunn--announced the August 30 Community Cup Police Softball Fundraiser and encouraged citizen participation; Dennis Hairston, 513 Letcher St.—thanked Council for the Ban the Box efforts to assist in removing barriers for citizens to apply for jobs even though they had made some poor choices in the past.

Council comments: Turner-announced information on the Business Development Caucus on September 16 and encouraged participation of small businesses; Stroud-commended inspections department staff for streamlining complaint process and thanked Public Works for the weed killing efforts on Commonwealth Blvd. as well as on his street; Hodge-gave legislative update regarding funds that had been set aside for the Abingdon medical school that she has been in touch with Senator Bill Stanley who has reported to her that he will introduce a bill in the General Assembly special session to have some these funds redirected to Dr. Boaz's medical school here; Adkins-gave an update on the 6 year improvement plan process for transportation and that localities will have to prioritize their projects.

City Manager comments: Mr. Towarnicki reported: (1) the medical school will begin work on the physic garden within a few days (2) Henry Hotel work to begin and an event will be set up for Tuesday, September 2, to transfer the keys to the new owners.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Prillaman  
Clerk of Council

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Kim Adkins  
Mayor