

May 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on May 12, 2015 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building at 7:30pm, Closed Session beginning at 7:00pm with Mayor Danny Turner presiding. Council Members present include: Mayor Danny Turner, Vice Mayor Jennifer Bowles, Gene Teague, and Sharon Brooks Hodge. Absent: Mark Stroud. Staff present included: City Manager Leon Towarnicki, City Attorney Eric Monday, Brenda Prillaman, Karen Roberts, Police Chief Sean Dunn, Capt. Robert Fincher, Dennis Bowles, Linda Conover, Mary Prillaman, and Assistant City Manager Wayne Knox.

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order and advised Council will go into Closed Session. In accordance with Section 2.1-344 (A) of the Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon motion by Council Member Hodge, seconded by Council Member Teague with the following recorded roll-call vote: Vice Mayor Bowles, aye; Council Member Teague, aye; Council Member Hodge, aye; Mayor Turner, aye; Council convened in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the following matters: (A) A Personnel matter as authorized by Subsection 1. (B) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultants pertaining to actual or probably litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7. At the conclusion of the Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from opening 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 Session. On a motion by Council Member Hodge, seconded by Council Member Bowles with the following recorded roll-call vote: Turner, aye; Teague, aye; Hodge, aye; Bowles, aye; Council returned to Open Session.

Council Member Teague made a motion to appoint Karen Roberts as Clerk of Council effective June 1, 2015, Council Member Hodge seconded that motion with a 4-0 vote Bowles, aye; Turner, aye; Teague, aye; Hodge, aye.

Vice Mayor Bowles invited the community to a brief ceremony on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th at 11:00am to raise and dedicate a flag at the People's Cemetery on Second St.

Set a public hearing regarding a request for a new antenna installation at the Martinsville Industrial Park water tank. The City currently has a long-term lease arrangement with Verizon for use of the Martinsville Industrial Park water tank for location of antenna equipment. T-Mobile contacted the City several months ago about co-locating their antenna equipment on the same tank. The tank has adequate space for additional antenna equipment and the City has received no comments about antenna equipment at this location. As a follow up to the antenna issue considered by Council at the November 11, 2014 meeting, it is recommended that Council set a public hearing for the May 26, 2015 meeting to allow public

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input and comment. Vice Mayor Bowles made a motion to set a public hearing for May 26th, Council Member Hodge seconded the motion, 4-0 vote with all in favor.

Consider setting a public hearing regarding a request to renew the lease for existing antenna at the New York Avenue water tank. The City currently has a long-term lease arrangement with T-Mobile, Verizon and AT and T for use of the New York Avenue water tank for location of antenna equipment. AT and T contacted the City several months ago about renewal of their antenna equipment lease on this tank. The tank has adequate space for additional antenna equipment and the City has received no comments about antenna equipment at this location. As a follow up to the antenna issue considered by Council at the November 11, 2014 meeting, it is recommended that Council set a public hearing for the May 26, 2015 meeting to allow public input and comment. Council Member Teague made a motion to set a public hearing for May 26th, Vice Mayor Bowles seconded that motion, 4-0 vote with all in favor

Approval of Council meeting minutes for March 10, 2015, March 20 and 21, 2015, March 24, 2015, April 14, 2015, April 16, 2015, April 22, 2015 and April 23, 2015. Council Member Hodge made a motion to accept all minutes as written, Council Member Teague seconded the motion, 4-0 vote all in favor.

Proclamation recognizing National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day - Mayor Turner read the proclamation. Chief Dunn and Captain Fincher were present to accept the proclamation presented by Mayor Turner and Vice Mayor Bowles. Chief Dunn invited the Council members and the public to a Memorial Ceremony being held in Council Chambers on Thursday May 14th at 11:00am.

School Board Appointments - Council Member Teague made a motion to set a public hearing for May 26, 2015 for receiving and interviewing citizens interested in appointment for two three-year term positions to the City School Board beginning July 1, 2015, Council Member Hodge seconded the motion, 4-0 vote all in favor.

Consider approval of FY16 budget on second reading. City Manager Towarnicki reviewed the revised budget proposal including EDC Funding, School cuts and 3% electric increase. Mayor Turner invited comments from audience.

Diane Enniss, 1216 Knollwood Place - proposed rate be reduced to \$8.50 per person for EDC funding.

Robert Williams - \$75,000 cut was part of lean budget and asked for restoration of \$75,000 to the school board budget.

Victor Correa - requested refund of \$75,000 reduction to school board budget, stating that these cuts have a negative effect on teachers.

Pam Heath – the schools have already eliminated 14 positions before presenting the budget, another \$75,000 cut would be a great disservice to the students.

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Jim Enniss, 1216 Knollwood Place – stated that cuts to police, fire and schools are a tough choice and asked for responsible decisions to cut spending.

Carolyn McCraw – asked Council to reconsider cut, would like to reinstate ROTC and the Hope Academy. She knows that Council values the education system but these cuts would probably cause additional cuts in personnel. She thanked Council for everything they have given the system previously.

Ural Harris, 217 Stewart St - reconsider taking fluoride out of City water to reduce budget, requested EDC budget be cut back to \$8.50/capita, Harvest money came from citizens, if departments can't make it this year, what will they do next year. He suggested that budget cuts be the same for every department instead of higher cuts for schools, police, etc.

Dr. Tom Marshall, Auburn Place – stated that he appreciated the Water Department and all they do, there are other inexpensive ways for citizens to obtain fluoride, suggested that City eliminate fluoridated water and channel the cost savings to the school system.

Joseph Martin, Church St – commented on negative aspects of fluoride use, will continue to push to have fluoride removed from City water and has started a Facebook page to stop fluoridation in the City.

Craig Dietrich, Lanier Road - suggests that the fluoride issue should be discussed in a public forum and not during budget, fluoride is appropriate in a community as Martinsville, says he sees fluorosis occurrences daily/weekly but he does not feel that fluorosis is a concern in the area. Council Member Teague agreed that this should be discussed in a broader conversation and not during budget, Council Member Hodge did not agree and started that in her opinion budget time is the appropriate time. Mr. Dietrich suggested if the City eliminates the fluoride program, that the money should go towards dental care. Mr. Detrick also encouraged careful consideration to schools proposed budget without the \$75,000 cut.

Mayor Turner expressed concern about the electric rate increase and sewer repairs will add to customer bills. Next year there will probably be no increase in revenue going forward. Turner proposed budget without electric increase. Hodge stated that she will support budget without electric increase but would like to bring back to the table the EDC per capita funding, felt we are not spending resources in the best fashion. Council Member Hodge made a motion to decrease budget to allow for per capita funding, Mayor Turner seconded the motion. Vote was 2-2 with Hodge and Turner, aye; Teague and Bowles, nay. Motion died as tie vote.

Council Member Teague made a substitute motion to transfer \$60,000 from EDC to use at a future date for CPEG for enhanced small business programs, Vice Mayor Bowles seconded the motion. Vote was 2-2 with Teague, aye; Bowles, aye; Hodge, nay; Turner, nay. Motion died as tie vote.

A vote was taken on the original motion by Hodge. Motion died as a tie vote: Teague-nay; Bowles-nay; Hodge-aye; Turner-aye.

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Council Member Hodge, having voted against previous substitute motion, made a motion to reconsider \$60,000 transfer from EDC to CPEG. Council Member Teague seconded the motion. Vote was 3-1, Bowles, aye; Hodge, aye; Teague, aye; Turner, nay to reconsider the substitute motion.

A vote was taken on the motion to decrease budget of EDC by \$60,000 and transfer those funds to CPEG for an enhanced small business program for the city.

Mayor Turner made a motion to cut \$500,000 out of the budget and eliminate the 3% electric rate increase, Council Member Hodge seconded the motion. Vote was 2-2 Turner, aye; Hodge, aye, Bowles, nay; Teague, nay; motion died as tie vote.

Council Member Teague made a motion to restore the \$75,000 previously cut from the school budget, motion dies without second.

Council Member Teague made a motion to restore the \$10,000 previously cut from the Fire Department for demolition costs, motion dies without second.

Council Member Teague made a motion to accept budget as amended with EDC \$60,000 cut on second reading, Council Member Hodge seconded. Recorded roll-call vote 3-1 – Turner, nay; Teague, aye; Hodge, aye; Bowles, aye.

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA
ORDINANCE No. 2015-U-
The Budget for Fiscal 2015-2016

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session assembled May 12, 2015, that the following sums of money be and hereby are appropriated – by specified Fund – for the City’s fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, from the following Fund sources of estimated revenue:

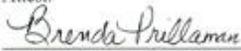
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-2016			
Fund	Projected Revenues	Budgeted Expenditures	Changes in Fund Balance
General	\$ 30,521,179	\$ 33,687,879	\$(3,166,700)
Meals Tax	\$ 2,066,792	\$ 2,066,792	-
Capital Reserve	\$ 1,507,580	\$ 1,757,580	\$ (250,000)
Refuse	\$ 2,229,000	\$ 4,163,315	\$(1,934,315)
Telecommunications	\$ 1,561,671	\$ 1,260,716	\$ 300,955
Water	\$ 3,303,500	\$ 2,725,410	\$ 578,090
Sewer	\$ 4,027,512	\$ 3,693,877	\$ 333,635
Electric	\$ 18,800,095	\$ 21,020,263	\$(2,220,168)
Cafeteria*	\$ 1,550,290	\$ 1,550,290	-
Schools**	\$ 23,339,156	\$ 23,339,156	-
CDBG	\$ 17,292	\$ 200	\$ 17,092
Housing	\$ 0	\$ 5,348	\$ (5,348)
Totals	\$ 88,924,067	\$ 95,270,826	\$ (6,346,759)

*Cafeteria – Estimated, actual unavailable at time of publication.
**Schools – As adopted by School Board.

Tax Rates (unchanged):
Real Estate: \$1.0621 per \$100 assessed value
Personal Property: \$2.30 per \$100 assessed value
Machinery & Tools: \$1.85 per \$100 assessed value

Proposed for Electric:
Average Increase 3%

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council that this Ordinance shall be effective on and after July 1, 2015.

Attest:

Brenda Prillaman, Clerk of Council

May 12, 2015
Date Adopted

July 1, 2015
Date Effective

May 12, 2015

Business from the Floor

William Eggleston, 1507 Roundabout Rd - Beaver Street from Albert Harris School down needs to be cleaned up. City Manager Towarnicki agreed that the area does need attention and it will be cleaned up.

Alexis Lee, Sellers St - City Council did an excellent job on budget and the decisions made.

Patrick Wright, Spruce St - suggested church organizations and Council meet to work on benefits for education.

Ural Harris, 217 Stewart St - AMP official needs to be invited back to answer some questions about AMP Ohio, Council Teague stated all questions asked by Mr. Harris and Mayor Turner previously were forwarded to AMP and were answered. Council Member Teague asked the City Manager to resend the email about capped pricing to Mr. Harris with the answers to his questions. Mayor Turner informed Mr. Harris that there are two state investigations ongoing.

Comments by members of City Council:

Bowles - urged citizens to make use of free energy audit, she voted for the 3% increase because she is concerned about cuts that had to be made. After speaking to the community, she felt that allocating \$60,000 to CPEG is what the citizens wanted to do.

Hodge - 2 years in a row she supported school system and doesn't want her vote to appear that she doesn't support the schools, she stated that the City still has some very serious issues that have not been resolved, felt that City should take a different look at how we do budget, look at what we have and what we can afford. She hopes new school board members can bring forward suggestions on how we can work with the resources we have.

Teague - long term he does not disagree that we need to make cuts, feels there is an adequate fund balance this year so he's not ready to make those cuts. He feels the City needs to fund schools to the best of our ability and the reversion conversation still needs to happen in the future. Teague wanted Council Member Stroud to know that he is in their thoughts and prayers during his recovery.

Comments by City Manager: Police Officers Memorial Service Thursday, May 14th at 1100am in Council Chambers. This is Brenda Prillaman's last council meeting and her last day is June 12th, we appreciate everything that she has done.

Council Member Teague stated it has been a pleasurable 20 years serving with Brenda, she has set a standard on customer service for Council and turned the City customer service into what it is today. What she accomplished for our citizens and the City has been instrumental.

Mayor Turner - echoed Teague's comments. He wanted to remind people that Congressman Robert Hurt will be at the Peoples Cemetery on Second Street at 11:00am

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Monday, May 25th, 2015. He will bring a flag that was flown over the Capital and the City will erect a donated flagpole. Turner states that the cemetery has been abandoned but there are approximately 50 veterans there and he hopes to have that area cleaned up and maintained out of respect for those veterans. Congressman Hurt will move to Roselawn for a 12:00pm memorial service then to Carter Memorial Gardens for a memorial service at 6:00pm. Mayor Turner encourages everyone to take part in these events.

Vice Mayor Bowles – urged everyone to be frugal with their spending over the next year.

Council Member Hodge – thanked Vice Mayor Bowles and Council Member Teague for their willingness to take a different direction on that type of development.

There being no further business, Council Member Teague made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm, Council Member Hodge seconded the motion, all present Council members in favor 4-0.

Leon Towarnicki
Deputy Clerk of Council

Danny Turner
Mayor