

March 9, 2010

A Neighborhood Community Meeting with City Council for the Northside/Chatham Hts. areas was held on March 9, 2010, at McCabe Memorial Baptist Church, 107 Clearview Drive, Martinsville, Virginia, at 7:30 P. M., with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding and Council members present including: Gene Teague, Mark Stroud, Sr., and Danny Turner. Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds, Jr. was absent. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Scott Coleman, Kenneth Draper, Mike Rogers, Ted Anderson, Wayne Knox, and Andy Powers. Mayor Lawson welcomed those in attendance and thanked the church for hosting the meeting. Rev. Lewis Harris gave the invocation.

Wayne Knox briefed Council on the recommendation from the Planning Commission on abandonment of an alley on Starling Avenue noting that there was no opposition to the application. Dr. Crabtree then explained the plans for future expansion. Mayor Lawson opened the public hearing regarding a request for abandonment of an alley between 407 and 411 Starling Avenue, being approximately 2600 square feet, as shown on City Tax Map 43, Section 2. There were no public comments and Mayor Lawson closed the public hearing. On a motion by Danny Turner, seconded by Mark Stroud, Sr., with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Stroud, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, (Mr. Reynolds was absent), Council approved the following ordinance, on first reading, to abandon the alley as requested:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session assembled \_\_\_\_\_, that in order to assure compliance with Virginia Code Section §15.2-2006 of the Code of Virginia, it is stated that the public purpose for which this Ordinance is initiated is to fulfill the requirements of public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice, that the alleyway space, as described below, be- and is hereby declared--vacated and abandoned, in favor of city of Martinsville - subject to the approval by – the City's Community Development Director, showing the area hereby declared vacated and abandoned by city council on this date, which map, when and as approved, shall be duly recorded in the office of the Clerk of Martinsville City Circuit Court:

An alley 2600 square feet in area and between 407 Starling Avenue and 411 Starling Avenue, and located on the Tax Map of the City of Martinsville between 43(02)C/19 and 43(02)C/20.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by said Council that this ordinance shall be in force immediately upon adoption.

Wayne Knox briefed Council on the process for making application for Community Development Block Grant funds which includes two public hearings to give the public opportunity to obtain information from the public on the past use of CDBG funds in our locality. The following list was reviewed:

**PARTIAL LISTING OF PAST CDBG- FUNDED PROJECTS**

1. Cherry Street Community Improvement Project
2. West Church Commercial Corridor Improvement Project
3. Academy Place Community Improvement Project

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4. Southside Community Improvement Project
5. Moss / Barton Community Improvement Project
6. Massey / Endless Community Improvement Project
7. Fayette / Westside Community Improvement Project

**PROPOSED CDBG PROJECTS**

1. Northside Community Improvement Project
2. Paradise Area Community Improvement Project

Mayor Lawson opened the public hearing. There were no public comments and Mayor Lawson closed the public hearing. The second public hearing will be held at the March 23 Council meeting.

Leon Towarnicki presented information regarding adoption of a resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission under the Commission's Reserve Fund Grant Program, for the 25% match of \$1 million Biomass Energy Grant the City recently received from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, for the landfill gas to energy project. Under the Tobacco Commission's Reserve Fund Grant Program, the City's landfill gas to energy project meets the qualifications for submission of a grant application requesting grant funds to cover the 25% required local match of the Virginia DMME Biomass Energy Grant Program. As a result of the recent Biomass Energy Grant award of \$1 million to the City for the project, the City is eligible to apply to the Tobacco Commission for a \$333,333 grant under the Reserve Fund Grant Program. On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Mark Stroud, with a 4-0 vote (Mr. Reynolds was absent), Council agreed to adopt the following resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit the application:

**WHEREAS**, the City of Martinsville is committed to developing the Landfill Gas to Energy Project at the City's closed landfill site; and  
**WHEREAS**, by Council Resolution adopted on May 12, 2009, a two-phase approach to the Project was approved with Phase I being the construction of the gas collection and flaring system, and Phase II being the engineering and construction of infrastructure to utilize the collected gas for the production of power; and

**WHEREAS**, the total project is estimated to cost \$ 3.4 million with \$900,000 estimated for Phase I and \$2.5 million for Phase II; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recently received notification from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy regarding award of a \$1 million grant through the Biomass Energy Grant Program for the Landfill Project, said grant having a required minimum local match of 25% (\$333,333); and

**WHEREAS**, the City's Landfill Gas to Energy Project meets the eligibility criteria for consideration for funding of the local match under the Tobacco Commission's Reserve Fund Grant Program; now, therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session assembled March 9, 2010, that it does hereby authorize the City Manager to (1) submit an application to the Tobacco Commission under the Commission's Reserve Fund Grant Program, (2) to execute all grant-related documents, and (3) to accept responsibility for accuracy of the application and for the appropriate use of funds, should they be granted.

Mayor Lawson welcomed citizens to the Neighborhood meeting and introduced Ted Anderson, City Building Official, who commented on properties viewed during the Council Tour yesterday. Mr. Anderson noted that few property maintenance code violations were observed during the tour. A citizen, Doug

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Sharpe, of Clearview Drive, commended the public works crews for their efforts to clear streets of snow and ice after recent winter storms as well as police for their efforts on the speeding vehicles. John Duggins, an energy auditor working in the area, encouraged people to have energy audits performed at their homes so they can learn what improvements are needed to help them save money on heating and cooling bills. Mr. Duggins commented on the City of Danville setting themselves up as an aggregator for carbon credits for a revenue stream and City Attorney Eric Monday is to contact the City of Danville for more information for Council.

Council members thanked the church for hosting the neighborhood meeting and encouraged citizens to voice their concerns to Council members and/or staff members at any time. City Manager Clarence Monday reminded citizens of their opportunity to participate with voicing their priorities through the citizen survey on the website as well as citizen surveys that are being mailed with the utility bills. Survey results will be tabulated and used for decisions regarding the budget. He noted that tough choices will have to be made by the city on this year's budget.

There being no further business, Mayor Lawson declared the community meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

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Clarence Monday  
Clerk of Council

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Kathy C. Lawson  
Mayor