

June 11, 2013

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, was held on June 11, 2013, in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM, Closed Session beginning at 7:00PM, with Mayor Kim Adkins presiding. Council Members present included: Mayor Kim Adkins, Mark Stroud, Sharon Brooks Hodge and Danny Turner. Vice Mayor Gene Teague was absent. Staff present included: Leon Towarnicki, City Manager, Brenda Prillaman, Eric Monday, Linda Conover, Dennis Bowles, Wayne Knox and Mike Rogers.

Mayor Adkins 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 a motion by Mark Stroud, seconded by Danny Turner, with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Adkins, aye; Stroud, aye; Hodge, aye and Turner, aye, (Teague-absent), Council convened in Closed Session, for the purpose of discussing the following matters: (A) Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as authorized by Subsection 29. (B) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys, or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7.

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 Session. On a motion by Sharon Brooks Hodge, seconded by Danny Turner, with the following recorded 4-0 vote: Adkins, aye; Hodge, aye; Stroud, aye; and Turner, aye, (Teague-absent), Council returned to Open Session.

Action taken: Mayor Adkins read the following press release regarding Stone Dynamics, Inc.:

Martinsville, VA (June 12, 2013) – The Martinsville City Council and the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation are pleased to announce that Stone Dynamics, a local manufacturer of custom tops of granite and marble, is expanding their operations in the City of Martinsville, creating 44 new jobs and investing \$1.0 million in new equipment over the next three years.

Stone Dynamics, Inc., founded in 2000, uses state of the art equipment to fabricate marble and granite for the hospitality, commercial, and residential sectors. They recently acquired the former Coke building on Memorial Ave in the City of Martinsville to house their new manufacturing operations, retail and showroom space. The company expects to be operational in their new facility by July 1, 2013. The 44 new jobs are in addition to their current employment level of 42.

“Born and raised in the Martinsville-Henry County area, I am very proud of my hometown and the wonderful people in our community. I am very honored to be a small building block in the area’s continued success,” said Bob Lankford, Owner of Stone Dynamics.

The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corp. worked in partnership with the City of Martinsville to secure the project. The project qualifies for local Enterprise Zone Grants offered by the City of Martinsville. In addition, the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission approved \$310,000 in Tobacco Region Opportunity Funds for the project. Through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program, the Virginia Department of Business Assistance will also provide funding to support the Company’s recruitment and training activities.

“The EDC’s number one priority is to assist existing companies grow and expand. Stone Dynamics decision to expand locally is a testament to the strength of Martinsville-Henry County’s workforce and support services,” said Mark Heath, President/CEO of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation.

“The City of Martinsville is certainly pleased with Stone Dynamics’ decision to locate their operations in the former Coca-Cola plant on Memorial Boulevard,” said Kim Adkins, Mayor of the City of Martinsville. “It’s a good location and a great use of an existing facility, and we look forward to helping them grow their business. Their decision is a confirmation that our community continues to be a great place for existing businesses desiring to expand, or for new businesses seeking a start-up location.”

The mission of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation is to create new job opportunities and expand the tax base for the area. The organization strives to support and develop local industry, as well as market Martinsville-Henry County globally as an exceptional place to live, work and play.

The EDC is a public-private partnership between the City of Martinsville, Henry County, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber’s Partnership for Economic Growth (C-PEG) and the Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont

A motion was made by Mark Stroud, seconded by Sharon Brooks Hodge, with a 4-0 vote, to authorize the City Manager to sign the performance agreement with the Tobacco Commission for the expansion of Stone

June 11, 2013

Dynamics. The City Attorney disclosed on behalf of Council Member Turner that Mr. Turner will be selling this company AFLAC insurance.

Following the invocation by Council Member Mark Stroud and Pledge to the American Flag, the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: On a motion by Mark Stroud, seconded by Danny Turner, with a 4-0 vote, Council approved the amended minutes of the April 23, 2013 meeting. Mr. Turner requested the following text be added under his comments regarding the Piedmont Governor's School project: that he completely and totally supported the students' efforts.

EDC report: Mark Heath of the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation presented the monthly report regarding activities. Mr. Heath also noted that the Stone Dynamics announcement is really good news for the area.

Father's Day Initiative recognition: Wayne Knox briefed Council on the Father's Day Initiative through the VA Department of Housing & Urban Development and asked for Council to affirm the recognition by the State and City. He also presented the Certificate of Recognition received from the Office of the Governor. The Department of Housing & Urban Development has requested that all housing authorities conduct an event in order to highlight the need for fathers to play a greater part in their families' lives. This is in line with HUD's 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan Goal # 3: "using housing as a platform to improve the quality of life of our residents". This is the third year of this initiative. Thus far, 233 housing authorities has signed on to have an event this Fathers' Day. MRHA in cooperation with the Give Back Foundation and For the Children and other sponsors are conducting a weekend of events. Chad Martin also presented information to Council regarding events and sponsors. On a motion by Mark Stroud, seconded by Sharon Brooks Hodge, with a 4-0 vote, Council affirmed the recognition of the Father's Day Initiative.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Council Member Stroud made a statement to citizens of Southside that he has spoken with the Electric Department and wanted the citizens to know it will be corrected within a week.

Wayfinding Signage Program staff update: Susan McCulloch presented an update on the Martinsville Wayfinding Signage program. On December 30, 2010, the City of Martinsville received a grant from the Harvest Foundation for projects helping Uptown revitalization for the following projects: Historic Henry County Courthouse enhancements, Depot Street Trailhead improvements, and Gateways and Wayfinding Signage Program. She briefed Council on the history of the program, noted it was funded by the Uptown Revitalization Phase 1 Harvest Foundation Grant, and provided information on placement of signs throughout the community.

Website enhancements staff update: City Manager Leon Towarnicki briefed Council on the recent updates and changes made in providing availability of Council meeting information on the city website noting that videos of the meetings are now provided along with the agendas as well as minutes as they are approved. He noted these enhancements were done using staff brainpower at very little cost and it will now make the information more accessible to the public. Mr. Turner inquired on the legal restrictions for Council to field internet questions live and remotely participating in council meetings. Mr. Towarnicki advised there are firms that provide live streaming capabilities at a cost. Council Member Hodge commended Mr. Towarnicki for making good use of staff expertise.

June 11, 2013

Ordinance approval 2nd reading on FY13 Meals Tax: On a motion by Danny Turner, seconded by Mark Stroud, with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Adkins, aye; Hodge, aye; Stroud, aye; and Turner, aye, (Teague-absent), Council approved the following ordinance on second reading:

City of Martinsville, Virginia

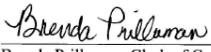
Ordinance No. 2013-4

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in Regular Session held on June 11, 2013, that Section 21-75 of the Code of the City of Martinsville, be, and hereby is, amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21-75. Levy.

There is hereby imposed and levied by the city on each person a tax at the rate of six (6) *six and one-half (6 1/2)* percent on the amount paid for meals purchased from any food establishment, whether prepared in such food establishment or not, and whether consumed on the premises or not.

Attest:


Brenda Prillaman, Clerk of Council

6-11-13 6-21-13
Date Adopted Date Effective

Consent agenda: On a motion by Mark Stroud, seconded by Sharon Brooks Hodge, with a 4-0 vote, Council approved the following consent agenda:

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 6/11/13				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
FY13				
General Fund:				
01101917	442810	Categorical Other - State - Highway Projects		328,820
01413151	503193	Thorofare Construction - Prof.Serv. -Inspections/Fees	72,029	
01413151	508220	Thorofare Construction - Physical Plant Expansion	256,791	
		Reimbursement-Liberty St Project		
Total General Fund:			328,820	328,820

Business from floor: Ural Harris, 217 Stuart St., comments on EDC funding and Council votes on school board issues.

Council comments: Hodge-expressed appreciation to children on the Father's Day essay contest; Stroud-in honor of Father's Day, expressed appreciation to his family members who helped raise him; Turner-reported on Husky Hall birthday celebration and expressed congratulations to retiring Police Chief Mike Rogers; Adkins-reported Council is invited to the FAHI museum grand opening on June 19 and publically commended the local daycare that earned staff certification.

City Manager comments: reminded Council of EDC speaker series June 21; reported on progress with ICF contract for city's after hours calls; reported on sidewalk repairs being done by a contractor using Safe Routes to School grant money.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Brenda Prillaman
Clerk of Council

Kim Adkins
Mayor