

June 23, 2009

A Community Meeting with City Council for the Westside area was held on June 23, 2009, at Mt. Sinai Apostle Church, 7 Peters St., Martinsville, Virginia, at 7:30 P. M., with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding and Council members present including: Gene Teague, Kimble Reynolds, Jr., and Danny Turner. Council Member Mark Stroud was absent. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Scott Coleman, Wayne Knox, Eric Monday, Iris Read, Ruth Easley, Tim Porter, and Sharon Echols. Mayor Lawson welcomed those in attendance and thanked the church for hosting the meeting. Pastor James C. Richardson gave the invocation.

Mayor Lawson recognized retiring Human Resources Director, Iris Read, with a presentation of a Key to the City. Members of Council made comments expressing appreciation for Ms. Read's professionalism and contributions to the City.

Mayor Lawson welcomed citizens to the Neighborhood meeting and asked for citizen comments. Citizen comments included: Veronica Townsend of 1403 Roundabout Road voiced concerns about 1401 Roundabout Road noting this property continues to be a problem year after year. William Eggleston of 1507 Roundabout Road voiced concerns about 1510 Roundabout and asked that Council do something about this property as they did with Paradise Inn; concern about heavy traffic on Roundabout and asked that Public Works put a traffic counter on the road; concern about needing more visible speed limit signage. Ethel Johnson of Roundabout Road voiced concerns over the speeding vehicles on Roundabout as well as the noise coming from cars late at night disturbing their sleep. An unidentified resident on Peters St. voiced concerns about several properties on Peters St. that need to be cleaned up and have grass cut. Pastor James C. Richardson voiced concerns about vacant properties on Peters St. and asked how the complaint process can be expedited. Clarence Monday pointed out a property maintenance inspector is coming on board July 1 which should streamline the system. Eric Monday explained the legal process for property maintenance complaints and he indicated the city is looking into putting out a bid to contract the yards cut so we would have a revolving list to rely on and the

June 23, 2009

overgrowth would be handled quicker. Council Member Teague asked that Attorney Monday discuss the penalties for repeat offenders of property maintenance violations. Mr. Monday also discussed that any five citizens can declare a property as a public nuisance. Ms. Drewry of 310 Fifth St. reported her concerns about 1401 Roundabout Rd. Mary Echols of 401 Third St. reported concerns with lot at 403 Third St. that needs cleaning off. Perry Harrold who lives in Henry County had concerns regarding: number of black employees with the city and questions regarding city hiring practices as far as affirmative action; saw a crew of seven to cut down one tree; questions regarding plans for Uptown arena. City Manager Monday pointed out the city is not under an affirmative action order at this time, however, the city values diversity and employment is based on qualifications. Shirley Jamison owns property at 516 Fayette St. and voiced her concerns regarding funding assistance for landlords for rental properties and block grant money for targeted areas in city. Mr. Carter of 709 First St. voiced concerns over streets that need repairing on Beaver St., C St., and D St. Mr. Preston who lives in the county reported there are a lot of eyesores in the West End area. Robert Donnan who lives in North Carolina and works here with the EDC reported he is working with the Spencer Penn Centre to set up a community kitchen and more details will be announced in July. Mr. Donnan also reported on the community gardens initiative. Tim Porter of the City Police Department pointed out that he will get with Ms. Townsend regarding personal property that was found on the vacant lot she mentioned. He reported that the police department will address the speeding issues and the noise ordinance issues pointed out by citizens at this meeting. City Attorney Monday encouraged citizens to keep a written journal of what happens on specific dates at properties to be used in declaring a property a public nuisance.

In accordance with Section 2.1-344 (A) of the Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Danny Turner, with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, (Mark Stroud-absent) Council convened in Closed Session, for the purpose of discussing the following matter: (A) A

June 23, 2009

prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community as authorized by Subsection 5.

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 said Session. On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, (Mark Stroud-absent) Council returned to Open Session. No action was taken after returning to open session.

There being no further business, Mayor Lawson declared the community meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Clarence Monday
Clerk of Council

Kathy C. Lawson
Mayor