

August 28, 2012

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, VA, was held on August 28, 2012, in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, closed session at 6:00 PM and regular session at 7:30 PM, with Mayor Kim Adkins presiding. Council Members present included: Mayor Kim Adkins, Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds, Gene Teague, Mark Stroud, and Danny Turner. Staff present included: Leon Towarnicki, Interim City Manager, Brenda Prillaman, Eric Monday, Linda Conover, Ruth Easley and Marshall Thomas.

Mayor Adkins opened the meeting at 6:00pm and announced 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 Gene Teague, seconded by Danny Turner, with the following 3-0 recorded vote: Adkins, aye; Teague, aye; and Turner, aye, (Stroud and Reynolds were absent for vote, but joined in the closed session period) Council convened in Closed Session, for the purpose of discussing the following matters: (A) A personnel matter as authorized by Subsection 1. (B) The condition, acquisition, use, or disposition of real property as authorized by Subsection 3. (C) 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. Mayor Adkins indicated the Boards and Commissions item advertised on the agenda will not be considered tonight. Council recessed Closed Session and re-convened meeting at 7:30 PM.

Following the invocation by Vice Mayor Reynolds, and Pledge to the American Flag, the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Mark Stroud, Council approved the amended minutes of the June 26, 2012 meeting, and minutes of July 10, 2012 and July 24, 2012 as presented. Council Member Teague requested the following language change in June 26, 2012 minutes:

Council Member Teague stated that given the cuts this council made to education, staff positions, and the numerous unfunded capital needs, he supported following suit with today's county budget actions and he made a motion to cut Library Budget by \$64,000 which was the city's share of the Library funds previously allocated to support the Bassett Historical center. The motion died for lack of a second.

Employee Service Awards: Mayor Adkins read the following list recognizing city employees:

EMPLOYEE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS
Leonard Carter	Fire	25
Lisa Holiday	Finance	25
Richard Young	Public Works	25
Buren Shively	Public Works	25
Garland Davis	Public Works	25
Marvin Donavant	Water Resources	25
Weldon Reynolds	Engineering	15
Ted Anderson	Fire	15
Tonija Hairston	Sheriff	15
Marcus Clark	Waste Water Plant	15
Richard Ratcliffe	Police	10
Kenneth Turner	Waste Water Plant	10
Karen Walker	City Manager	5
Ronnie Wray	Police	5
Douglas Graham	Police	5
Gary Setliff	Public Works	5
Jeffery Nelson	Public Works	5

Proclamation-General Dennis Via: Mayor Adkins presented a proclamation recognizing Martinsville area native, General Dennis Via.

Proclamation Exchange Club Baby Safety Month: Mayor Adkins presented a proclamation to Exchange Club representatives recognizing Baby Safety Month.

Proclamation National Payroll Week: Mayor Adkins presented a proclamation to City Finance Director Linda Conover recognizing National Payroll Week.

Resolution honoring Max Wingett: On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Danny Turner, with a 5-0 vote, the following resolution was presented to retired Patrick Henry Community College President, Dr. Max Wingett:

August 28, 2012

WHEREAS, Dr. Max Wingett has served as President of Patrick Henry Community College since 1978 with 34 years of impressive growth at the college; and
WHEREAS, under his leadership, Patrick Henry Community College has tripled its enrollment providing opportunities for a tremendous number of individuals to pursue their education; and
WHEREAS, under his leadership, Patrick Henry Community College now offers career and technical programs such as motorsports technology and winemaking and was the first community college in Virginia to have sports programs sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletic Association bringing national recognition to our area; and
WHEREAS, under his leadership, Patrick Henry Community College has been at the forefront of retraining displaced workers, training residents in the skills of the future and using distance learning so area students do not have to leave home to pursue higher degrees; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Wingett is a forward-thinking, progressive-minded leader who actively demonstrates his dedication to education and while serving Patrick Henry Community College, millions have been raised for the college's foundation as well as to construct both the Walker Fine Arts Center and the J. Burness Frith Economic Development Center; and
WHEREAS, Dr. Max Wingett retired as President of Patrick Henry Community College on June 30, 2012, after a long, distinguished 38 year career as a college president in the state system; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, in regular session assembled August 28, 2012, that it does hereby express gratitude to

Dr. Max F. Wingett

for his years of service to the growth of the City of Martinsville and his dedication to education and this community and does, with this resolution, call upon its citizens to thank Dr. Wingett for the remarkable strides made forward by Patrick Henry Community College under his leadership.

Update from Piedmont Community Services: Executive Director Jim Tobin briefed Council on programs and activities of Piedmont Community Services and their impact on the community.

Resolution Personal Property Tax Relief: On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, with a 5-0 vote, Council adopted the following resolution setting the allocation percentage of personal property tax relief for tax year 2012:

**RESOLUTION
SETTING THE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IN
THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE FOR TAX YEAR 2012**

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 2012; and

WHEREAS, the commissioner of the revenue estimates that a percentage of relief of 56.03% 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 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Martinsville City Council that 56.03% 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 28th day of August 2012.



Kim E. Adkins, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Brenda Phillaman
Clerk of Council

Addendum-Aid to Localities resolution: On a motion by Mark Stroud, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, with a 5-0 vote, Council adopted the following resolution and authorized staff to send it with a letter to the governor and state officials:

Whereas, state financial assistance for mandated and high priority programs, including public education, health and human services, public safety and constitutional officers, was \$800 million less in FY12 than in FY09 and almost \$500 million less in FY13 than in FY09; and

Whereas, cities and counties must balance their budgets during a time in which future state assistance is unreliable, federal stimulus dollars are depleted, and real estate assessments are either stagnant or in decline; and

Whereas, the Appropriation Act contains \$50 million in across-the-board cuts to cities and counties for FY13 and \$45 million in FY14, under which localities are required to either elect to take reductions in particular state aid programs, or to send the State a check for the amounts determined by the Department of Planning and Budget ("Local Aid to the Commonwealth"); and

Whereas, the reductions are applied to essential services, including law enforcement, jail administration, foster care and child protection services, election administration and social services; and

Whereas, the City of Martinsville does not have the authority to unilaterally decide to discontinue providing services such as election administration or to refuse to house and care for state prisoners in local and regional jails; and

Whereas, the state budget cuts are not accompanied by any reductions in state-imposed mandates, standards and service requirements, nor do they provide any administrative flexibility for local agencies; and

Whereas, the City of Martinsville remitted \$204,676 in FY12 and will be required to remit another \$170,902 in FY13; and

Whereas, cities and counties will have provided the state with \$270 million by the close of FY13 for this "Local Aid to the Commonwealth" program; and

Whereas, these reductions shift state costs to local taxpayers and artificially increases the amount of state surplus revenue; and

Whereas, state revenues have continued to recover and the state has experienced a budget surplus for the third consecutive year; and

Whereas, revenue collections for the City of Martinsville continue to reflect the struggling housing market; and

Whereas, the state should not shift its share of the costs for mandates and responsibilities to local governments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the City Council of Martinsville asks Governor Bob McDonnell to submit a budget amendment to the 2013 session of the General Assembly to reverse the \$50 million-a-year reduction for the current year, FY13, and to eliminate the aid to localities reduction in FY14; **and further, be it**

Resolved, that the members of the General Assembly support a budget amendment to the 2013 session of the General Assembly to reverse the \$50 million-a-year reduction for the current year, FY13, and to eliminate the aid to localities reduction in the budget for FY14



Kim Adkins, Mayor



Brenda Phillaman
Clerk of Council

August 28, 2012
Three Adopted

September 4, 2012

Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
P. O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor McDonnell:

Enclosed you will find a resolution from the City Council of the City of Martinsville indicating our concern over the \$50 million reduction in financial assistance to localities for certain state-mandated and state-high priority services. Our elected officials request that you submit a budget amendment in the next legislative session to restore the cut in FY13 and to eliminate it altogether in FY14.

We recognize that state revenues dropped during the Great Recession and that the financial belt had to be tightened. But while the state has enjoyed budget surpluses in each of the last three fiscal years, we have coped with weak real estate revenues that have forced spending reductions and cutbacks in services.

Our locality remitted \$204,676 in FY12 and will be required to remit another \$170,902 in FY13. Presently, the City of Martinsville receives a set amount as state revenue and, in turn, the City remits back to the state the required amount as an expense line item. Our locality has to continue making difficult choices as to which local services will be funded or reduced due to the limited state funding.

I might add that I am not aware of even one mandate for the state-mandated and state-high priority services identified in the *aid to local governments reversion program* that has been modified or eliminated by the state. Now that another state budget surplus has been achieved, we request that you keep localities in mind and put an end to this practice.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Kim Adkins
Mayor

Cc: Senator Bill Stanley
Delegate Danny Marshall
Delegate Don Merricks
Delegate Charles Poindexter

August 28, 2012

Business from floor: Ural Harris, 217 Stuart St.-comments regarding Commonwealth Crossing expenses and city's liability; Curtis Millner, Laurel Park-comments regarding FAHI and presented a copy of their new book to the Mayor for the city; Ladonna Hairston, Rives Rd.-announced Give Back Foundation event in September and the activities undertaken regarding city parks; Chad Martin-announced fundraiser at Hooker Field on September 29.

Council comments: Stroud-excited to have General Via here; Reynolds-appreciated citizens in community stepping up to work on the parks; Turner-excited to have General Via here and condolences to family of Dick Hensley.

Interim City Manager comments: Mr. Towarnicki—appreciated Chad Martin and the groups stepping forward to be part of the parks solution; briefed Council on the fiber optic program and the business plan process noting a follow up report will be brought to Council in late September or early October.

Council recessed Open Session to re-convene Closed Session. 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 Closed Session. On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Danny Turner, with the following recorded 5-0 vote: Adkins, aye; Reynolds, aye; Teague, aye; Stroud, aye; and Turner, aye, Council returned to Open Session. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Brenda Prillaman
Clerk of Council

Kim Adkins
Mayor