

September 30, 2009

The City Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, assembled on September 30, 2009, at 6:30 PM at the Uptown Artisan Center. The purpose of this special called meeting was to review and receive staff updates on Council's goals.

Council Members present included: Mayor Kathy C. Lawson, Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds, Council Member Gene Teague, Council Member Mark Stroud, and Council Member Danny Turner. Others present included: Clarence Monday, Brenda Prillaman, Leon Towarnicki, Eric Monday, Scott Coleman, Wayne Knox, Steve Draper, Cindy Dickerson, Mike Rogers, Esther Artis, Kris Shrader, John Dyches, Dennis Bowles, Donna Odell, Mike Scaffidi, Gary Cody, Ashby Pritchett and media, Mickey Powell and Ron Morrison.

City Manager, Clarence Monday, briefed Council on the history of the formation of the goals document and advised that this meeting will update Council on goals completed, almost completed projects, and one long term project. He pointed out that another update session will be scheduled in March 2010. The City Manager reviewed success stories and works in progress involving the reservoir renovation, Fire Department ISO rating, Leisure Services activities, PART public transportation bus, and rail trails.

A Power Point presentation was given by the following departments highlighting specific issues to the respective department:

Mike Rogers, Police Chief, reported on the Certified Crime Prevention Community Program noting that the Martinsville Police Department has nine of 12 core elements already in place for this program. The school safety audit committee will be implemented shortly. The business watch program is being researched and the community-wide crime prevention council idea is being discussed. Chief Rogers noted several optional elements are already in place and the application process can take up to six months from the date of a Council proclamation. He also pointed out activities with the Neighborhood Watch program as well as Adopt-A-Street Program.

Kris Shrader, Deputy Fire Chief, reported on the Fire and EMS Strategic Station Plan & Staffing Considerations. He pointed out that the personnel issue is a big part of the ISO rating. He also distributed copies of the Strategic Fire & EMS Station Placement Plan to Council and reviewed future station requirements and options.

September 30, 2009

Scott Coleman, Public Information Officer, briefed Council on MGTV and Community & Education Outreach efforts noting that the new City website was launched within the last year. He outlined several positive news programs that are currently being shown on MGTV and future plans to do an online citizen survey. Boards and Commission promotional shows will be produced to encourage citizen participation on boards with vacant positions and the formation of a Citizen Academy will be in future plans. He noted that with this department being downsized to one person, time and flexibility will be needed to accomplish the goals.

Gary Cody, Leisure Services Director, reported to Council on expanding our recreational opportunities through Community Gardens and a potential Canoeing Program. Costs of Community Gardens were discussed and Council Member Teague pointed out we need to really think about putting money into these gardening plots.

Wayne Knox, Community Development Director, briefed Council on the new quarters for the City Housing office at the former Police Academy building at 605 Fourth Street which were opened in February, 2009. He noted an important element of the new quarters is its one level accessibility for clients and there is a greater sense of security and confidentiality.

Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager, briefed Council on the MINet Wireless Project Update describing Wi-Fi background, who connects, type of network, and how it works. He reported the launch date of October 5, 2009 at 9:00 am will have Wi-Fi coverage from Moss & Church to Church & Ellsworth, Moss & Main to Main & Lester, and slight building penetration (interior buildings accessible at an additional charge). Work is continuing on a broadband master plan. Council requested that a good job be done in communicating the Wi-Fi coverage availability to the public by press releases, advise MURA, advise EDC, and do a ribbon cutting.

There being no other business to come before Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Clarence Monday
Clerk of Council

Kathy C. Lawson
Mayor