

February 27, 2018

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on February 27, 2018 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Gene Teague presiding. Council Members present included Gene Teague, Chad Martin, Sharon Hodge, Kathy Lawson and Jennifer Bowles. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager Wayne Knox, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Finance Director Linda Conover, Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator Zach Morris, Senior Services Coordinator Betsy Pace, Chief Sheriff's Deputy Laura Hopkins, Sheriff Steve Draper, and Police Lieutenant Sandy Hines.

Mayor Teague called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 7:00 PM. In accordance with section 2.1-344 (A) Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Council Member Hodge, seconded by Council Member Lawson, with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Council Member Lawson, aye; Council Member Hodge, aye; Mayor Teague, aye; Council Member Bowles, and Vice Mayor Martin, aye, Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) Appointments to boards and commissions as authorized by Subsection 1, and (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 the Session. A motion was made by Council Member Lawson; seconded by Council Member Bowles, with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Council Member Bowles, aye; Mayor Teague, aye; Council Member Hodge, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; and Council Member Lawson, aye.

Council Member Bowles made a motion to appoint Alexir Hairston to the Arts and Cultural Committee (City Business Owner position) for an unexpired 3-year term ending March 31, 2020. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to appoint Lisa Smith to the Southern Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors for a 3-year term ending February 28, 2021. Council Member Lawson seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to appoint Ashley Carter to the Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board for an unexpired 4-year term ending June 30, 2021. Council Member Lawson seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

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

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Recognize City Employees who are eligible for Service Awards – January 1 through March 31, 2018 – City Manager Towarnicki explained that this recognition is done each quarter. Mayor Teague read the list recognizing the employees and their years of service.

<b>SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS THIRD QUARTER - FISCAL YEAR 17-18 FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2018</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
CLINT HALL	SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	5
WILLIAM WARNICK	POLICE DEPARTMENT	5
JONATHAN COX	POLICE DEPARTMENT	5
MICHAEL HARRIS	POLICE DEPARTMENT	5
JENNIFER COPLIN	CIRCUIT COURT	5
GARY REEVES	PUBLIC WORKS	5
MICHAEL SPENCER	PUBLIC WORKS	5
DONALD TYNDALL	PUBLIC WORKS	5
MATT OLDHAM	CENTRAL GARAGE	5
ALLEN PRUITT	WATER RESOURCES	5
JAMIE CRUISE	SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	10
TONYA RUMLEY	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	10
JOYCE JACKSON	PURCHASING	10
MIKE KAHLE	WASTEWATER PLANT	10
TIM TILLEY	WATER RESOURCES	10
BEN PETERS	POLICE DEPARTMENT	10
DANIEL MORRISON	ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT	20
ERIKA HAMILTON	CIRCUIT COURT	25
BETSY PACE	SENIOR CENTER	25
BRENDA SOUTHER	POLICE DEPARTMENT	35

Read and present a proclamation acknowledging the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks – Mayor Teague recognized Mr. Cobbler, Mr. Stegall and Sheriff Draper who are members of the Elks Club and read the proclamation. Mr. Cobbler thanked Council for the recognition and summarized some of their responsibilities to the local community and especially to the veterans. He detailed some former presidents who were members of the organization. The Elks National Foundation has provided more than \$3.6million in scholarships. More than 10 million dictionaries have been donated to schools and another project provided safety glasses to area high schools. They sponsor a fishing rodeo at King's Grant including lunch.



## Proclamation

### **RECOGNIZING THE 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS**

**WHEREAS**, the organization first began as the “Jolly Corks”, a group of artists and thespians led by London-born comic, singer, and dancer Charles Vivian, originally formed for their own amusement but later deciding to dedicate the group to helping the needy; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 16, 1868 in New York City, the Jolly Corks formed the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, led by Mr. Vivian, and soon thereafter the popularity of the group led to groups in other cities requesting permission to form their own Lodges; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 10 1871 the New York State Legislature granted a Charter allowing the Grand Lodge to establish Lodges anywhere in the United States, and the founding group received the local charter as New York Lodge No. 1; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout history the spirit of Elks is evident by funding and participating in numerous projects and activities at home and abroad, following and upholding the four cardinal virtues of the Lodge – Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gene Teague, Mayor, and members of Martinsville City Council, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018 do hereby recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and acknowledge our since appreciation for their dedication to service, not only to our community, but to communities everywhere that have been, and continue to be impacted by this organization’s efforts and generosity.

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Gene Teague, Mayor

Hear a staff update on operations of City Parks and Recreation and Senior Services – Betsy Pace summarized activities at the Senior Center including an AARP smart driver course, cosponsoring with the Blue Ridge Regional Library for an 8-week adult computer course, the oil painting classes will begin again in March, and seniors are making deco-mesh Easter wreaths tonight. They are busy planning the Annual Health Fair on May 3 cosponsored with Henry County Parks and Rec and will offer vision, cancer, and blood pressure screening as well as other testing. They have just completed an application for grant money from the Southern Area Agency on Aging to expand transportation services that will help supplement funding. Pace said 200-250 residents attend the health fair yearly. The Senior Center provides transportation to residents who do not qualify for Medicaid transportation assistance. Vice Mayor Martin suggested that the Senior Center partner with the Youth Harvest Foundation on classes also. Zach Morris summarized Parks and Recreation activities since his last update to Council October 2017 including youth basketball teams, a volleyball league, and a basketball coed league with the largest participation in years. Upcoming sports include youth baseball, softball and coach pitch league. Parks and Rec will begin requiring birth

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certificates to verify age. There is also a new bat requirement that requires a USA bat stamp to better protect the children. The Adult men and women softball league starts soon. The activity guide will be available to the public in April. There is a bathroom project in the works at Southside to eliminate some congestion at the concession stand and will update the existing bathrooms. Park shelters can be reserved April 1 – October 1 by calling the Parks and Rec department. Registration for all sports is \$10. The main revenue source for Parks and Recreation during tournaments is the leasing of the fields at approximately \$100 per day. The concessions are handled through the Recreation Association. Council Member Hodge suggested that Morris work with Uptown Martinsville and the Chamber to build on the tournament benefits.

Consider authorizing execution of a contract for the City's Jail Security Project – City Manager Towarnicki summarized the project that has been ongoing for several years regarding the need to upgrade the intercom system, video and door locks. The project was started with the intention that it could be handled internally but keeping it in-house was not beneficial. The City contacted Moseley Architects, which specializes in jail security, and had them bid the cost of the project. The funds would be pulled from the FY19 budget so it would require Council's approval. Sheriff Draper said they encouraged local bidders but they could not meet all needs necessary. Draper explained that the security of the jail has become dangerous, especially for the inmates. Completion could be as early as September and includes a 2-year warranty and a 3-year continuance agreement. Council Member Bowles made a motion to authorize the execution of the contract; Council Member Lawson seconded the motion. City Manager explained that this project would be plugged into the capital requirements for FY19 regardless; the authorization tonight will just move the project forward faster. Towarnicki explained there are already three high priority items on the capital list, the jail project being one. Draper would apply for grants to assist in funding. All Council Members voted in favor.

Hear information related to the FY19 budget process – City Manager Towarnicki summarized the upcoming budget process and schedule including department meetings, budget work sessions including schools, budget drafts, public hearings, etc.

Consider approval of Consent Agenda - Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Council Member Hodge seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 2/27/18				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
<b>FY18</b>				
<b>General Fund:</b>				
01101917	442402	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - Comm. Attorney		879
01221082	506105	Commonwealth's Attorney - State Confiscated Ass	879	
01101917	442401	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - Police		2,538
01311085	506078	Police Dept - Conf Assets State	2,538	
		State Asset Forfeiture Proceeds		
01100909	490801	Recovered Costs - Senior Services		2,382
01714212	501300	Senior Services - Part-time Wages	1,510	
01714212	502100	Senior Services - Social Security	94	
01714212	502110	Senior Services - Medicare	22	
01714212	506049	Senior Services - Vehicle Fuels	756	
		Transportation Grant - Oct., Nov., & Dec.		
01101917	442402	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - Comm. Attorney		3,923
01221082	506105	Commonwealth's Attorney - State Confiscated Ass	3,923	
01101917	442401	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - Police		11,333
01311085	506078	Police Dept - Conf Assets State	11,333	
		State Asset Forfeiture Proceeds		
<b>Total General Fund:</b>			<b>21,055</b>	<b>21,055</b>

Consider setting a public hearing for the sale of property located on the south corner of the intersection of Fayette Street and Memorial Boulevard – City Manager Towarnicki described the lots and the adjacent property owners desire to purchase the property. Wayne Knox explained that the two lots in question and the adjacent properties would be rezoned as commercial. Council Member Hodge made a motion to set the public hearing for March 13, 2018; Council Member Lawson seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Business from the Floor – no one approached the podium

Comments by members of City Council – Vice Mayor Martin thanked Jenny Owens and Martinsville City Schools for allowing him to participate in their activities. Council Member Lawson shared details on the Martinsville high school after prom fundraiser March 17 at the high school. She thanked the Public Works and Fire Department for helping with the water suppression system at the Fidelity Bank over the weekend. Council Member Bowles attended the STAGS 1262 open house and she is amazed at the abilities of those youths. Bowles expressed concern about the corner of Fayette and Market Street where she has seen several close accidents and would like the Transportation Safety Committee look at that area. Council Member Lawson said some of the arrows were not put back after the paving project, Towarnicki confirmed that those would be put back. Mayor Teague explained that the City Attorney participated in closed session but was not feeling well and was unable to attend the Council meeting

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Comments by City Manager – The schools have offered tours to Council Members again this year for anyone interested. The FastTrack Trade Show will be held March 6-7 and the City has three booths this year; Council Members have been provided tickets. Towarnicki explained some residents received electric bills from January that were excessively high; he reminds residents of those colder days in January and explained that the City purchased 40% more power than in previous months. There were a few bill-printing errors that were attributed to the changeover and those have been corrected. Council Member Bowles reminded residents that the City does offer free electric audits by contacting the Electric Department. Vice Mayor Martin suggested the electric department share energy saving ideas on MGTV. Towarnicki said they did not find any errors on the electric side; the bills were high because of high consumption. If residents have concerns, they can contact the City Electric and Utility Billing departments. The current VML Magazine includes an article about the Martinsville meter project and a very good article titled Feeling the Squeeze regarding fiscal stress on localities.

There being no further business, Council Member Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Bowles with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

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Karen Roberts  
Clerk of Council

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Gene Teague  
Mayor