

April 9, 2019 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on April 9, 2019 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Jennifer Bowles, Chad Martin, Jim Woods and Danny Turner. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, City Attorney Eric Monday, Assistant City Manager Wayne Knox, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Finance Director Linda Conover, Utilities Director Durwin Joyce and Police Chief Eddie Cassady.

Mayor Lawson 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 Turner, seconded by Council Member Bowles with the following -0 recorded vote: Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; and Council Member Turner, aye. Vice Mayor Martin joined Closed Session later. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) 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. Mayor Lawson explained that no action was taken out of Closed Session on either item. A motion was made by Council Member Bowles; seconded by Vice Mayor Martin, with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; and Council Member Turner, aye.

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

Read and present a proclamation acknowledging April 8 – 12, 2019 as National Boys and Girls Club Week – Council Member Woods read the proclamation and presented it to a representative in attendance. The representatives shared some of the special events that were happening this week on behalf of the National Boys and Girls Club Week.



PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING APRIL 8 – 12, 2019 AS NATIONAL BOYS & GIRLS CLUB WEEK

WHEREAS, the young people of Martinsville, Virginia are tomorrow's leaders; and

WHEREAS, many young people need professional youth services to help them achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, there are 4 Boys & Girls Club organizations in Martinsville, Virginia – including Albert Harris Elementary School, Patrick Henry Elementary School, a Teen Club that serves Martinsville Middle and High Schools, and Clearview Early Learning Center – that serve more than 1279 Club Members and Affiliated Young people annually; and

WHEREAS, Boys & Girls Clubs instill young people with the self-confidence to believe they can succeed at anything they put their mind to, and stand at the forefront of efforts in the areas of *academic success, healthy lifestyles, good character, and citizenship* and

WHEREAS, Boys & Girls Club organizations in Virginia help ensure young people have a safe, supportive place to spend time and will provide them with quality youth development programs; and

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge will celebrate National Boys & Girls Club Week with some 4,000 Clubs and over 2 million more children and teens nationwide;

NOW THEREFORE, I Kathy Lawson, Mayor of Martinsville, Virginia, do hereby proclaim April 8-12, 2019, as Boys & Girls Club Week in Martinsville, Virginia. Furthermore, I encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing and commending Boys & Girls Clubs in Virginia for providing the young people of our communities with comprehensive and effective youth development services.

Kathy Lawson, Mayor

Read and present a proclamation recognizing student members of the Martinsville/Henry County National Society of Black Engineers – Council Member Bowles read the proclamation and presented it to the NSBE members in attendance. Helen Howell thanked Council and said they are excited for the NSBE student accomplishments and thanked New Heights Foundation for their support. The organization continues to grow, with the team traveling to Texas next year.



PROCLAMATION

**RECOGNIZING MARTINSVILLE/HENRY COUNTY
NSBE TEAM PARTICIPANTS**

WHEREAS, over the weekend of March 27 – 31, 2019, the National Society of Black Engineers held their 45th National Convention in Detroit, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, our local community was well-represented at the event with eight teams comprised of Martinsville and Henry County students of the Martinsville/Henry County National Society of Black Engineers; and

WHEREAS, of the eight local teams, seven teams finished in the top 5 in a variety of categories; and

WHEREAS, one team in particular is being recognized for exceptional achievement – the Kid Zone team that took home first place in the Lego League Junior competition; and

WHEREAS, Kid Zone team members are Aaliyah Hitnariansingh, Anaya Maseko, Caroline Palmer, Cameron Talley, and Aniyah-Nicole Deskins; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy Lawson, Mayor, and members of Martinsville City Council, on this 9th day of April, 2019 do hereby proclaim our congratulations to all team members the Martinsville Henry County National Society of Black Engineers who participated in NSBE's 45th National Convention. We especially acknowledge members of the Kid Zone team for their first place finish in the Lego League Junior competition. We thank all team members for representing our community in an exemplary manner and congratulate you on your success.

Kathy Lawson, Mayor

Read and present a proclamation recognizing April 18, 2019 as National Lineman Appreciation Day – Vice Mayor Martin read the proclamation, which was presented, to the City Electric Department lineman in attendance. Utilities Director Durwin Joyce thanked Council for the recognition, stating that the City Electric department had a good group of employees who are always willing to answer calls at all hours.



PROCLAMATION

**NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY
APRIL 18, 2019**

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2013, the United States Senate recognized linemen, the profession of linemen, and the contributions of the brave men and women of this profession who protect public safety by expressing support for the designation April 18, 2013 through Senate Resolution 95, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; and

WHEREAS, linemen are often first responders during storms, emergencies, and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes; and

WHEREAS, linemen must often work under dangerous conditions with thousands of volts of electricity in all weather conditions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to construct, repair, and maintain infrastructure to keep electricity flowing; and


WHEREAS, linemen put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the community regarding the danger of their work; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville's electric linemen are Daniel Morrison, Jimmy Rigney, Terry Martin, Brian Collins, Chase Cooper, Kyle Fulkerson, Richard Penn, Bryar Turner, Austin Shumate, Curt Compton, Jimmy Blankenship, Tim Agee, Ryan Emberson, Paul McCrickard, and Elaine Meeks;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kathy Lawson, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, along with Martinsville City Council members, do hereby proclaim April 18, 2019, as National Lineman Appreciation Day and encourage residents to recognize and appreciate the work of the linemen of the City's Electric Department in providing and maintaining electric service for the City of Martinsville.

Kathy Lawson, Mayor

Consider a request by the Virginia Municipal League to submit nominations for membership on the VML 2019 Policy Committees – Council Members discussed and agreed on the following nominations: Community and Economic Development would be Chad Martin, Environmental Quality would be Eric Monday, Finance would be Leon Towarnicki, General Laws would be Jim Woods, Human Development and Education would be Jennifer Bowles, and Transportation would be Kathy Lawson. Council Member Bowles made a motion to submit those nominations. Council Member Woods seconded the nominations with all Council members voting in favor.



March 29, 2019

TO: VML Full-Member Key Officials; Council and Board Clerks
FROM: Michelle Gowdy, Executive Director
SUBJECT: 2019 VML Policy Committee Nominations

The Virginia Municipal League welcomes your nominations for the 2019 policy committees. Accompanying this memo is a description of the committee process and a nominations form.

Please return your locality's nominations form by **April 25**. If your community has a May election, you may submit a revised form after your elections.

Please observe the following guidelines with your nominations:

- Only governing body members and appointed officials (i.e., employees of the local government) are eligible to serve.
- You may nominate two people to a committee; if two are nominated, at least one should be a governing body member.
- Individuals may serve on only one committee a year.

Please return your nominations form by **April 25**.

Policy committees traditionally meet in late July in the Richmond area; committee meeting dates and times will be forwarded to you once they are confirmed.

Please call or email Janet Areson at VML (804-523-8522; jareson@vml.org) if you have any questions about the appointment process.

Attachments

P.O. Box 12164
 Richmond, Virginia 23241

13 East Franklin Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23219

804/649-8471
 www.vml.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER SINCE 1905

VML 2019 Policy Committee Nominations

Please return this form by **April 25** to Joni Terry at VML, P.O. Box 12164, Richmond, VA 23241; Fax 804/343-3758; email: jerry@vml.org

Community & Economic Development
 Name & Title: Chad Martin, Vice-Mayor

Name & Title: _____

Environmental Quality
 Name & Title: Eric Monday, City Attorney

Name & Title: _____

Finance
 Name & Title: Leon Towarnicki, City Manager

Name & Title: _____

General Laws
 Name & Title: Jim Woods, Council member

Name & Title: _____

Human Development & Education
 Name & Title: Jennifer Bowles, Council member

Name & Title: _____

Transportation
 Name & Title: Kathy Lawson, Mayor

Name & Title: _____

Signed: [Signature] Locality: City of Martinsville, VA
 (Mayor/Chair, or Manager/Administrator)

VML's Legislative and Policy Committee Process

Each year the Virginia Municipal League develops two separate documents – a legislative program and a compilation of policy statements – through a process that involves the Legislative Committee and six separate policy committees. The Legislative Committee is responsible for developing the legislative program, but it may also rely on input from the policy committees to do so. The policy committees develop broad policy statements, in addition to submitting specific legislative recommendations for consideration by the Legislative Committee.

Legislative Committee

What is the role of the Legislative Committee?
 The Legislative Committee is responsible for considering and developing positions on existing or proposed state and federal legislation or regulations, and urging the enactment or amendment of, or opposition to, such legislation or regulations.

How is the Legislative Committee appointed?
 VML's Constitution spells out the composition of the Legislative Committee. The committee consists of 24 individuals holding local elective or appointed positions, all appointed by VML's President. Of the 24 members, 12 must be representatives of cities and urban counties with populations in excess of 35,000, six must be representatives of cities and urban counties with populations of 35,000 or less, and six must represent towns.

What is included in VML's Legislative Program?
 The legislative program adopted by the Legislative Committee reflects specific legislative objectives that VML hopes to achieve during the upcoming legislative session. It is subject to the approval of VML's membership at the annual conference.

What is the relationship between the legislative committee and VML's policy committees?
 The Legislative Committee meets prior to the policy committees to identify issues that it would like the committees to consider for potential inclusion in the league's legislative program. It meets again after the policy committees have met to consider their recommendations.

Policy Committees

What is the role of the policy committees?
 Policy committees receive briefings on select statewide issues, consider possible changes to the policy statement, and develop legislative recommendations for the Legislative Committee to consider.

How are policy committees appointed?
 Policy committee membership consists of elected and appointed officials of full-member local governments. Nomination information is sent in the spring to each locality, and each local government determines which of its officials will be nominated for each of the six policy committees. Each local government may nominate up to two people per policy committee, at least one of whom must be an elected official.

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What are the benefits of serving on a policy committee?
 VML policy committees offer members an opportunity to learn about current and emerging statewide issues that affect local governments, to develop through policy statements the broad philosophical framework that guides the league, and to network with local officials with similar policy interests.

How many policy committees are there?
 There are six policy committees: community and economic development, environmental quality, finance, general laws, human development and education, and transportation.

What issues does each policy committee cover?

- Community & Economic Development:** Authority, administration, and funding of local governments to manage a full range of community and economic development issues, including business development and retention, international competitiveness, infrastructure development and investment, planning, land use and zoning, blight, enterprise zones, housing, workforce development and historic preservation.
- Environmental Quality:** Natural resources and the authority of local governments to manage the environment, including water resources and quality, solid and hazardous waste management, air quality and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Finance:** Powers, organization and administration of local government financing, including taxing authority, debt financing, state aid to local governments and federal policies affecting local finance issues.
- General Laws:** Powers, duties, responsibilities, organization and administration of local governments, including state-local and inter-local relations, conflicts-of-interest, freedom-of-information, information management and personnel, telecommunications, utilities and law enforcement, jails and courts issues.
- Human Development and Education:** Management and funding of social services, pre-K-12 education, health, behavioral health, juvenile justice, recreation, rehabilitation and aging.
- Transportation:** Development, maintenance, and funding of a comprehensive land, sea and air transportation system for the Commonwealth, and federal, state and local roles in the provision and regulation of transportation.

What is a policy statement?
 Each policy committee develops a policy statement that covers issues in its respective area. The policy statement expresses the agreement of VML's membership on matters of interest to local governments. The statement generally addresses broad, long-term, philosophical positions. The VML membership approves the policy statements at its annual meeting.

How do policy statements differ from VML's legislative program?
 Policy statements are general in nature. They reflect local governments' positions on a range of issues. The Legislative Program is more specific and immediate. It is limited to legislative positions that VML expects to lobby on during the upcoming legislative session.

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Hear a presentation of the Martinsville/Henry County Rivers and Trails Recreational Use Plan – Community Development Wayne Knox introduced Brian Williams of the Dan River Basin Association, explaining how important and vital his role in the community has been.

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Williams provided an overview of the Rivers and Trails plan, stating that these plans are in place to benefit future generations. These outdoor activities promote a healthy lifestyle for the community. Williams anticipates the trail to the Sports Complex be completed by the summer and the repairs of the damaged culvert could be completed by the end of the year. Mayor Lawson thanked DRBA and Gateway for working together on projects and for a successful Community Hazardous Waste Day. Council Member Woods made a motion to endorse the DRBA project; Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Consider approval of consent agenda – Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with four Council Members voting in favor. Council Member Bowles stepped out of the room prior to the vote.

Hear a presentation of the proposed FY20 City budget – City Manager Towarnicki presented a PowerPoint of FY19 Budget highlights, objectives, budget challenges and capital requests, revenue analysis, general fund balances with transfers and expense analysis. Towarnicki said a lot of work has gone into this budget and most requests made by departments were very reasonable. He thanked Finance Director Linda Conover and other Finance department employees for their assistance. Council Member Bowles made a motion to set the public hearing for the budget for April 23, 2019; Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all council members voting in favor.

Business from the Floor – none

Comments by Members of City Council – Council Member Turner supports the University of Virginia and suggested a letter of congratulations be sent from the Mayor and Council Members. Vice Mayor Martin requested that City Manager Towarnicki be the one to write the letter. Council Member Bowles thanked the Fire Department and Red Cross for installing fire alarms in her home. She commended the inspections department for responding quickly to her call. She thanked bulk trash and said we have a group of dedicated staff. The follow up meeting to The Mission Possible through New Heights Foundation is April 18. Bowles asked if the City is still working to take down trees in the City; Towarnicki confirmed they are working through a list. Bowles asked if there was an update on the IPads on the City refuse trucks. Towarnicki explained that the pilot program was successful; unfortunately, the employee trained through the pilot program has retired so other drivers are currently being trained. Bowles thanked Public Works for their fast response. Council Member Woods attended the Barber Shop talk last Wednesday along with almost 60 other men including ministers and leaders in the community. Woods thanked Martin for organizing the meeting and he feels dialog between people is beneficial. Dr. and Mrs. King have donated The BlackBox Theater building to Theater Works. Theater Works has announced their 2019-20 season; Woods encourages resident to get involved with events like the Barber Shop talk as well as theatrical productions. Mayor Lawson also

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commented on how quickly the City Staff responds to concerns; she said we have outstanding employees. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourages residents to visit the Field of Flags at Roselawn.

Comments by City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki reminded Council of the work sessions and the upcoming Southside Neighborhood meeting.

There being no further business, Council Member Bowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Martin with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Kathy Lawson
Mayor