



MINUTES -- CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

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Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

5:00 pm Closed, Executive Session
Room 208, Municipal Building

6:00 pm Work Session
Room 208, Municipal Building

7:00 pm Regular Session
Council Chambers, Municipal Building

A Closed Session Meeting of Martinsville City Council was held on January 14th, 2025 at 5:00pm in Room 208, Martinsville Municipal Building, Martinsville, VA. Council Members participating included Kathy Lawson, Aaron Rawls, Julian Mei, Rayshaun Gravely, and Mayor Jones. Staff present included City Manager Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, Chief Operating Officer Edena Reese-Atmore, City Attorney Designee and Interim Managing Director of Development Eric Payne, Public Works Director Greg Maggard, Assistant to City Manager Peyton Nibblett, and EDC CEO Mark Heath. Mayor Jones called the meeting to order and advised Council would go into Closed Session beginning at 5:00 PM. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Title 2.2 Chapter 37, Freedom of Information Act and upon a motion by Mayor Jones and seconded by Council Member Mei with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Council Member Rawls, aye; Mayor Jones, aye; Council Member Mei, aye; and Vice Mayor Lawson, aye, and Council Member Gravely, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters:

- a. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.
- b. Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.
- c. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily



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involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals.

- d. Discussion or 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.

6:00 pm - Work Session

Room 208, Municipal Building

1. Discuss Consent Agenda Items

- a. Discuss and Consider Approval of December 17, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes and January 2nd, 2025 Organizational Meeting of the City Council Minutes
- b. Discuss and Consider Setting Council Retreat Date for February 28th & March 1st
- c. Discuss and Consider Rescheduling March 11th, 2025 Meeting Date to March 13th, 2025; due to Virginia Municipal League National League of Cities Legislative Conference running from March 10th to March 12th

2. Briefings and Presentations

- a. Briefing on 2025 Budget Calendar
- b. Briefing on Establishing a Charter Review Committee
- c. Briefing on Community Voice Survey by Assistant to the City Manager, Peyton Nibblett
- d. Briefing on Commonwealth Blvd. Development Improvements, Waterline Expansion by Greg Maggard



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7:00 pm - Regular Session

City Council Chambers, Municipal Building

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order beginning at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, Martinsville Municipal Building.

2. Pledge to the American Flag

3. Invocation

a. Led by Chaplain Joe Gravely

4. Proclamations and Presentations

a. None

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Consider Approval of December 17, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes and January 2nd, 2025 Organizational Meeting of the City Council Minutes
- b. Discuss and Consider Setting Council Retreat Date for February 28th & March 1st
- c. Discuss and Consider Rescheduling March 11th, 2025 Meeting Date to March 13th, 2025; due to Virginia Municipal League National League of Cities Legislative Conference running from March 10th to March 12th

- i. Consent Agenda **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Rawls, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye.

6. Public Hearing

a. None

7. Regular Agenda or New Business

- a. First Reading of Refuse Ordinance
 - i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following roll call vote; Lawson, aye; Rawls, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravely, aye; Jones, aye.
- b. Discuss and Consider Approval of Appropriation of Funds for Commonwealth Blvd. Development Improvements, Waterline Expansion for Engineering and Design



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- i. **Approved** by Motion made by Councilor Lawson and Seconded by Councilor Mei. Approved with the following vote; Lawson, aye; Rawls, aye; Mei, aye; and Gravelly, aye; Jones, aye.

8. Actions necessary as a result of the Executive Session

- A. Council Appointment of Tree Board Applicants
 - a. Moving to January 28th Agenda

9. City Hall Reporting and Announcements

- A. Public Information Officer

10. Communications from Visitors / Business from the Floor

- Description: The purpose of City Council Meetings is to conduct the City's Business. City Council allows for public comment, limited to matters on which the Council has the power and authority to act and are not listed on the printed agenda.
- Participation: Citizens who wish to participate in a meeting's public comment period may do so by emailing their comments to Peyton Nibblett, Deputy Clerk of Council, at pnibblett@martinsvilleva.gov, calling in their comments to 276-403-5196, or mailing comments to the City of Martinsville, attn.: Peyton Nibblett, P.O. Box 1112, Martinsville, VA 24114
 - a. Comments, or a request to speak, must be received by noon the day before a Council meeting for consideration by the Council at the meeting.
 - b. Any person submitting comments or requesting to speak must identify themselves by name and address, including zip code.
 - c. Remarks are to be limited to 3 minutes or less (as read aloud), address a topic of City business, and refrain from making any personal references or accusations of a factually false and/or malicious nature.
 - d. Priority for comments is given to City residents, taxpayers, and business owners.
 - e. Speakers may not yield time.
 - f. Groups of speakers on the same topic must designate a single representative. Comments violating these rules may not be presented at the Council meeting.
 - g. Any speaker violating these rules may be removed from the podium or from the Council Chamber.
- h. This policy does not apply to public hearings, at which any citizen of Martinsville may appear and speak on the subject of the public hearing.



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Contact: Peyton Nibblett, Deputy Clerk of Council

a. Email address: pnibblett@martinsvilleva.gov

b. Office number: 276-403-5196

c. Mailing address: City of Martinsville, attn.: Peyton Nibblett, P.O. Box 1112, Martinsville, VA 24114.

A. Caleb Robertson, 701 Starling Ave

11. Comments by Members of City Council

12. Communications by City Manager

13. Adjournment

Vice-Mayor Lawson made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM.