

December 8, 2008

A Community Meeting with City Council for the Druid Hills/Uptown areas was held on December 8, 2008, at Blue Ridge Regional Library, 310 E. Church St., Martinsville, Virginia, at 7:30 P. M., with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding and Council members present including: Gene Teague, Kimble Reynolds, Jr., Mark Stroud, Sr., and Danny Turner. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Scott Coleman, Mike Rogers, and Wayne Knox.

Mayor Lawson welcomed those in attendance and called on Brenda Prillaman to review the quarterly citizen concerns report for the Druid Hills/Uptown areas of the city. Mayor Lawson then asked for any citizen comments.

Comments from citizens: Mrs. Virginia King pointed out: (1) the need to have a property cleaned up on West Church that has sofas & trash outside the property. Wayne pointed out he is aware of this property and there are legal issues. Wayne will follow up to make sure this issue is addressed. (2) She also pointed out a problem with long tractor trailer trucks coming up Franklin St. and struggling to make the turn onto Main Street. Leon will follow up with issue with more No Truck signage and have them placed in more locations to stop trucks before they start up Franklin Street. (3) She pointed out the need to regulate temporary signs in the Uptown area especially near the Sparky's convenience store to make the Uptown area look more appealing. (4) She also briefed Council on the historic Courthouse future plans for renovation and grant funding. She noted the grounds around the courthouse area will be beneficial to the appeal of the Uptown area. She requested that she would like to see historic district signage. Dr. Mervyn King pointed out: (1) area around the courthouse square needs to be addressed as far as speeding vehicles and the increased pedestrian traffic in that area due to the college Uptown. (2) Dr. King also asked that Council consider some way to allow Uptown property owners to upgrade the facades of buildings they own without having an increase in their taxes until they get a tenant. He indicated buildings he would like to upgrade the facades but since they are vacant, does not want his taxes raised until a tenant goes in. City

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Manager Clarence Monday pointed out the Community Development staff is presently working on gathering information on an incentive program for Uptown and this will be presented to Council at a worksession in January.

No business was transacted during the meeting and Mayor Lawson declared the community meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Clarence Monday  
Clerk of Council

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Kathy C. Lawson  
Mayor