

June 10, 2008

A Neighborhood Community Meeting with City Council for the Westside areas was held on June 10, 2008, at High Street Baptist Church, 401 Fayette St., Martinsville, Virginia, at 7:30 P. M., with Mayor Kimble Reynolds, Jr. presiding and Council members present including: Kathy Lawson, James Clark, Gene Teague and Ron Ferrill. Also present were Council Member Elect Mark C. Stroud, Sr. and Council Member Elect Danny Turner. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Eric Monday, Scott Coleman, Mike Rogers, and Wayne Knox.

Mayor Reynolds welcomed those in attendance, thanked the church for hosting the meeting and asked Rev. Shackelford to give the invocation.

On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Ron Ferrill, Council agreed, with a unanimous 5-0 vote, to re-appoint James H. Johnson, Jr., 1507 White Oak Court, and Nancy L. Baker, 919 Hunting Ridge Road, to the Martinsville City School Board, both for three year terms ending 6/30/2011.

Council then considered discussion of the financial report which included the monthly revenue & expense report, the monthly balance sheet, and the Treasurer's report. City Manager Clarence Monday reviewed the reports with Council pointing out the following: revenue and expenditure totals as of April 30 match closely with some revenues remaining to be collected; real estate tax collection deadline was this past week, which will contribute another \$2.5-\$3 million to revenue; expected fund balance at end of FY08 should be \$12.9 million.

Mayor Reynolds asked the City Attorney for a status on the Paradise Inn property on Fayette St. and for his comments regarding the property maintenance ordinance passed at the last meeting as it relates to inoperative vehicles. City Attorney Eric Monday explained issues with ownership of the property pointing out the city is filing a lawsuit to compel owners to demolish or renovate the property and as a last resort, city would undertake demolition. Mr. Monday said having the judgment in place before the city takes any action on demolition is the best course. With the cost to demolish the property figured to be \$15,000 to \$20,000 or more, the cost to demolish exceeds the value of the property. As far as the amended property maintenance ordinance, Mr. Monday pointed out the city will be significantly more aggressive.

June 10, 2008

Mayor Reynolds asked for any public comments during the community meeting portion of the meeting. The following issues were brought up by citizen questions: bond rating—city expects no direct impact and our bond counsel has not advised us of any concerns; municipal debt is having a hard time on the national level; as far as impact of bond rating on AMP Ohio projects, the city manager pointed out there are a lot of contingencies built into the projects and city has not heard from AMP Ohio of any problems; in answer to question as to what is Council's contingency plan for AMP Ohio, the Mayor answered there is no contingency plan by Council; discussion on future energy sources and the city's hydro plant production; peak power usage discussion; the need to look again at dredging at the hydro plant to increase usage; question on Council involvement in Dan River Basin water transfer to Raleigh area with answer of no current involvement; training requirements of persons serving on City Council and discussion of VML conferences; Mayor Reynolds pointed out the recent amendments to the property maintenance code regarding inoperative vehicles is a direct result of information gathered at last year's VML conference and he pointed out the city also participates in Virginia First Cities; discussion on opportunities for citizen involvement by serving on Boards & Commissions and encouraging citizen participation; appreciation expressed to outgoing Council Member Ferrill and Vice Mayor Clark for their support of the city schools; discussion on city and county working together and advantages on a state level; discussion on amount of back taxes owed in city with response from city attorney that \$255,000 has been turned over to him and it is in the collection process. Mayor Reynolds asked Brenda Prillaman to summarize her report on customer concerns in the Westside area during the past twelve months and explain the process for turning in a complaint.

In accordance with Section 2.1-344 (A) of the Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Ron Ferrill, seconded by James Clark, with the following recorded vote: Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Clark, aye; Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Ferrill, aye; and Mr. Teague, aye, Council convened in Closed Session, for the purpose of discussing 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; (B) A personnel matter as authorized by Subsection 1.

June 10, 2008

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 said Session. On a motion by Ron Ferrill, seconded by Kathy Lawson, with the following recorded vote: Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Clark, aye; Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Ferrill, aye; and Mr. Teague, aye, Council returned to Open Session. No action was taken upon returning to open session.

There being no further business, Mayor Reynolds declared the community meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

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Clarence C. Monday  
Clerk of Council

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Kimble Reynolds, Jr.  
Mayor