

September 9, 2008

A Neighborhood Community Meeting with City Council for the Southside area was held on September 9, 2008, at Fuller Memorial Baptist Church, 1204 Askin St., Martinsville, Virginia, at 7:30 P. M., with Mayor Kathy C. Lawson presiding and Council members present including: Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds, Jr., Gene Teague, Danny Turner, and Mark Stroud. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Eric Monday, Scott Coleman, Mike Rogers, John Dyches and Wayne Knox.

Mayor Lawson welcomed those in attendance, thanked the church for hosting the meeting and asked City Manager, Clarence Monday, to give the invocation.

On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Kimble Reynolds, Jr., with the following recorded vote: Mrs. Lawson, aye; Mr. Reynolds, aye; Mr. Teague, aye; Mr. Stroud, aye; and Mr. Turner, aye, Council approved the following ordinance, on second reading, to abandon the eastern portion of an alley off Geter Street, being approximately 10 feet in width and 148 feet in length, located south of East Church Street as shown on Tax Map 36 of the City of Martinsville:

AN ORDINANCE

ABANDONING ALLEY SPACE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session assembled \_\_\_\_\_, 2008, that in order to assure compliance with Section §15.2-2006 of the Code of Virginia, it is stated that the public purpose for which this Ordinance is initiated is to fulfill the requirements of public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice, that the alley space, as described below, be--and is hereby declared--vacated and abandoned, in favor of Shirley Bannister and New Mount Bethel Holiness Church Trustees – subject to the approval by—the City's Community Development Director, showing the area hereby declared vacated and abandoned by City Council on this date, which map, when and as approved, shall be duly recorded in the office of the Clerk of Martinsville City Circuit Court:

The eastern portion of an alley space, being approximately 10 feet wide and 148 feet long, located between 16 and 18 Geter Street, as shown on Tax Map 36 of the City of Martinsville.

On a motion by Kimble Reynolds, seconded by Mark Stroud, Council agreed to go forward with RFPs to find out potential proceeds the city could get from timbering some of the larger tracts of city surplus property. This vote does not signify any action or decision on the tracts.

Mayor Lawson asked Brenda Prillaman to summarize her report on customer concerns in the Southside area during the past twelve months which noted that main neighborhood concerns continue to be unsightly properties, dilapidated houses and inoperative vehicles. Mayor Lawson asked for public comments during the community meeting portion of the meeting. The following issues were brought to Council's attention: James Sparks, 307 Wingfield St. comments: four dogs with puppies across the street and one dog down the street keeps him awake at night; lot of dogs running loose on Wingfield and people should not be allowed to have that

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many dogs; concerns about yards not being mowed on Roy St. and Park St.; grass growing outside fence and two old cars in driveway on Park St.; old Sara Lee factory building all grown up; parking on wrong side of street; 204 Park Street yard is a mess and all overgrown; trash bin at Park Street blocking traffic; schools buses don't stop at stop sign and back wheels hit curbing. Council Member Teague pointed out we need to figure out a way to get funds to address the eyesore issues of the factory type buildings with the property owners. Council Member Turner pointed out that he noticed the large number of pit bulls all over the Southside area during Council's tour of Southside. Other comments: concerns regarding limits on dogs allowed and whether addressed by state code; any ordinances on books regarding odors from dogs; Council Member Teague pointed out he would like the city's legislative package this year to have the local legislators look at the dog limit issue; Eric Monday pointed out there is a procedure under state law to get a dog breed declared vicious. Stella Meadors of Wingfield St. comments: more cats and dogs than people; limbs hanging very low rubbing cars coming out of Wingfield St. onto Roy St.; tree on corner of Park St. has limbs hanging down over street. David Bullins of 15 Circle Drive comments: he lives in county, but backyard is in city; need no parking on Rivermont Hts. so buses can pass; he feels he is paying more for his utilities because he is on city power and is a county resident; concerns that he did not get his rebate from the city when APCO gave the rebate back in the late 90s and he feels he is being penalized; John Dyches explained how water and sewer rates are calculated; Mayor Lawson said the city manager will check into this and follow up on Mr. Bullins' concerns. Glen Powell of Forest St. comments: no complaints on his electric bill, satisfied with the amount; has problem with people who chain dogs in backyards and do not have their animals neutered; he would like to see city pass an ordinance to force people to spay and neuter their animals; wants better enforcement of laws already on the books regarding dogs and have offenders prosecuted. Lonnie Carter comments: requests that Union St. be made a one way street and Mayor Lawson said Council discussed this during their tour last night and Leon will be looking into this; he thanked city for cleaning up the bank on Stephens St; pointed out there is a dangerous area on Stephens St. where trees overhang the street and school buses have to travel through that area. Gene Cardwell of 1038 Oak St. comments: people are littering along Oak

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St.; 125 Askin St. has been condemned for five years and is an eyesore; 1005 Oak St. is a mess even though it is being worked on; he can't get to his house without going through the slums; feels his electric bill is too high for just two people; Teague questioned whether he has had an energy audit done by the City Electric Department and he said he had not had one done. Catherine Medley of 1120 Askin St. comments: lots of gatherings, parties, noise at 1121 Askin St.; have called police on numerous occasions; she has spoken with the landlord regarding this situation; kids pull basketball goal up to street edge and play basketball out in the street; there are a lot of speeding cars and questioned about children at play signs; Police Chief Mike Rogers pointed out the city does not put up children at play signs as that encourages children to play in the street which puts the city at a liability. Patty Morrison of 1126 Askin St. comments: regarding a hit and run accident involving her vehicle; BB guns being shot in the neighborhood; pit bulls are running loose. Chief Mike Rogers encouraged the citizens to feel free to call 911 whenever dogs are running loose and they see BB guns being shot so police can investigate. Council Member Teague questioned if a rental assistance property has a complaint against it, does it put the rental assistance funding in jeopardy and Mr. Knox replied it does and the address should be provided to him for follow up.

There being no further business, Mayor Lawson declared the community meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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Clarence C. Monday  
Clerk of Council

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Kathy C. Lawson  
Mayor