

July 25, 2017

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on July 25, 2017 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Gene Teague presiding. Council Members present included Gene Teague, Sharon Hodge, Chad Martin, Jennifer Bowles, and Kathy Lawson. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager Wayne Knox, City Attorney Eric Monday, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Finance Director Linda Conover, Public Works Director Chris Morris, Animal Control Officer E.C Stone, Officer Coretha Gravely, and Deputy Police Chief Rob Fincher.

Mayor Teague 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) of the Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Council Member Lawson, seconded by Council Member Hodge, with the following 4-0 recorded vote: Council Member Lawson, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Mayor Teague, aye; and Council Member Hodge, aye. Vice Mayor Martin joined Closed Session at 7:05 PM. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) A personnel matter as authorized by Subsection 1 and (B) 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 7:30pm upon returning to Council Chambers, Mayor Teague explained that Council would recess Closed Session and would resume after regular Council meeting.

Following the invocation by Council Member Lawson and Pledge to the American Flag, Teague welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Consider approval of minutes from the July 11, 2017 Council Meeting – Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Council Member Lawson seconded the motion with all in favor.

Vice Mayor Martin introduced team members of the Martinsville Mayhem semi-pro football team. The team holds a record of 33-9 and they welcome area young men to train and participate with them. Saturday is a youth football camp for ages 5-15 years old at Baldwin Park beginning at 11:00am for \$10. Children can register that same day. Martinsville Parks and Recreation has sponsors who will cover costs for up to 15 children if financial assistance is needed.

Presentation of proclamation regarding Tuesday, August 1, 2017 National Night Out – Deputy Police Chief Fincher and Officer Gravely were present along with many Neighborhood Watch Captains. Mayor Teague read the proclamation. Fincher thanked Council for their continued support of the Night Out program and thanked the Night Out neighborhood participants. Gravely thanked all of the neighborhood captains. Tuesday August 1st is the 34th annual National Night Out. Gravely said this is a time for everyone to come together and stand up to crime and drugs.



PROCLAMATION

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
August 1, 2017**

WHEREAS, the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is sponsoring a unique, nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program on August 1, 2017 entitled "National Night Out"; and

WHEREAS, the Annual National Night Out provides a unique opportunity for the City of Martinsville to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative, police-community crime prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, Martinsville City Council plays a vital role in assisting the Martinsville Police Department and Sheriff's Office through joint crime, drug and violence prevention efforts in the City of Martinsville and is supporting "National Night Out 2017" locally; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that all citizens of Martinsville be aware of the importance of crime prevention programs and impact that their participation in Neighborhood Watch groups and their community can have on reducing crime, drugs and violence in Martinsville; and


WHEREAS, police-community partnerships, neighborhood safety, awareness and cooperation are important themes of the "National Night Out" and Neighborhood Watch programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gene Teague, Mayor of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, do hereby call upon all citizens of Martinsville to join City Council and the National Association of Town Watch in supporting the "Annual National Night Out" and do hereby proclaim **Tuesday, August 1, 2017** as **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME** in the City of Martinsville.

Gene Teague
Mayor

Hear an update from the Police Department regarding their summer intern program – The interns Tucker Brown (Ferrum College), Nicholas Mahler (Virginia Tech), and Magna Vista students Rachel Fincher and Jordan Collier thanked the Police Department and said the members of the department care deeply about their employees and the residents. The department plans to expand the intern program throughout the school year. Fincher said having the intern program has allowed them to view things from a younger generation perspective.

Consider adoption of a resolution authorizing a local official to execute agreements with VDOT – Mayor Teague explained the purpose of the resolution. Council Member Lawson made a motion to adopt the resolution; Council Member Hodge seconded the resolution with all Council Members voting in favor.

<i>Council Members</i> M. Gene Teague, Mayor Chad E. Martin, Vice-Mayor Sharon Brooks Hodge Jennifer Bowles Kathy C. Lawson	 Martinsville <small>A CITY WITHOUT LIMITS</small>	<i>City Manager</i> Leon E. Towarnicki <i>City Attorney</i> Eric H. Monday <i>Clerk of Council</i> Karen Roberts
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RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING A LOCAL OFFICIAL TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LOCAL FUNDING COMMITMENT AS REQUIRED IN VDOT FUNDING AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville desires to have and maintain a safe and efficient road system; and,

WHEREAS, from time to time the City of Martinsville and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) work together to enhance the transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, certain agreements between the City of Martinsville and VDOT must be executed for this cooperative work to be accomplished,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Martinsville does hereby authorize the City Manager to execute agreements, and any modifications to such agreements, with VDOT as needed to advance transportation projects; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Martinsville does hereby commit to fund its local share of preliminary engineering, right of way, and construction (as applicable) of the project(s) under agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation in accordance with the project agreement(s) financial documents.

Adopted this 25th day of July, 2017

ATTEST:

_____	_____
Clerk of Council	Date

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Martinsville Council held on July 25, 2017, on a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of ___ to ___.

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www.martinsville-va.gov

Hear an update from Police Animal Control - Officer Stone explained the barking dog ordinance since that seemed to be a common complaint. Stone said a homeowner could go to the magistrate's office to report excessive barking dogs and he encouraged residents to record the dog to build a strong case in court. In the past year, Animal Control took in 141 animals to the shelter and adopted out 134. Stone mentioned a recent epidemic of distemper in the area that affected small animals but there have been no recent reports the past two months. Stone asked that the tether ordinance be amended to make it easier for Animal Control to enforce. Mayor Teague asked City Attorney Monday to work with Officer Stone on the ordinance revisions and present it to Council at a future meeting. Stone explained the options to get rid of groundhogs and explained there is a lot more wildlife in the City than residents realize.

Hear an update on the City's 2017 Strategic Plan - City Towarnicki briefly updated Council on the status of the Strategic Plan available on the City website and shared the new screen appearance that residents would see. There are color-coded tabs that reflect update status of the plan sections. The City is working with HD Web Studio to make the plan more user friendly, identify the key performance measures and to create a simpler form so when it's posted online the residents can get a simple, clear snapshot of what the City is doing in relation to the Strategic Plan. The document is a constantly changing document with regular updates from various departments. David Dickerson will be working with employees on what

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they do, how they operate, what they feel can be changed to make things better within their department. A list of suggestions will be compiled and steps implemented to improve service, save money or help improve processes.

Consider setting a schedule and location for FY18 Council neighborhood meetings – City Manager Towarnicki introduced Council to the potential locations for the FY18 Neighborhood meetings. Council requested Forest Hill Presbyterian for the Druid Hills/Uptown area, High Street Baptist for the Westside area, Clearview Wesleyan Church for the Northside/Chatham Heights area and Fuller Memorial for the Southside area

Consider approval of consent agenda – Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Council Member Hodge seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 07/25/17				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
FY17				
General Fund:				
01100909	490137	Recovered Costs/Public Safety		2,660
01331108	501300	Sheriff/Corrections - Part-time & Temporary Wages	2,471	
01331108	502100	Sheriff/Corrections - Social Security	153	
01331108	502110	Sheriff/Corrections - Medicare	36	
		Reimbursement for security services		
Total General Fund:			2,660	2,660
FY18				
School Operating Fund:				
18103919	489904	Donations/Contributions/Private Grants		4,550
51001100	566013	Middle Sch/Elem - Instructional Materials & Supplies	4,550	
		Donation from Eastman - MathElites		
Total School Operating Fund:			4,550	4,550

Business from the Floor – Ms. Peters of 1037 Barrows Mill Road said that her dog stays outside and barks only to make her aware that someone is near her home or because someone at the street is instigating the barking. Dogs bark to help protect their owners. Peters said she has foxes in her yard and will report that to Officer Stone.

Emily Dupree, Ridgeway VA would like to ask that the PART bus route be expanded to Ridgeway. City Manager Towarnicki explained that the RADAR organization would review her request at the next meeting committee; however, the challenge to run a bus to Ridgeway is the drive time between stops.

Comments by members of City Council – Council Member Lawson thanked Tim Martin for his service on the Planning Commission before his resignation. Lawson thanked the Sheriff’s Department for placing picnic tables at West End Park and shared the last fireworks display would be at the Mustang’s game on Friday. Vice Mayor Martin congratulated Joe Martin for being elected Chairman of the Planning Commission. Council Member Bowles said New Heights Foundation will host a Back to School event on August 5 from 4:00-9:00pm at the Historic Courthouse with family activities. Children of all ages accompanied by an adult

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are welcome to attend. Bowles wished a Happy Birthday to Sierra Preston. Council Member Hodge congratulated Council Member Bowles for being named by the Governor to the Board of Directors for the Virginia Resource Authority. Hodge was in Richmond recently representing Martinsville at the VML Committee meetings and shared information that the next generation for the 911 system funding formula changes would be beneficial for our local office. Hodge shared other legislative changes and asked for discussion between Council Members on whether to approve those changes or not. Mayor Teague attended the VML Finance Committee meeting where state budget was discussed along with implications.

Comments by City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki explained a takeaway from the VML meetings is always “don’t expect any help from the state” and don’t expect any significant changes on what is received from the state. Towarnicki congratulated Christopher Ratcliff of the Police Department for completing the Forensic Science Academy. Nelson Toyota and local law enforcement departments will be hosting a free VIN Etching program on Saturday July 29, 2017 to help protect vehicles from theft. Jay Collins, a retired 14-year City employee and Harbour Gilley, a retired 10-year City employee both passed away, Towarnicki wished condolences to both families.

At 8:46pm, Mayor Teague explained that Council would return to Closed Session. Council Member Bowles made a motion to recess to closed session; the motion was seconded by Council Member Hodge with all members voting in favor.

At the conclusion of Closed Session at approximately 9:30pm, 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 RECESS matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the Session. A motion was made by Council Member Hodge to return to regular session, seconded by Council Member Bowles, with all Council Members voting in favor. No action was taken from Closed Session.

There being no further business, Council Member Lawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Hodge with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Gene Teague
Mayor