

January 24, 2017

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on January 24, 2017 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Gene Teague presiding. Council Members present included Gene Teague, Chad Martin, Jennifer Bowles, Sharon Brooks Hodge, 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, Emergency Management Coordinator Robert Scott, Fire Chief Ted Anderson, and Police Chief Sean Dunn.

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

Consider approval of minutes of the January 9, 2017 Council Meeting and the January 10, 2017 Council Meeting – Council Member Bowles requested her title be corrected. Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Council Member Hodge seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Ural Harris and other members of the local American Legion Post made a presentation to former Mayor Danny Turner. Turner was honored for his service as Mayor and his work with the local veterans. Turner said it was an honor and detailed some of the actions taken by Council that honored veterans and thanked the veterans for their service.

Consider recognizing two Martinsville residents for their actions regarding a fire that occurred at 1120 Pine Hall Road on Sunday, January 15 – Fire Chief Ted Anderson detailed the events of January 15, 2017 and described Mr. Watkins and Ms. Smith as heroes after they entered a burning home at 1120 Pine Hall Road to wake the resident and help him outside. Anderson said the fire department would provide smoke detectors to any residents who do not have them at no charge. Vice Mayor Martin read the proclamation honoring Watkins and Smith. Larry Law, resident of the home thanked Smith and Watkins for saving his life. Watkins said he does not feel like a hero but hopes that someone would do the same for him.



PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING ANTIONETTE SMITH AND ANTONIO WATKINS FOR THEIR ACTIONS RELATED TO A HOUSE FIRE AT 1120 PINE HALL ROAD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017

WHEREAS, On Sunday, January 15, 2017, shortly before noon, Martinsville residents Antionette Smith and Antonio Watkins were traveling along Pine Hall Road in the City of Martinsville; and

WHEREAS, While doing so, Smith and Watkins noticed the rear of the house located at 1120 Pine Hall Road in flames; and

WHEREAS, Smith and Watkins stopped to render assistance, kicking in the door and awakening the resident, Mr. Larry Law; and

WHEREAS, Smith and Watkins were able to assist Law getting to safety while calling in the fire; and

WHEREAS, While the fire at 1120 Pine Hall Road resulted in the structure being declared a total loss, the actions of Antionette Smith and Antonio Watkins in rendering assistance to the resident, Mr. Larry Law, quite likely resulted in saving Mr. Law's life;

NOW THEREFORE, on this 24th day of January, 2017, the Martinsville City Council hereby recognizes and proclaims thanks and appreciation to Antionette Smith and Antonio Watkins for risking their own safety while saving a life by taking actions to render assistance by removing a resident, Mr. Larry Law from a burning house at 1120 Pine Hall Road on January 15, 2017.

M. Gene Teague
Mayor

Read a Proclamation acknowledging February 2017 as Black History Month – Mayor Teague read the proclamation and presented a copy to Naomi Hodge-Muse of the local NAACP chapter. Muse said she is humbled and has high regard for City Council and City of Martinsville. She stated that the NAACP works to keep peace within the community. She respects Police Chief Sean Dunn and the City. She shared that the NAACP Breakfast will be held February 18 at 9:00am at Dutch Inn.



Proclamation

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY, 2017 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, distinguished African American author, editor, scholar, and historian who is known as the "Father of Black History" founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) in September, 1915, and Negro History Week in 1926, which became Black History Month in 1976, intended to encourage further research and publishing regarding African American heritage; and

WHEREAS, Americans of African descent have made valuable and lasting contributions to our country, our state, and our local community, achieving exceptional success in all aspects of society including business, education, politics, science, arts; and

WHEREAS, in 1976 Black History Month was adopted to honor and affirm the importance of the history of African Americans and to focus on the stories and teachings of those who helped build our nation, advance the cause of civil rights and strengthen families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville continues to work toward building an inclusive community that lives up to the American ideal of equality of educational, social, and economic opportunity for all our citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gene Teague, Mayor, and members of Martinsville City Council do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2017 as Black History Month in the City of Martinsville and we urge all citizens to join in celebrating the significance of African American culture in its past, present, and future.

Gene Teague, Mayor

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Hear a report from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates on the City's FY16 Audit – City

Manager Towarnicki welcomed David Hughes, stating Council Members had the opportunity to meet earlier in the day with the auditors to ask questions. Hughes thanked Council for their guidance and direction along with the Finance department, the School Board, the Commissioner of Revenue's office and other departments. Hughes gave a brief overview of the FY16 audit stating overall the City did well keeping track and staying on budget. Council Member Hodge said she appreciated the extended amount of time that Hughes spent with Council Members to answer their questions. Mayor Teague thanked Hughes and Council Members for taking the time to meet.

Consider a request from Martinsville Fire and EMS for an appropriation to proceed with replacement of an ambulance – City Manager Towarnicki explained that one of the original ambulances is still in service but with over \$88,000 spent on repairs. City has applied for grants on multiple occasions for repair and maintenance funds but he feels that it is time to replace the ambulance rather than continue to spend additional money on repairs. If the request is approved it will still take 60-90 days before a replacement would be received. Ted Anderson, Fire Chief said they had gotten 13 years out of this specific ambulance, which was eventually documented to have a "bad" model engine. He has tried unsuccessfully to replace the unit with grants but requests have been rejected because it only has 77,000 miles on it. Employees keep a bag of speedy dry near the ambulance to cover the continuous oil leak from this unit. This unit has broken down on Hospital Drive with a patient inside, as well as at patient homes. They would like to replace this 2-wheel drive ambulance with a 4-wheel drive to allow easier access to patients as needed. Council Member Bowles asked what preventative measures are taken to ensure quality equipment is purchased. Anderson said historically 4-wheel drive units were expensive to maintain and rode rough but that has changed along with the decreased cost. Kris Schrader has done extensive research with other agencies to see what units have been more dependable for them. Council Member Hodge asked what the plan would be to pay for the unit without grant money or the plan to replace units in the future. Anderson said they are working on a new method of grant application and planning how to save money for future replacements. Mayor Teague asked City Manager how the City would fund the replacement ambulance. Towarnicki referred Council to the audit regarding meals tax where \$844,677 is shown as the end-of-year FY16 fund balance. \$400,000 had been transferred to the FY17 budget to cover capital expenses leaving \$444,677 as the meals tax fund balance and the cost of the ambulance would be taken from that fund balance. This does not affect anything this year but would affect the budget regarding capital expenses next year. If the City is going to provide ambulance service then the City needs to provide dependable equipment to handle the service provided and believes this should be considered a high priority since the ambulance service generates revenue for the City. Council Member Lawson made a motion to approve the request for a new ambulance, Council Member Hodge seconded the motion using

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up to \$200k from the meals tax fund with all other Council Members voting in favor. Mayor Teague asked if the box sitting on top of the chassis is interchangeable allowing savings on the replacement unit. Anderson said the grants would not go towards that interchangeable replacement and the amount saved would be negligible. Schrader said changing the box could save approximately \$80k however, remounts are not recommended on Type 3 chassis. This box replacement could be an option when replacing the other two units in the future. Towarnicki said \$200k includes the vehicle as well as other required devices not currently offered in the current unit.

 <p>M Martinsville A CITY WITHOUT LIMITS FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT</p>	<p>65 West Church Street Martinsville, VA 24112</p> <p>Business: 276.403.5325 Fax: 276.403.5360</p>
Memorandum	
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of Council	
From: Ted Anderson, Fire Chief	
Date: January 17, 2017	
RE: Ambulance Replacement Request	
<p>The purpose of this Memorandum is to request Council's approval to proceed with replacing the oldest and most unreliable ambulance Martinsville Fire & EMS currently has in service. MF & EMS is still attempting to transport patients on the first ambulance purchased by the City 13 years ago when Martinsville Fire began running emergency medical service calls. MF & EMS has three ambulance units in service and based on normal usage and replacement, two of the three units should have already been replaced but have not due to inability to secure grants or full City funding. In fiscal years 2015 and 2016, matching funds were allocated in hopes MF & EMS would be successful in efforts to secure grant funding to replace a 2004 Ford E450, Type III, two wheel drive ambulance, known as Medic 1 (asset # 9897). However, we have not been successful in securing grant funding (denied three times over the last two years). This is due to the low miles on Medic 1 (69,518).</p> <p>Medic 1 was the first ambulance purchased by the City when the Department assumed the role of primary EMS provider in 2004. Unfortunately, this model year Ford introduced a new motor (the 6.0) which has been plagued with numerous problems. The City Garage has done all they can do to maintain this unit, but despite their best efforts, the unit is no longer reliable enough for emergency use. Just under \$91,000 has been spent on Medic 1 for repairs and maintenance with nearly \$88,000 of that amount for repairs only. The significant down-time of this unit has resulted in missed EMS calls to our citizens and the inability to perform routine maintenance on other ambulances. In one of the many time spans it was out of service, 42 calls were missed in a two week period in August 2016. At an average gross of \$565 per call, this one period alone equates to \$23,730 in missed gross revenue. To put into perspective when all units are in</p>	
<p>Teddy W. Anderson Building Official/Fire Marshal (276) 403-5202</p> <p>T. Andy Powers Deputy Fire Marshal (276) 403-5205</p>	 <p>M Martinsville A CITY WITHOUT LIMITS</p> <p>D. Kris Bridges Deputy Building Official (276) 403-5171</p> <p>Tammy Davis Permit Technician (276) 403-5173</p>
<p>service, an average of only 11 calls a month are turned over to other service providers. This typically is due to insufficient staff to cover callout of a third ambulance.</p> <p>MF & EMS also has no four-wheel drive ambulances. During weather events, administrative 4 X 4 vehicles are utilized with extra personnel to assist with calls. There have been times when existing ambulances have been unable to get to patient locations which has required use of the administrative vehicles to provide transport for patients from scenes to a staged ambulance location.</p> <p>MF & EMS has simply reached a point with Medic 1 that it no longer makes good business sense to continue spending excessive funds to maintain and repair a unit that on the best of days, is highly unreliable. Revenue is lost while the unit is down, the remaining units are placed in a higher level of usage that often limits the time available for routine repairs and maintenance (which serves to accelerate the replacement schedule of these units) and perhaps more importantly, does not allow MF & EMS to render a level of ambulance/medical support to our citizens that they deserve and have come to expect.</p> <p>The Department is requesting an appropriation of \$200,000 in the current fiscal year to move ahead with replacing Medic 1 as soon as possible. If funding is approved now, it is anticipated an FY18 request of \$10,000 in capital will be made for a 5% match for the most recent grant submittal - an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) through FEMA. If this grant is received, a second ambulance unit will be replaced in FY18 which would bring our fleet to a state of reliability that our citizens and providers deserve. This would also restore the capital plan for vehicle replacements to a correct schedule, given usage of vehicles as currently exists. It is not anticipated a response to the grant application will be received until late 2017, or longer. If denied, consideration will be given to either resubmission of the application in another year, or once again requesting full City funding.</p>	

Hear an update from Community Development regarding the Zoning Ordinance update – Assistant City Manager Wayne Knox gave an overview of the zoning ordinance update including tentative steps and dates in process for approval. Council Member Hodge asked is this process includes input from the Commissioner of Revenue. Knox said it did. Council Member Lawson asked Knox to provide examples of how the new zoning ordinance could change the flow of revenue. Knox said he does not anticipate there to be any change but the Commissioner of Revenue would let him know if there are changes. Mayor Teague requested a work session to talk about zoning ordinance changes only before it goes out for public comment. Council Member Bowles asked if it would be possible to include members of the Planning Commission in that meeting and asked if Council could be given a draft of any differences in revenues that would occur. Vice Mayor Martin asked what methods are used to announce public hearings. Knox said public hearings are advertised in the local newspaper, on Facebook and they reach out to businesses that could be affected by the changes. Lawson said documents are also available in the public library.

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE	
Tentative Steps and Dates in Process for Approval	
•	January 19, 2017 – Updated zoning map approved by planning commission consensus.
•	February 1 – 20, 2017- Revised proffer chapter, code check and prepare final draft for adoption.
•	February 21 – 28 , 2017 -Page – by – page review by planning staff
•	March , 2017 – Review by planning commission
•	March / April 2017 – begin 60 - day public comment period; meet with City Council members
•	May 2017 – Conduct public hearing before planning commission
•	June 2017 – Conduct public hearing before City Council for adoption

Mayor Teague explained that City Council members serve as representatives of the Martinsville Redevelopment Housing Authority. For the purpose of the following agenda item, Council Member Bowles made a motion to recess as City Council and to convene as the Martinsville Redevelopment Housing Authority. Council Member Lawson seconded the motion with all members voting in favor. MRHA Chairman Gene Teague then opened discussion of the following item as the Martinsville Redevelopment Housing Authority.

Consider acquisition of property located at 310 Hairston Street, Martinsville, Virginia -
City Manager Towarnicki described a home at 310 Hairston Street, constructed in 1946 over top of a City sewer line. The sewer line has collapsed and has flooded the basement of the home. The City can repair the line but all options will cause damage to the home. To move forward with those repairs the City would need to purchase the property. The City is currently having to pump the line daily. Authority Member Bowles asked how much of the line is blocked and if there are other properties with the same issue. Towarnicki said this is the only one having problems and the only one he is aware of that could have this issue. The line fills up every day but he could not give an estimate of how far it is backed up. City Attorney Monday said the City records do not date back far enough to know why the home was built over the sewer line and the current homeowner would not have known of the potential problem. Authority Member Lawson stated the longer the City waits to resolve the issue, the worse the problem becomes. Bowles asked what the cost would be. Towarnicki said the line would be fixed by City employees and total cost of repairs would depend on the cost of materials. One option for the property is to bypass the house, have it professionally cleaned, and then sell the property. Another option is if the home is demolished then the property could be split and added to the property on either side so that the City would not have the expense of maintaining the property. Bowles asked about the timeline after the repair. Towarnicki said once the line is fixed then he anticipates the City would look immediately at options for the home. Authority Member Hodge made a motion to purchase the property; Authority Member Lawson seconded the motion with all Authority Members voting in favor.

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Authority Member Bowles made a motion to adjourn as the Housing Authority and reconvene as City Council, Authority Member Hodge seconded the motion with all members voting in favor. The Martinsville Redevelopment Housing Authority then adjourned and Mayor Teague reconvened the Council meeting.

City Manager Towarnicki explained that the Telecommunication update would be rescheduled for the first meeting in February.

Hear information related to the FY18 budget process – City Manager Towarnicki detailed meeting dates, public hearings, and work sessions explaining the schedule described works well with the schools with the Council pre-budget work session scheduled for February 15 from 5:00-7:00pm. Mayor Teague suggested Thursday, February 23 in the morning to tour the schools. It was suggested that Strategic Planning meetings be held March 10 with Council Members and Saturday March 11 with the schools; Towarnicki said he would confirm the Saturday meeting with the school.

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 Members in favor.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 1/24/17				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
FY17				
School Operating Fund:				
18103919	489904	Harvest		124,380
81621310	561520	Substitute S&W	4,998	
81621310	562100	Social Security	310	
81621310	562150	Medicare Fica	72	
81621310	563000	Purchased Services	12,000	
81621310	563142	Professional Development	52,467	
81621310	566013	Instrucional Materials and Supplies	3,882	
81631310	561520	Substitute S&W	3,332	
81631310	562100	Social Security	207	
81631310	562150	Medicare Fica	48	
81631310	563000	Purchased Services	9,500	
81631310	563142	Professional Development	35,411	
81631310	566013	Instrucional Materials and Supplies	2,153	
Total School Operating Fund:			124,380	124,380

Business from the Floor – Wayne Knox detailed the Citizens Academy that will begin February 2, 2017 on Thursday evenings and will end early March with a graduation. He instructed citizens who are interested to contact him by Friday, January 27 and he would send them an application. There is no cost to attend and the program would need a minimum of 10 people to participate. Council Member Hodge asked if personal invitations had been sent to civic organizations or churches. Knox said they have reached out to several organizations and information has been posted to Facebook. Council Member Bowles asked if an abbreviated version could be provided for younger residents. Knox said they are working on that and the schools are in favor of doing that.

Comments by members of City Council – Council Member Bowles thanked Senator Warner and Senator Kaine for the money to repair the sewer line. She attended the 7th Annual Stop the Violence event which was a success. Bowles suggested possibly having meetings shared by Facebook Live and said she feels that it is an innovative technique that could be added to the website as well. Mayor Teague asked City Manager Towarnicki to research the

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Facebook Live option before the next meeting. Vice Mayor Martin asked if Citizens could pray for Officer Eddie Cassady in the loss of a family member. Council Member Lawson thanked the staff of West Piedmont Planning District who were instrumental in the grant writing. She congratulated the Campbell family for the induction of Clay Earles into the Nascar Hall of Fame, being recognized as the Landmark Award recipient. Lawson reminded residents of the Martinsville High School jazz band fundraiser February 10, tickets are still available. Council Member Hodge attended Go Virginia Southern Region meeting in Danville and asked Council Members to go through the packet provided. She stated that there are opportunities to serve on nine committees and work with 13 jurisdictions. Hodge said there are two areas in the audit that citizens should be aware of including the collection of property taxes, stating that currently the City is at a 6 year high of uncollected taxes. Hodge recognized a second issue in the audit, the value of real estate is what brings in the largest portion of the budget and over the past 6 years, and the value of property within the City is down \$55 million not counting the newest assessment. She is curious if there is something Council can do to prevent further decline. Mayor Teague asked City Attorney Monday if he could provide a refresher for Council on the delinquent collection procedure. Monday said he does not receive delinquent accounts until they are 2 years old. Mayor Teague also asked if the Commissioner of Revenue could come before Council with reassessment details and if there is something Council can do. Teague was asked to vote to fill the Virginia Municipal League executive committee vacancy, stating there will be an emergency vote to fill that position. He will be in Richmond at Legislative Day Wednesday January 25. Hodge requested that Teague have a conversation with legislators about what Martinsville can do related to Housing Authority criteria regarding grant funding for housing development projects in rural areas.

Comments by City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki said the audit is available online on the City’s website under the Finance tab for any citizen who would like to view that. Council Member Lawson requested a copy be taken to the Library. An additional copy is available in the City Manager’s office.

Comments by City Attorney – City Attorney Eric Monday explained the Tobacco Commission extension to Dr. Boaz and medical college and the present real estate. Dr. Boaz is in negotiations with a potential investor. Mayor Teague said Council Members and the public would be interested in receiving an update on the medical college.

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 9:22pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Gene Teague
Mayor