

April 14, 2020 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on April 14, 2020 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Jennifer Bowles, Jim Woods and Danny Turner. Chad Martin was not in attendance. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, and Police Chief Eddie Cassady.

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

City Attorney Monday explained that Vice Mayor Martin was unable to attend but requested to join the meeting by phone. Pursuit to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(a), (2) and (C) Council would vote to allow him to participate electronically. Council Member Turner made a motion to allow Martin to participate electronically. Council Member Woods seconded the motion with all present Council Members voting in favor. Council Member Martin was then connected to the meeting via telephone.

City Manager Towarnicki explained the different format being used for tonight's meeting using YouTube to stream the meeting live. The recording will be shared on MGTV and will be available to view on the City's website tomorrow.

Council Member Turner shared that Martinsville Coach Hall passed away last week; Turner asked Council and residents to hold a moment of silence in his honor.

Consider approval of the minutes for December 10, 2019 Council Meeting, January 14, 2020 Council Meeting, January 28, 2020 Council Meeting, February 11, 2020 Council Meeting, February 25, 2020 Council Meeting, and March 10, 2020 Council Meeting – Council Member Woods made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

Consider adoption of a resolution confirming a local emergency declaration, an ordinance adopting COVID-19 emergency measures, and a resolution for electronic meetings – City Attorney Monday explained the purpose of the resolutions and ordinance related to the current Corona Virus pandemic. Monday clarified that these could be adopted by Council Members electronically. Decisions involving the budget would need in-person votes. Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve both resolutions and the ordinance as presented. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with the following roll-call vote: Mayor Lawson, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Woods, aye.



RESOLUTION

**CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S
DECLARATION OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
(COVID-19 Virus)
(Virginia Code § 44-146.21)**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization characterized the spread of the COVID-19 virus as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor declared a state of emergency on March 12, 2020, related to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus and its continued spread pose an imminent threat to the public health and safety of the residents of the City of Martinsville, and the consequences of the virus are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant coordinated local government action to prevent or alleviate any potential damage, hardship, suffering, or possible loss of life; and

WHEREAS, because of the imminent threat to the public health and safety to the residents of the City of Martinsville arising from the COVID-19 virus, Mayor Kathy C. Lawson declared a local emergency on March 17, 2020, pursuant to Virginia Code § 44-146.21; and

WHEREAS, given the Governor's declaration on March 12, 2020, and the immediate need for local emergency actions to begin, the Martinsville City Council could not timely convene to give its prior consent to the Mayor's declaration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martinsville City Council confirms the declaration of a local emergency by the Mayor on March 17, 2020.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council



RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRONIC
PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS TO ENSURE
THE CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT DURING
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC DISASTER**

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency which constitutes a disaster as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 arising from the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One ordered implementation of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center to provide assistance to local governments, and authorization for executive branch agencies to waive "any state requirement or regulation" as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, the Martinsville City Council confirmed the declaration of local emergency made by the Mayor on March 17, 2020, specifically finding that the COVID-19 Pandemic constitutes a "disaster" as defined in Virginia Code § 44-146.16, being a "communicable disease of public health threat"; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-1413 provides that, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, a locality may, by ordinance, provide a method to assure continuity of government in the event of a disaster for a period not to exceed six months; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, the Martinsville City Council, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, adopted an Emergency Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated with Pandemic Disaster ("Emergency Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, through its Emergency Ordinance, the Council specifically found that

COVID-19 constitutes a real and substantial threat to public health and safety and constitutes a "disaster" as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 being a "communicable disease of public health threat" and

WHEREAS, through its Emergency Ordinance, the Council further found that the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe to assemble in one location a quorum for public bodies including the Council, the School Board, the Planning Commission and all local and regional boards, commissions, committees and authorities created by the Council or to which the Council appoints all or a portion of its members (collectively "Public Entities" and individually "Public Entity"), or for such Public Entities to conduct meetings in accordance with normal practices and procedures; and

WHEREAS, through its Emergency Ordinance, the Council adopted certain procedures to ensure the continuity of government during the COVID-19 Pandemic disaster ("Continuity Procedures"), suspended any deadlines applicable to Public Entities and their staff during the COVID-19 disaster, and authorized Public Entities, at their discretion, to postpone non-emergency public hearings and action items during the disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Architectural Review Board, Arts & Cultural Committee, Board of Appeals, Board of Zoning Appeals, Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission, School Board, Transportation Safety Commission, Tree Board, Anchor Group Home System Commission, Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board, Comprehensive Services Act Community Policy and Management Team, Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board, Henry-Martinsville Joint Social Services Board, Patrick Henry Community College Board, Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, Pittsylvania County Community Action Agency Board, Southern Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors, Western Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority, West Piedmont Disability Services Board, West Piedmont Planning District Board of Commissioners, West Piedmont Planning District Technical Advisory Committee, Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council and POWER Advisory Committee, being public bodies created by Council pursuant to the Code of Virginia, and whose members are appointed by Council, are Public Entities included within the scope of the Emergency Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Architectural Review Board, Arts & Cultural Committee, Board of Appeals, Board of Zoning Appeals, Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission, School Board, Transportation Safety Commission, Tree Board, Anchor Group Home System Commission, Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board, Comprehensive Services Act Community Policy and Management Team, Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board, Henry-Martinsville Joint Social Services Board, Patrick Henry Community College Board, Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, Pittsylvania County Community Action Agency Board, Southern Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors, Southern Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority, West Piedmont Disability Services Board, West Piedmont Planning District Board of Commissioners, West Piedmont Planning District Technical Advisory Committee, Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council and POWER Advisory Committee hereby incorporate by reference and adopt the Continuity Procedures prescribed in the Emergency Ordinance, a copy of which is attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Architectural Review Board, Arts & Cultural Committee, Board of Appeals, Board of Zoning Appeals, Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission, School Board, Transportation Safety Commission, Tree Board, Anchor Group Home System Commission, Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board, Comprehensive Services Act Community Policy and Management Team, Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board, Henry-Martinsville Joint Social Services Board, Patrick Henry Community College Board, Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, Pittsylvania County Community Action Agency Board, Southern Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors, Southern Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority, West Piedmont Disability Services Board, West Piedmont Planning District Board of Commissioners, West Piedmont Planning District Technical Advisory Committee, Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council and POWER Advisory Committee hereby authorizes and directs its officers and staff to take all steps reasonably necessary or appropriate to implement such Continuity Procedures and to develop any specific procedures as applicable and appropriate for the Architectural Review Board, Arts & Cultural Committee, Board of Appeals, Board of Zoning Appeals, Industrial Development Authority, Planning Commission, School Board, Transportation Safety Commission, Tree Board, Anchor Group Home System Commission, Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board, Comprehensive Services Act Community Policy and Management Team, Dan River Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board, Henry-Martinsville Joint Social Services Board, Patrick Henry Community College Board, Piedmont Regional Community Services Board, Pittsylvania County Community Action Agency Board, Southern Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors, Southern Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority, West Piedmont Disability Services Board, West Piedmont Planning District Board of Commissioners, West Piedmont Planning District Technical Advisory Committee, Western Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council and POWER Advisory Committee, provided that such specific procedures are consistent with the terms and conditions of the Emergency Ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall remain in effect during the pendency of the Emergency Ordinance including for any applicable period upon the re-adoption of the Emergency Ordinance by Council.

Adopted this 14th day of April, 2020.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council



EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN DEADLINES AND TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PANDEMIC DISASTER.

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency which constitutes a disaster as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 arising from the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One ordered implementation of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center to provide assistance to local governments, and authorization for executive branch agencies to waive "any state requirement or regulation" as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, the Martinsville City Council confirmed the declaration of local emergency made by the Mayor on March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that COVID-19 constitutes a real and substantial threat to public health and safety and constitutes a "disaster" as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 being a "communicable disease of public health threat;" and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-1413 provides that, notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, a locality may, by ordinance, provide a method to assure continuity of government in the event of a disaster for a period not to exceed six months; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 44-146.21(C) further provides that a local director of emergency management or any member of a governing body in his absence may upon the declaration of a local emergency "proceed without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to performance of public work;" and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code§ 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) allows, under certain procedural requirements including public notice and access, that members of Council may convene solely by electronic means "to address the emergency;" and

WHEREAS, the open public meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") are limited only by a properly claimed exemption provided under that Act or "any other statute;" and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Health Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the President of the United States have recommended suspension of public gatherings of more than ten attendees; and

WHEREAS, The Attorney General of Virginia issued an opinion dated March 20, 2020, stating that localities have the authority during disasters to adopt ordinances to ensure the continuity of government; and

WHEREAS, this emergency ordinance in response to the disaster caused by the COVID-19 pandemic promotes public health, safety and welfare and is consistent with the law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Constitution of Virginia and the Constitution of the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia:

- 1. That the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe to assemble in one location a quorum for public bodies including the Council, the School Board, the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Equalization [other?] and all local and regional boards, commissions, committees and authorities created by the Council or to which the Council appoints all or a portion of its members (collectively "Public Entities" and individually "Public Entity"), or for such Public Entities to conduct meetings in accordance with normal practices and procedures.
2. That in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, and notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, general or special, the following emergency procedures are adopted to ensure the continuity of government during this emergency and disaster:
a. Any meeting or activities which require the physical presence of members of the Public Entities may be held through real time electronic means (including audio, telephonic, video or other practical electronic medium) without a quorum physically present in one location; and
b. Prior to holding any such electronic meeting, the Public Entity shall provide public notice of at least 3 days in advance of the electronic meeting identifying how the public may participate or otherwise offer comment; and
c. Any such electronic meeting of Public Entities shall state on its agenda and at the beginning of such meeting that it is being held pursuant to and in compliance with this Ordinance, identify Public Entity members physically and/or electronically present, identify the persons responsible for receiving public comment, and identify notice of the opportunities for the public to access and participate in such electronic meeting; and
d. Any such electronic meeting of the Public Entities shall be open to electronic

- e. For any matters requiring a public hearing, public comment may be solicited by electronic means in advance and shall also be solicited through telephonic or other electronic means during the course of the electronic meeting. All such public comments will be provided to members of the Public Entity at or before the electronic meeting and made part of the record for such meeting; and
f. The minutes of all electronic meetings shall conform to the requirements of law, identify how the meeting was conducted, members participating, and specify what actions were taken at the meeting. The Public Entities may approve minutes of an electronic meeting at a subsequent electronic meeting and shall later approve all such minutes at a regular or special meeting after the emergency and disaster has ended.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that notwithstanding any provision of law, regulation or policy to the contrary, any deadlines requiring action by a Public Entity, its officers (including Constitutional Officers) and employees of its organization shall be suspended during this emergency and disaster, however, the Public Entities, officers and employees thereof are encouraged to take such action as is practical and appropriate to meet those deadlines. Failure to meet any such deadlines shall not constitute a default, violation, approval, recommendation or otherwise.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that non-emergency public hearings and action items of Public Entities may be postponed to a date certain provided that public notice is given so that the public are aware of how and when to present their views.

IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED that the provisions of this Emergency Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect for a period of 60 days, unless amended, rescinded or readopted by the Council in conformity with the notice provisions set forth in Virginia Code § 15.2-1427 but in no event shall such ordinance be effective for more than 6 months. Upon rescission by the Council or automatic expiration as described herein, this emergency ordinance shall terminate and normal practices and procedures of government shall resume.

Nothing in this Emergency Ordinance shall prohibit Public Entities from holding in-person public meetings provided that public health and safety measures as well as social distancing are taken into consideration.

An emergency is deemed to exist, and this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

April 14, 2020 Council Meeting

Consider adoption of a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for community improvement grant funds through the Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program

– City Manager Towarnicki explained the application process for the Pine Hall Road project. The resolution outlines the scope of the project and grants authority to City staff to execute documents related to the project. Council Member Bowles made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. Council Member Woods seconded the motion with the following roll-call vote: Mayor Lawson, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Woods, aye.

<p><i>Council Members</i> Kathy Lawson, Mayor Chad Martin, Vice-Mayor Jennifer Bowles Danny Turner Jim Woods</p>		<p><i>City Manager</i> Leon E. Towarnicki <i>City Attorney</i> Eric H. Monday <i>Clerk of Council</i> Karen Roberts</p>
<p><u>RESOLUTION</u></p>		
<p>AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville, Virginia has identified revitalization of the City as a priority need through housing rehabilitation and the removal of blighting influences; and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the City is eligible for and wishes to apply for Virginia Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the 2020 Competitive Grant Funding cycle on or before April 24, 2020; and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the title of the City's grant project is the Martinsville Pine Hall Neighborhood Revitalization Project; and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the City is requesting \$1,975,859 Virginia Community Development Block Grant funds; and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the City has obtained or will obtain \$334,273 in additional funds or in-kind services through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Single Family Housing Repair Grant Program (\$45,000 – Will Apply), the USDA RD Housing Preservation Grant Program (\$19,000 – Will Apply), Investor-Owner investment (\$39,520 – Committed), in-kind services (\$128,368 - Committed) by City staff, and local funds (\$89,340 – Committed) through the Martinsville City Council for a total project cost of \$2,129,130; and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville is in receipt of eighteen (18) Preliminary Applications for Housing Assistance from residents within the final delineated project area of which eighteen (18) or 100% represent LMI households, seven (7) Landlord Participation Agreements from investor-owners of residential property in the area and said property owners have indicated they will provide at least 10% of the cost of rehabilitating their properties for a total of \$39,520 in private investment; and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, said needs assessment and surveys identified deteriorating and dilapidated residential property as a significant problem in the targeted portion of the Pine Hall neighborhood as a blighting influence on the area; and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the proposed Housing Rehabilitation Program will provide one hundred percent (100%) direct benefit for eleven (11) LMI owner-occupied housing units/households with twenty (21) persons and for seven (7) LMI tenant-occupied housing units/households with approximately eleven (11) persons; and the planned demolition and street improvements will provide an indirect benefit for sixty (60) residential units/households (at full occupancy) by eliminating associated blight/blighting influences; and addition of broadband services will provide a direct benefit for two hundred (200) residential units/households (at full occupancy); and</p>		
<p>WHEREAS, the City of Martinsville has properly advertised and conducted public hearings on October 8, 2019 and March 10, 2020 which addressed the CDBG program and the CDBG project application, thereby meeting citizen participation requirements; and</p>		
<p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia that:</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The City of Martinsville wishes to apply for a 2020 CDBG Community Improvement Grant in the amount of \$1,975,859 for the Martinsville Pine Hall Neighborhood Revitalization Project; and hereby commits a total of \$217,708 in City investment combined with a solicited \$124,495 in private investment and other grant funds for a total project cost of \$2,129,130 for the purpose of rehabilitating or substantially reconstructing eighteen (18) residential housing units through a Housing Rehabilitation Program, providing infrastructure upgrades to the neighborhood streets, and installing broadband access in the delineated project area in order to meet all program-eligible housing rehabilitation needs, to eliminate the blight/blighting influences in the final delineated project area, and provide broadband access throughout the neighborhood.2. The City hereby authorizes the City Manager, the City's chief administrative official, to execute and file all appropriate documents necessary for submission of the City of Martinsville's 2020 Community Development Block Grant application on or before April 24, 2020 and to provide such additional information as may be required by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.		
<p>DATE: _____</p>	<p>CITY OF MARTINSVILLE</p>	
<p>_____</p>	<p>Kathy Lawson, Mayor</p>	
<p>ATTEST: _____</p>	<p></p>	
<p>Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council</p>	<p></p>	

Hear information regarding the City's FY21 budget process – City Manager Towarnicki said since the last meeting on March 24 was cancelled, the budget presentation had to be rescheduled for later in the year. The budget will be presented at the May 26 Council Meeting. The public hearing and approval on first reading will be June 9 and second reading and final approval will be June 23. Work sessions will be scheduled for May 27, May 28, June 2, June 3 or June 4. Dr. Talley is requesting May 28 as the possible session with the school board. There will be budget impacts related to COVID. The Virginia Municipal League shared that Martinsville could see an impact between \$900,000-\$2million over the next year from lower meals tax and sales tax. Towarnicki feels those numbers are higher than what he expects the actual totals to be. Towarnicki, Council Member Turner and Council Member Bowles briefly discussed the COVID restrictions, testing and community expectations along with the possibility that the virus has been in our community longer than experts realize.

April 14, 2020 Council Meeting

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

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 4/14/20				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
FY2020				
General Fund:				
01101917	442401	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - PD		322
01311085	506078	Police Dept - State Asset Forfeitures	322	
		Forfeited assets from Commonwealth		
01102926	405555	Brownfields Grant - EPA		45,968
01812247	503136	Brownfields - Hazardous - Consultant	40,961	
01812249	503136	Brownfields - Petroleum - Consultant	5,007	
		Requisition #1		
01101918	443106	State Grant - VDEM - SWVA Incident Mgmt Team		14,042
01321102	506100	SWVA IMT - Misc Expense	14,042	
		Grant Reimbursement		
Total General Fund:			60,332	60,332
School Operations Fund:				
18101918	404074	State Grant - School Security Equipment		80,081
80004600	566056	Security - Non-capital Equipment	80,081	
		Grant funding		
Total School Operations Fund:			80,081	80,081
Sewer Fund:				
13100905	450209	Sale of Salvage/Surplus		4,299
13550325	506007	W/W Plant - Repairs & Maintenance	4,299	
		Sale of Surplus Equipment		
Total Sewer Fund:			4,299	4,299

Business from the Floor – City Manager Towarnicki explained that the Business from the Floor section was cancelled due to the COVID restrictions. The City invited residents to contact the City Manager’s office by phone, regular mail, email, or fax with any concerns they wanted to be brought to Council’s attention but no responses were received for this meeting.

Mayor Lawson signed a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and encouraged residents to visit Roselawn Cemetery to see the flag display. Lawson signed proclamations recognizing the Month of May 2020 as GBS/CIDP Awareness Month and recognizing Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. These proclamations will be mailed to the appropriate organizations.

Comments by Members of City Council – Council Member Woods offered condolences to Minister Landon Spradlin’s family. Spradlin, who had connections to Martinsville, contracted the Corona virus while serving a mission in New Orleans during Mardi Gras. Woods had the good fortune of joining Boy Scout Troop 168 via ZOOM meeting to discuss citizenship in the community. Woods said the boys asked many good questions. Vice Mayor Martin asked residents to join him in praying for Martinsville residents and the nation as a whole during the COVID crisis and asked residents to take the restrictions seriously. Council Member Bowles agreed with Martin and thanked those employees who continue to work during the crisis and

April 14, 2020 Council Meeting

thanked City administration and Council for keeping everyone safe. Dancing for the Arts has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Bowles thanked the local churches and organizations working to assist the most vulnerable in our community. Bowles offered her condolences to the family of her neighbor Joyce Via who passed away this past week. Council Member Turner thanked Michael Scales for hosting a joint workshop at the City Park to provide information to small business about financial assistance. He thanked Roselawn Park, the Martinsville Bulletin and others for working together to provide the Sunrise Service at Roselawn Cemetery. Mayor Lawson pointed out that the late fee notices on the April bills printed by mistake but that fee will be waived. Lawson thanked the Electric Department for getting the power back on quickly in the Mulberry and Druid Hills area yesterday. Hazardous Waste Day will be rescheduled. Lawson thanked Council Member Turner for reaching out to the small businesses in the area and for helping coordinate the Easter Sunrise Service.

Comments by City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki commended several local groups and the media who participated in informational briefings to educate the community about COVID. He hopes to do another in the coming week. There is still optimism that the Mustangs Baseball season will go forward in May. Towarnicki has received several concerns about parking for section 6B of the Dick and Willie Trail. The City has looked at this area and a plan is being implemented to create parking during the daytime hours only. Appropriate signage and a crosswalk will also be installed.

Police Chief Eddie Cassady issued a warning to residents about scammers. There are tests being offered online and by phone to test for COVID but these are not legitimate offers.

There being no further business, Council Member Bowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Turner with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Kathy Lawson
Mayor