

## June 9, 2020 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on June 9, 2020 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Jim Woods, Danny Turner, Jennifer Bowles and Chad Martin. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Finance Director Linda Conover, Assistant Finance Director Mandy McGhee, Community Development Director Mark McCaskill and Deputy Police Chief Rob Fincher.

Mayor Lawson 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) Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Council Member Woods and seconded by Council Member Turner with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) Appointments to boards and commissions, as authorized by Subsection 1, (B) Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, as authorized by Subsection 29, and (C) 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 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 the A motion was made by Council Member Woods; seconded by Council Member Turner, with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Mayor Lawson, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Woods.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order.

Out of Closed Session, Council Member Woods made a motion to reappoint Brenda Ephriam to the Piedmont Regional Community Services Board for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2023. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor.

Vice Mayor Martin made a motion to appoint DelShana LeGrant to the Patrick Henry Community College Board for a 4-year unexpired term ending June 30, 2022. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with all Council voting in favor. There was no additional action taken in Closed Session.

Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Mayor Lawson, Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lawson explained that the meeting would follow COVID

June 9, 2020 Council Meeting guidelines, allowing Council Members plus ten others in attendance and recognizing social distancing recommendations.

Conduct a public hearing for receiving names of citizens interested in appointment for two 3-year terms ending June 30, 2023 on the Martinsville City School Board – Mayor Lawson opened the floor to a public hearing. Vice Mayor Martin said that Tony Jones requested to be considered for the Board. Council Member Bowles said that Donna Dillard, L.C. Jones and Rebecca VanCedarfield requested to be considered for the Board. No one approached the podium and no other names were brought up so the public hearing was closed. Mayor Lawson said the interviews would be held June 23 prior to the Council meeting.

9

**SCHOOL BOARD**

**SCHOOL BOARD** – The School Board is declared a body corporate. In its corporate capacity, it is vested with all the powers and charged with all the duties, obligations, and responsibilities upon school boards by law. It may sue, be sued, contract, be contracted with, and in accordance with the provisions of this title, purchase, take, hold, lease, and convey school property both real and personal. The School Board has the following powers and duties: 1) to make rules for the governance of the schools within its jurisdiction; 2) to determine the curriculum, methods of teaching, methods of administration and governance, and the length of the school term; 3) to employ and dismiss teachers upon the recommendation of the superintendent; 4) to suspend or expel pupils when necessary; 5) to establish such schools as are necessary in the judgement of the Board to so constitute a complete and efficient system; 6) to control and manage funds made available to the Board for the purpose of conducting free public schools; 7) examine all claims for payment and authorize payment; and 8) to submit annually to City Council a budget request.

**TERMS:** The Board consists of five members serving **three-year** terms appointed by City Council. **School Board members can serve a maximum of three 3-year consecutive terms.**

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.

**CONTACT:** Dr. Zeb Talley, Superintendent, 403-5820, 746 Indian Trail, Martinsville, VA 24112

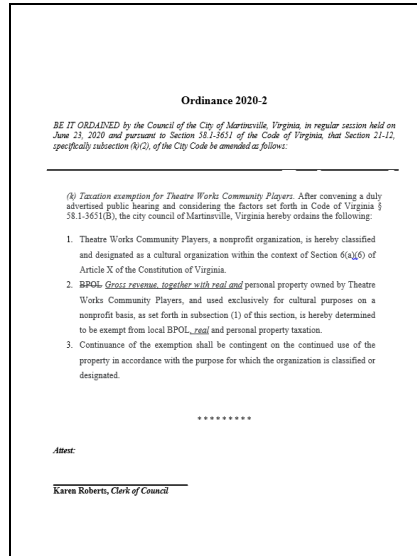
| Name & Address                                      | Initial Appointment | Term Expires | Full Term |
|---|---------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Emily Parker, 1225 Mulberry Road                    | 07/09/19            | 06/30/22     |           |
| Donna Dillard, 912 Forest Lake Dr. (reappt 6/27/17) | 8/24/16             | 6/30/20      | 0         |
| Tonya Jones, 752 Stultz Road                        | 6/27/17             | 6/30/20      | 0         |
| Dominique Hylton, 627 Mulberry Rd                   | 9/10/19             | 6/30/21      |           |
| Yvonne Givens, 714 Indian Trail                     | 07/09/19            | 06/30/21     |           |

NOTE: If a Board or Commission does not specify number of terms a person can serve, then the number of terms defaults to three terms per a policy adopted by City Council December 11, 1990. (per city attorney 4/26/11) Two exceptions (1) if no one is interested (2) no one qualified has applied, then the person holding the position can serve another term if Council chooses.

Consider approval on first reading of an ordinance requesting local tax exemption from a local organization – Commissioner of Revenue Ruth Easley explained the need for the ordinance. Theater Works had recently been granted exemption from business licensure and personal property but at that time, they did not own real estate. Mayor Lawson opened the floor for a public hearing. Jo Grayson, 902 Mulberry Road spoke on behalf of Theater Works and shared some information about what they have done over the years. City Attorney Monday explained that Council Member Woods is a member of Theater Works, however since his position is not a paid position then there would be no conflict of interest with his decision on this ordinance. Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the ordinance as

June 9, 2020 Council Meeting

presented. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with the following roll call vote: Lawson, aye; Martin, aye; Bowles, aye; Turner, aye; and Woods, aye.



Conduct a public hearing on the FY20-21 Budget and consider approval of Budget Ordinance 2020-U-3 on first reading – City Manager Towarnicki briefly summarized the budget and the process to have the FY20-21 budget approved. An alternate Electric budget was provided as Council previously requested, with the proposed electric rate increase removed. Towarnicki pointed out revisions in the school cafeteria and school operation funds. Mayor Lawson opened the floor for a public hearing. No one approached the podium. Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Council Member Woods seconded the motion. Council Member Turner requested an amendment to the budget to have the electric rate increase removed; Council Member Bowles did not approve the request for amendment to her motion. Turner’s request died without a second. Turner suggested in lieu of an electric rate increase, that the City enter into negotiations to get fair pricing for the electric system. Mayor Lawson said that would not be a budget issue and would need to be suggested to the City Manager. Vice Mayor Martin said the City has explored the option to sell the electric department but no one in the past wants to purchase it. American Electric would not allow another electric company to provide service in this area. City Manager Towarnicki called roll: Lawson, aye; Martin, aye; Bowles, aye; Turner, nay; and Woods, aye. Council approved the Budget Ordinance 4-1 on first reading.



**Ordinance 2020-U-3**

**The Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

*BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, in regular session assembled June 9, 2020, that the following sums of money be and hereby are appropriated — by specific Fund — for the City's fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the following Fund sources of estimated revenue:*

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OF BUDGET ESTIMATES  
2020-2021**

| FUND               | PROJECTED           | BUDGETED            | CHANGES              |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|                    | REVENUES            | EXPENDITURES        | FUND BALANCE         |
| General            | \$31,051,819        | \$32,658,074        | (\$1,606,255)        |
| Meals Tax          | \$2,081,930         | \$2,081,930         | \$0                  |
| Capital Reserve    | \$500,488           | \$501,095           | (\$607)              |
| Refuse             | \$2,266,600         | \$4,328,401         | (\$2,061,801)        |
| Telecommunications | \$2,295,365         | \$2,255,311         | \$40,054             |
| Water              | \$4,091,165         | \$3,420,389         | \$670,776            |
| Sewer              | \$4,604,012         | \$5,241,248         | (\$637,236)          |
| Electric           | \$20,132,524        | \$21,150,059        | (\$1,017,535)        |
| Cafeteria*         | \$1,728,447         | \$1,815,660         | (\$87,213)           |
| School Operating*  | \$22,156,475        | \$22,156,475        | \$0                  |
| CDBG               | \$22,666            | \$1,436             | \$21,230             |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>     | <b>\$90,931,491</b> | <b>\$95,610,078</b> | <b>(\$4,678,587)</b> |

\*Provided by School Personnel

**Tax Rates (unchanged):**

|                    |                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Real Estate:       | \$1.0621 per \$100 assessed value |
| Personal Property: | \$2.30 per \$100 assessed value   |
| Machinery & Tools: | \$1.85 per \$100 assessed value   |

**Proposed for Water:**

Increase in monthly bill of \$1.50

**Proposed for Electric:**

Increase in PCA of 2.5%

*BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by said Council that this Ordinance shall be effective on and after July 1, 2020.*

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Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

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

| BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 6/9/20 |        |   |               |               |
|-----------------------------|--------|---|---------------|---------------|
| ORG                         | OBJECT | DESCRIPTION                                 | DEBIT         | CREDIT        |
| <b>BUDGET ADDITIONS</b>     |        |   |               |               |
| <b><u>FY2020</u></b>        |        |   |               |               |
| <b>General Fund:</b>        |        |   |               |               |
| 01100909                    | 490137 | Recovered Cost - Public Safety              |               | 13,974        |
| 01311085                    | 501200 | Police Dept. - Overtime                     | 10,860        |               |
| 01311085                    | 502100 | Police Dept. - Social Security              | 673           |               |
| 01311085                    | 502110 | Police Dept. - Medicare                     | 157           |               |
| 01217078                    | 501200 | Sheriff - Courts - Overtime                 | 2,122         |               |
| 01217078                    | 502100 | Sheriff - Courts - Social Security          | 131           |               |
| 01217078                    | 502110 | Sheriff - Courts - Medicare                 | 31            |               |
|                             |        | Various reimbursements for security patrols |               |               |
| 01101916                    | 434106 | Categorical St/Shared - Comm Atty/Equip     |               | 1,623         |
| 01221082                    | 506001 | Commonwealth's Attorney - Office Supplies   | 1,623         |               |
|                             |        | Additional reimbursement from Comp Board    |               |               |
| <b>Total General Fund:</b>  |        |   | <b>15,597</b> | <b>15,597</b> |
| <b>Capital Fund:</b>        |        |   |               |               |
| 16100909                    | 490104 | Adv/Recovered Cost                          |               | 21,952        |
| 16575365                    | 508075 | Vehicles - Police Dept                      | 21,952        |               |
|                             |        | Insurance payment for damaged vehicle       |               |               |
| <b>Total Capital Fund:</b>  |        |   | <b>21,952</b> | <b>21,952</b> |

Business from the Floor – No comments from the public received

Comments by City Council – Council Member Woods acknowledged Liam Bredamus, Liam was interested in the proceedings of how to be a good citizen so Woods invited him to the meeting. Council Member Turner shared details about the NASCAR race season. Council Member Bowles recognized her former intern Sophia who is completing her freshman year at Virginia Commonwealth University. Bowles wished City Attorney Monday a happy birthday. Vice Mayor Martin said it is good to see young people interested in the City and government. Martin wished Monday a happy birthday. Martin reminded residents to complete the census and emphasized how that will benefit Martinsville. Mayor Lawson recognized Minnie Martin who would be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday later this month. Lawson extends sympathy to former City Manager Clarence Monday in the passing of his daughter. The Joey Logano Foundation and Convoy of Hope will be making a distribution on June 11 at the Martinsville Speedway for food and hygiene items. Hazardous Waste Day has been rescheduled to June 27 from 7:00-10:00am at the Henry County PSA Service Center in Bassett. Lawson encouraged residents to wear their masks to protect themselves and those around them from the spread of COVID.

Comments by the City Manager - City Manager Towarnicki detailed information about the \$1.1million Corona Virus relief funding and how the City plans to utilize that. The money can

June 9, 2020 Council Meeting

be used to assist local businesses and awards of those funds will be decided by a committee. Towarnicki explained the application process for local business owners interested in applying for those funds.

There being no further business, Council Member Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Council Member Bowles with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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Karen Roberts  
Clerk of Council

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Kathy Lawson  
Mayor