

## City of Martinsville

### Minutes – **Special Meeting-Truth in Taxation**

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Alderman Roll Call:

Chris Davidson

Chris Perry

Harley Craig

Wendy Isbell

Travis Hill

Ashley Wilhoit

Attendance: Terri Connelly-Treasurer, Caitlin Dill-Clerk, Steven Greene, Jordan Wilhoit, Dan Kibler, Chris Johnson, Kayla Johnson, Hailey

Hill, Jana Spires, and Ryan Slater.

Meeting called to order by Chris Davidson at 6:30 PM.

Acknowledgement of publication of the public hearing notice in local newspaper.

-Chris Davidson acknowledges the publication was in the nearest newspaper, the Prairie Press, on November 28<sup>th</sup> and the City website had it posted to view since November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Presentation of the 2026 Tax Levy including proposed property tax increase.

-The proposed property tax increase of 15.16%.

City Council members comments regarding the Tax Levy

-Wendy Isbell pointed out there has never been money allocated specifically to the street fund.

-Harley Craig states Chicago will be dramatically raising their percent of motor fuel tax next year. The majority of complaints heard from residents is about roads and sidewalks. The proposed tax increase would be approximately \$20-\$25 for \$100,000 appraisal/year, all going towards the street fund.

Public Comments

-Chris and Kayla Johnson asked some questions and expressed their concerns. With the large increase last year in property taxes and this year's increase, the possibility of it rising yearly is a big concern. Their payment went from \$900 to \$1200, to \$1500; they've lived all over the country, with the rising prices what would keep people here. They feel there is not much to offer in town and that Martinsville needs more businesses and revenue. While taxes go up, they haven't seen improvements throughout the town. The sidewalks for one are a big issue, they do recognize the sidewalks at the funeral home being updated. A lot of money is going towards the new big City building, instead of helping the town and believe there should be more done.

-Terri Connelly clarified a few points. Money used on the sidewalks by the funeral home was from State funds allocated to sidewalks. Property taxes are portioned to the City, school, Mill Creek, etc. The Street fund has never had a levy; money allocated to that fund can only be used for street and bridges. Last year's re-assessment, along with the school's increases, hurt a lot of people.

-Chris Davidson explains how the Old Scout building used by the City will be rented out; the other building used by the City has too high of heat loss to be used efficiently. The council never wants to raise taxes for residents. He says the North is squeezing us here, taking more funds, causing every town is raise taxes in Illinois. This is bad timing for Martinsville with the county raise and school raise last year and the school raising again this year.

-Jordan Wilhoit pointed out Clark County hadn't been reassessed since 2008, that is why last year was such a large jump to most.

7) City Council members final comments

Chris Davidson appreciates everyone's point of view and input on this.

--Motion by A Wilhoit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C Perry, to close the meeting.

Record Vote:

Davidson	Yes	Hill	Yes
Perry	Yes	Wilhoit	Yes
Craig	Yes	Isbell	Yes
Mayor			

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 6:56 PM.

Caitlin Dill, City Clerk