

City of Martinsville

Minutes – Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 24th, 2026

Alderman Roll Call:

Chris Perry

Harley Craig

Wendy Isbell

Travis Hill

Ashley Wilhoit

Attendance: Robert Lovell-Mayor, Caitlin Dill-Clerk, Jordan Wilhoit, Dan Kibler, and Jana Spires.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Prayer: Mayor Lovell

Pledge of Allegiance: All

Public Comments:

Jana notified everyone the audit will be July 15th and 16th.

Dan shared some statistics for the website. In 6 months, there was 19.8 thousand views and 7500 visitors. 176 people went to the Martinsville Ag Fair page and there were 47 Ordinance clicks. The Facebook post for the Porch Pride contest was viewed 3429 times and shared 19 times.

--Motion by A Wilhoit, 2nd by C Perry, to approve the Regular meeting minutes for 06/10/26 and the Budget & Finance Committee meeting minutes 5/13/26.

Record Vote:

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

Motion carried.

--Motion by T Hill, 2nd by A Wilhoit, to pay Bills presented.

Record Vote:

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

Motion carried.

--Zoom meeting with Community Solar discussion on solar credits for the City and its residents.

--Jared McMorris with Good Energy and Brian Buzby with Ampien joined the Council meeting via Zoom to discuss solar discount on supply and delivery with Ameren. Martinsville has been a client of Jared McMorris for 12 years and he represents 160 communities in the Ameren territory. Ampien is a software and service provider to renewable resources with 40,000 subscribers that has been vetted by Good Energy. Ampien utilizes power from a solar project to grid, then tracks, and bills credits (electric discounts) to subscribers' invoices, whether it's commercial or residential. These benefits focus on low to moderate income residents, approximately 20% savings. It is not rate based since rates fluctuate, it is a monetary program with the energy produced being fixed monthly. If \$50 of power was generated, with a fixed discount rate \$40 purchased, it would be an approximate 10-20% discount.

Martinsville would be utilizing a local solar ray, not building a project. Ampien is a State program designed to facilitate savings to residents. They make their money by service operators, contracts with project owners that pay service fees for operating programs (they handle customer service, billing, payments, etc.). Residents wanting to subscribe need to take action to enroll. Ampien uses the resident's historic usage and cost to get their discount. There is more production in the Summer and Fall, with less in the Winter, but there will always be access to the solar ray and power discounts. There is no contract needed for residents, if they decide to move or want to disengage there are no fees, Ampien just requests 90 days' notice. After enrollment it takes 6-9 months before savings start. For City owned there is a 10-year fixed discount contract, with preferred 6 mo-1yr notice to cancel. There were concerns with explaining to residents the "purchase credits" on their bills. It was explained if there is \$200 credits, there would be a line item subscription fee 20% less than the bill credit line item, the net credit (difference) comes off. It is requested that Ampien supplies examples of community's bills before and after they signed up, to see the difference. It was also asked for Ampien to come to town to have a community meeting so residents can hear about the program and answer any questions. They will provide sample marketing materials, mailers, etc for the community and do a cost savings analysis for Martinsville.

--Motion by C Perry, 2nd by T Hill, to approve gas infrastructure upgrades and pressure increases to meet the requirements to support ID Castings with their expansion project.

Record Vote:

Davidson	---	Isbell	Yes
Perry	Yes	Hill	Yes
Craig	Yes	Wilhoit	Yes

Mayor

Motion carried.

--Motion by A Wilhoit, 2nd by C Perry, to lease the former Gas department building to Taylor Manuel for \$1 per month once a contract is agreed upon by this council and the Attorney.

--The rent set to \$1 was incentive for someone to open a business in the old Scout building, in this case a daycare. The upgrades, such as new appliances, will be done at the renter's expense, this will be worked out in the contract. Those items can be taken with her if she leaves the location but the City would have an option to purchase them. Harley mentioned the City wouldn't want to pay for upgrades when a profitable business would be utilizing the building. The renter will handle leveling floor, adding doors, utilities, many upgrades, and will have their own separate insurance. Property taxes isn't a concern because the City doesn't pay property tax on that building. Harley asked the difference between selling on contract versus renting: if selling the City would have to sell to the highest bidder no matter what they were purchasing the building for, by renting it becomes a much-needed daycare for the town.

Record Vote:

Davidson	---	Isbell	Yes
Perry	Yes	Hill	Yes
Craig	Yes	Wilhoit	Yes

Mayor

Motion carried.

--Motion by H Craig, 2nd by T Hill, to approve the updated front page of the Payroll Ordinance 2026-06-02 for the 2027 fiscal year.

Record Vote:

Davidson	---	Isbell	Yes
Perry	Yes	Hill	Yes
Craig	Yes	Wilhoit	Yes

Mayor
Motion carried.

--Motion by T Hill, 2nd by W Isbell, to approve the bid from NeCo Asphalt in the amount of \$79,050 for the MFT resurfacing downtown Cumberland Street.

--The price was more than expected for a 1 block area. Another option, substantially cheaper, is to chip and seal however that creates a lot of dust and is something that would need done every year or two. The timeframe for resurfacing would take place in late Summer.

Record Vote:

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

Motion carried.

--Consideration and action to approve the 2026-2027 Appropriations Ordinance.

--There will need to be a public hearing before final approval, this is set for July 8th.

OTHER:

Mayor:

- ID Castings will have a crane sitting on the West side of City Hall for a month to set the new walls. This means the City Hall drive thru will have to be closed during that time.
- They will break ground on the splash pad on June 25th. Deadline to be “mostly” done is September 16th, meaning lights on, water running, and operational or the City can charge them.
- Looking at replacing the sidewalk in front of Chris Perry’s house, the current tree there is messing up the sidewalk. It would need removed and can be replaced.
- The new trailer on Mill Street that was put on the concrete slab is within ordinance.
- Martinsville On the Move is redesignating a \$20,000 grant. Instead of being able to tear down the Lipscomb property they will allocate the funds towards: rock for the walking path, a new mower for the bike park, sand for the volleyball court (which is approximately \$4000), and 5 blue tables/benches around the splash pad and pickleball court.
- The 4-way is to be painted patriotic, buntings will be hung, and American flags will be added to the light poles.

Perry:

- Inquired about beautification and what can be done for dilapidated empty downtown buildings. Unfortunately, if property taxes are being paid nothing can be done. A Code Enforcer will be coming to town, but can only look at the exterior of the buildings.

Craig:

- The new sidewalk between the Unit Office and Dollar General looks good, along with the painted lines downtown, and the new sign by the park.
- There still needs to be some cleaning up from the maintenance of water meters.
- The corner at the 4-way heading South in a semi is very tight. It would be beneficial if there were stop lines at the 4-way for vehicles to know where they need to be so a semi can clear a turn.

Isbell:

- Asked for an update on the messed-up sidewalk from the new trailer on Mill Street. The company is sending a check to repair the damages.

- The Summer hires working on the new sidewalk by Dollar General, painting crosswalks, and trimming brush are doing good, it all looks great.

Hill:

- Inquired about an update on the trailer on Bond Street. The Mayor spoke to the owners who were under the impression they were allowed to “take their time” by the former administration. He educated them on ordinances and violation fines. They are waiting for Amish contractors to work on it soon.

Wilhoit:

- Asked about an update on replacing the City truck that had burnt in the Winter. Insurance has been holding up the process. Waiting for updates on the appraisal money with a new case worker after the one on the case left.

--Motion by C Perry, 2nd by H Craig, to close the meeting.

Record Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM.

Caitlin Dill, City Clerk