

**CITY OF MARTINSBURG
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JOINT MEETING WITH THE BERKELEY
COUNTY COUNCIL AND MARTINSBURG
CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY MAY 12, 2011
4:30 P.M.**

LAW OFFICES OF BOWLES RICE MCDAVID GRAFF AND LOVE

With a quorum present, the special joint session of the Martinsburg City Council and Berkeley County Council was called to order by Mayor George Karos at 4:30 p.m. The following Council Members were present: Rodney Woods, Gregg Wachtel, Max Parkinson, Dennis Etherington, Betty Gunnoe, and Roger Lewis. Not present was Richard Yauger. Also present were: Mark S. Baldwin, City Manager, Kin Sayre, City Attorney and Gena Long, City Recorder.

3. Discussion Items

(a) Report—City of Martinsburg—Raleigh Street Extension.

Mayor George Karos discussed the commencement of Contract 03, which extends from Edwin Miller Blvd. Also discussed were the monies reallocated from the bypass project to the Raleigh Street Project by the late Senator Byrd.

(b) Report—City of Martinsburg—Raleigh Street Storm Water Management Project and Rain Garden Component.

City Manager Mark Baldwin explained that the project is complete and that pumps are working as projected, as evidenced by two large storm events in April. Further discussion included the benefit of using government property for the project, and the City thanked Berkeley County for allowing the use of the old Martin's parking lot and the Boydville grounds.

Berkeley County Administrator Deborah Hammond explained that the rain garden is one of the innovative improvements expected of an MS4 community, which are held to a higher standard. She stated that the garden is both a storm water management device and a good use of green space, which has started a trend in other communities. She stated that the County paid for the installation of the rain garden and that it is maintained by the Master Gardeners.

(c) Report—Berkeley County—Economic Development Project—Macy's and Status of Inland Port.

Berkeley County Councilman Bill Stubblefield discussed the success of acquiring Macy's distribution center in Berkeley County. He stated that the corporation had chosen Berkeley County for its available workforce, fast track planning capabilities and state and local tax incentives.

Councilman Stubblefield explained the PILOT program which relieves Macy's of tax burdens, but is offset by the projected \$30m in salaries in Berkeley County.

Further discussion included that, currently, there are no local subcontractors, but not for lack of opportunity, the developer has expressed interest in using local subs whenever possible.

Councilman Stubblefield also discussed the Inland Port and Quad Graphics which will be large employers in Berkeley County.

(d) Report—Berkeley County—Home Consortium Project and Joint City/County Involvement.

Ms. Hammond discussed the success of the HOME Consortium Program in the City of Martinsburg as well as Berkeley County as a whole. She added that she is hopeful that the Federal Government will continue to finance the program at the levels it has been, as the program has helped many people realize the dream of home ownership.

(e) Report-City of Martinsburg-Economic Development in the Downtown District.

City Manager Mark Baldwin discussed the State Building Code, which is sensitive to historic preservation. Councilman Lewis added that tax benefits are available for those building owners who renovate their buildings to historic standards.

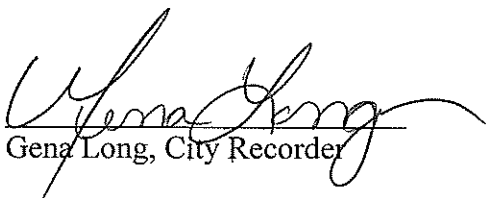
Also discussed was the utilization of upper stores as residential units in the downtown district. Councilman Lewis added that a well renovated apartment will bring high quality tenants, which are needed downtown.

Further discussion included the business and occupation tax benefits for new businesses and downtown businesses in an effort to keep commerce in Martinsburg.

4. **Items from the public.**

The Councils and one member of the public spoke in regards to the success of a synergetic arrangement between Berkeley County and City of Martinsburg. The consensus was that when the two organizations work well together, the public as a whole benefits.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**


Genia Long, City Recorder


George Karos, Mayor