

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City of Martinsburg

2023
PROGRESS
REPORT


West Virginia
Municipal Home Rule Board
P. O. Box 11360
Charleston, WV 25339-1360
MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov
304.558.3356

West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Home Rule Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality: City of Martinsburg		
Certifying Official: Andrew P. Blake	Title: City Manager	
Contact Person: Andrew P. Blake	Title: City Manager	
Address: 232 N. Queen Street		
City, State, Zip: Martinsburg, WV 25401		
Telephone Number: 304-264-2131 Ext. 277	Fax Number: 304-264-2137	
E-Mail Address: ablake@cityofmartinsburg.org		
2020 Census Population: 18,877		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
C. Attest		
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.		
Andrew P. Blake, City Manager		11/30/23
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#1. Initiative: Authority to immediately issue citations for external sanitation violations and common nuisances.	ORDINANCE NO. 2014-20
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?	
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 18, 2014	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A	
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. See attached information.	
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. See attached information.	

#1. INITIATIVE: Grant of Authority to Martinsburg City Code Enforcement Officials to immediately issue Citations for External Sanitation Violations and Common Nuisances

Since the enactment of Ordinance 2014-20 effective December 18, 2014, the City of Martinsburg took actions to inform the public about the City's authority to issue citations for exterior sanitation violations and common nuisances. Flyers were provided to the public, identifying common violations. News articles appeared in the local newspaper, specifically addressing the City's ability for citations. After legal training of code enforcement personnel and internal coordination with the City departments and Municipal Court staff was satisfactorily completed the citation program began July 1, 2015.

CODE ENFORCEMENT CITATION PROGRAM – 11/30/22- 11/20/23

<u>CODE ENFORCEMENT TYPE</u>		
<u>TOTAL CASES</u>		
	1514	
Citations Issued	1489	98.3%
Notice of Violation	25	1.7%
<u>COMPLIANCE</u>		
Compliance after Citation	1268	85.2%
Compliance after Notice of Violation	4	16%
<u>APPEALS</u>		
Appeals Heard	0	
Dismissed Citations	10	
<u>CITATIONS PAID</u>		
Citations Paid (#)	27	1.8%
Citations Paid (\$)	\$4,800.00	
This does not count what was paid through Municipal Court		

SUCSESSES

Martinsburg is now able to utilize citations as another means of code enforcement to abate exterior sanitation violations and common nuisances and enables the City to legally go onto properties to abate violations. Warnings and citations were able to address violations in a shorter period of time than standard Notices of Violation (NOV). The citation process has withstood legal challenges presented in Municipal Court.

LESSONS LEARNED

Fewer total cases per month.

More citations have become compliant before fee was due. This demonstrates public has started to address violations before citations are due.

Percentage of people paying fines has drastically improved.

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#2. Initiative: Authority to file liens on real property for costs incurred in abating exterior sanitation and common nuisance violations. ORDINANCE NO. 2014-21
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 18, 2014
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A
SUCCESES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. See attached information.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. See attached information.

#2. INITIATIVE: Authority to file liens on real property for costs incurred in abating exterior Sanitation and common nuisance violations.

Since the enactment of Ordinance 2014-21 effective December 18, 2014, the City of Martinsburg took actions as authorized to abate exterior sanitation and common nuisance violations.

LIENS FILED – 11/30/22 – 11/20/23

LIENS

Liens Prepared	0
Liens Recorded	0

COSTS & REIMBURSEMENTS

Total Value of Liens	\$ 0
Number of Liens Paid Off	0
Value of Liens Paid Off	\$ 0

SUCSESSES

Martinsburg is now able to directly file liens when a property owner fails to timely reimburse the City for abating exterior sanitation violations and common nuisances that were not corrected by the property owner. This process is easier to follow and complete during periods of high code enforcement activity and can largely be done by current City staff with minimal assistance from legal counsel.

LESSONS LEARNED

The City of Martinsburg will be able to abate eligible violations and bill the property owner for costs incurred. As a result of this, there are more liens to record and monitor. This should result in an increase in the number of liens paid off, which will reduce the City's unpaid burden for correcting eligible violations.

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#3. Initiative: Disposition of City property without auction.	ORDINANCE NO. 2014-22
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?	
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 18, 2014	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A	
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City has not utilized this Initiative, to date. This initiative will be utilized when economic development opportunities are presented to the City or initiated by the City for the betterment of our community.	
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. N/A	

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#4. Initiative: Entry into contracts with other jurisdictions by resolution. ORDINANCE NO. 2014-23
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 18, 2014
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City presently has contracts / agreements with other state and local jurisdictions by ordinance. In 2023 the City approved the following Resolutions to enter into contracts with other Governmental Agencies: Resolution 2023-01—agreement with WVDOT for non-state-owned bridge funding 02—donation of vehicles to Morgan County 07—various law enforcement entities for GrayKey device 25—WVDOT for E. John Street bridge repair/replacement 26—WVDOT for sewer treatment plant bridge repair/replacement 27—WVDOT for E. John Street bridge repair/replacement 28—WVDOT for Oak Street bridge repair/replacement 29—WVDOT for Old Mill bridge repair/replacement 30—WVDOT for Creekside Trail project 31—WVDOT for Frog Hollow Rte. 9 Overpass bridge 35—Berkeley County Schools for resource officer 37—Air National Guard for environmental services agreement 38—WVDOT for deed of easement for the N. Queen Street overpass project 39—Morgan County for fire/ems mutual aid.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. N/A

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#5. Initiative: Issuance of liens for delinquent City fees.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-24

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application or a plan amendment ?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? **December 18, 2014**

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

N/A

SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

The City of Martinsburg has implemented new procedures for issuing liens for delinquent City fees. These new procedures have proven to be more cost effective and have reduced the timeline for obtaining liens.

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

N/A

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#6. Initiative: Implement a Municipal Sales Tax**ORDINANCE NO. 2014-25**Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application or a plan amendment or N/A Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes NoIf yes, when was the ordinance enacted? **December 18, 2014**

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

N/A**REVENUES** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.

Sales Tax (July, 2022 – June, 2023)	\$7,038,768
Less B&O Tax Reduction	<u>- (415,760)</u>
NET REVENUE GAIN	\$6,623,008

EXPENDITURES: (July, 2022 – June, 2023)

Police/Municipal Court Facility Project Funding	\$1,062,615
City Hall Renovation Project Funding	\$3,129,340
General Fund O&M – Budgeted	\$3,250,000
(Lost B&O Taxes, Staffing needs, Economic Development Department, Stormwater Department, Human Resource Department, New Police/Municipal Court Facility O & M, etc.)	
Health Insurance Trust (OPEB) Funding	\$ 200,000
Retirement Funding (Police/Fire Pension)	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$8,141,955

SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.**Presently, Sales Tax Revenue is being placed in a Special Revenue Fund (Sales Tax Fund). Use of these funds have been programmed by City Council for capital improvements, operating budget, City services, debt reduction, etc.****Police/Municipal Court Facility Project Funding – Total Project Cost - \$13.5M (Completed)****Police/Municipal Court Facility Parking Lot Project Funding – Total Project Cost - \$500,000 (Completed)****City Hall Renovation Project Funding – Total Project Cost - \$10.0M (Estimated Completion - June 2024)****The City was able to reduce B&O Tax (Retail 10%; Wholesale – 10% and eliminate Amusement Tax).****LESSONS LEARNED** – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.**N/A**Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#7. Initiative: Reduce B&O Taxes

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-26

Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application or a plan amendment or N/A

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes No

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? **December 18, 2014**

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

N/A

REVENUES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.

B&O Tax Reductions (July, 2022 – June, 2023)

Retail	\$372,540
Wholesale	\$ 26,220
Amusement	<u>\$ 17,000</u> (Estimate)

TOTAL REDUCTION \$415,760

SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

Presently, Sales Tax Revenue is being placed in a Special Revenue Fund (Sales Tax Fund. Use of these funds have been programmed by City Council for capital improvements, operating budget, City services, debt reduction, etc.

Police/Municipal Court Facility Project Funding – Total Project Cost - \$13.5M (Completed)

Police/Municipal Court Facility Parking Lot Project Funding – Total Project Cost - \$500,000 (Completed)

City Hall Renovation Project Funding – Total Project Cost - \$10.0M (Estimated Completion – June 2024))

The City was able to reduce B&O Tax (Retail 10%; Wholesale – 10% and eliminate Amusement Tax).

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

N/A

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#8. Initiative: Inspection and citation powers of Municipal Deputy Fire Marshals ORDINANCE NO. 2014-27
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 18, 2014
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. Ordinance has been passed. Three (3) Municipal Deputy Fire Marshals received NJFPA Certification for Fire Inspector I – November 28, 2018.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. N/A

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#9. Initiative: Purchase tax liens on properties subject to delinquent property taxes; right of Redemption by the City.
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? December 18, 2014
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). See below.
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City continues to research the best method to adopt for dealing with Municipal liens and delinquent taxes. The next Assessment Year begins July 1, 2023 and Tax Year January 1, 2023. The City anticipates enactment of an Ordinance prior to June 1, 2023. Still being reviewed.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. N/A

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

#10. Initiative: Exercise the same authority as the ABCA	ORDINANCE NO. 2016-17
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?	
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? June 30, 2016	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). See below.	
SUCCESSSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. The City has consulted with the ABCA concerning the implementation of the distance requirements. The ABCA has indicated they will not honor any reduction in the distances and therefore deny licenses. The City and Home Rule Board may need some assistance from the Legislature to make the ABCA comply with a Home Rule Ordinance.	
<u>2016 ORDINANCE NO. 2016-17</u> City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2016-17 on June 30, 2016. The Amended City Ordinance states Class A licensed WVABCA establishments shall not be located within 50' of any church, measured from front door to front door, along the street or streets. This would allow for more economic development opportunities for restaurants or Class A WVABCA establishments to locate in our historic downtown and increase the potential redevelopment of existing buildings.	
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. N/A	

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HOME RULE AMENDED PLAN AMENDMENT #1.	ORDINANCE NO. 2016-21
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ?	
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? July 29, 2016	
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s). N/A	
SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. City Council submitted an Amended Plan to Home Rule Board on July 1, 2016. Home Rule Board approved Amended Plan on July 11, 2016. Council adopted Ordinance No. 2016-21 on July 28, 2016. The Ordinance permitted any private club licensee or private wine bed and breakfast or restaurant to serve beer, wine and alcoholic liquors after the hour of 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. This initiative has increased business activity and tourism opportunities in our community.	
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. N/A	