

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City of New Martinsville

2025
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 New Martinsville		
Certifying Official: Kim Whiteman	Title: City Recorder	
Contact Person: Kim Whiteman	Title: City Recorder	
Address: 191 Main Street		
City, State, Zip: New Martinsville, WV 26155		
Telephone Number: 304-455-9122	Fax Number: 304-455-9123	
E-Mail Address: kwhiteman@newmartinsville.com		
2010 Census Population: 5,300		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I	<input type="checkbox"/> Class II	<input checked="" 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.		
		
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.

<p>Initiative: “Authority to file lien: General Procedure” Seek authority, after due notice, to repair, alter, or demolish property, mow overgrown grass, collect unlawful accumulations of garbage and take other similar actions, but also seek authority to place lien on a property for the City’s cost in taking such action, without court approval.</p>
<p>Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/>?</p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? February 10, 2020</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>The City’s Building Inspector has been able to use this ordinance to persuade property owners to clean up their property. We are currently filing a lien on two separate properties due to the property owner's unwillingness to cooperate. we use this as a last resort.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during the implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p>

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<p>Initiative: “Disposition of Real and Personal Property” Seek authority to allow the sale or lease of real and personal property to private purchasers at fair market value without auction in such a manner that promotes economic development or provides services for the public good. Seek further authority to sale or lease real and personal property at less than fair market value to nonprofit organizations, without auction</p>
<p>Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/>?</p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? February 10, 2020</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>The City partnered with the Wetzel Tyler Chamber of Commerce to devise a co-working environment called Business Incubator. The space will be used to assist and help new businesses and startups succeed by providing support and resources. The city will provide the space at no cost to the Chamber and the Chamber will provide mentoring and support. We are hoping this will help promote economic growth and development.</p> <p>Update: The Business Incubator has not yet been open due to issues at the Chamber. However, progress is being made. The Chamber has been given funding for a chair lift for the stairs and funding for decorating the space.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during the implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p>

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<p>Initiative: “External Sanitation Violations and Common Nuisances” Seek authority to enact an ordinance that gives authority to the Building Inspector and Law Enforcement officers to issue “on the spot” citations for certain violations. This citation will extend to sanitation, drainage, sidewalks in disrepair, high weeds and grass, graffiti, exterior garbage accumulation, open storage in residential districts and vehicles without proper registration.</p>
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? February 10, 2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>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.</p> <p>The City’s Building Inspector and Police Department continue to use this ordinance to cite residents for abandoning their vehicles on the streets and in their yards, having high grass, and accumulating garbage. This initiative has helped keep our city clean.</p>
<p>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.</p>

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<p>Initiative: “Hire Part-Time or Provisional Non-Civil Service Police Officers” Seek authority to hire part-time or provisional non-civil service police officers for indefinite periods of time provided, however, that the part-time or provisional police officers shall already be certified and trained through the West Virginia State Police Academy and is employed for no more than 1040 hours per calendar year.</p>
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? February 4, 2021
If no, please describe the challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative that highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City of New Martinsville’s Police Department has experienced increased difficulty in hiring and maintaining police officers. With the implementation of this ordinance, the city has hired one part-time police officer to assist with the staffing issues of the police department.</p> <p>Update: The city has hired three part-time officers to assist in filling the gaps and also assists with paying the overtime rates.</p>
<p>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.</p>

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<p>Initiative: “Exempt Police Civil Service Commission From Party Affiliation” Seek authority to allow all commissioners to be registered to vote as members of any political party regardless of political party affiliation.</p>
<p>Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/>?</p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? February 4, 2021</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>The City of New Martinsville has experienced difficulty finding individuals to volunteer their time and even more difficulty finding individuals with different political affiliations. This ordinance has allowed the city to fill the required civil service commissioner openings.</p>
<p>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.</p>

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.

<p>Initiative: “ Raise the Maximum Age For Joining Civil Service Police Department” Seek authority to increase the maximum age of applicants to be hired as full-time officers to forty-five years of age.</p>
<p>Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/>?</p>
<p>Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? February 4, 2021</p>
<p>If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>It has become increasingly difficult for the City of New Martinsville to hire and maintain full-time police officers. We have yet to fill the gaps in our police force</p>
<p>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.</p>

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.

Initiative: "1% Sales and Use Tax"
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <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 9, 2019
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>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.</p> <p>The Sales and Use Tax was implemented on July 1, 2020. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the City of New Martinsville received \$935,406.85 in revenue. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the City of New Martinsville received \$1,709,250.97. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the City of New Martinsville received 1,730,984.37. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the City of New Martinsville received \$1,786,304.23. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the city received \$1,754,014.15.</p>
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting project, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The City of New Martinsville has been able to lease a Street Sweeper and Asphalt Zipper and two new trucks for the Street Department. The city also leased two new cruisers for the Police Department, as well as body cameras for all officers. The city leased new vehicles for the Parks and Recreation department, as well as, the Building Inspector. The city paved Bruce Park and Lewis Wetzel Park parking lots, the municipal parking lot, and many residential side streets.</p> <p>During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the city has been able to lease a new truck for the Fire Department, dump truck for the Street Department, increase the budget for paving streets, start a dilapidated building demolition reserve, purchase new software for the utility office, payroll, tax office and accounts payable, relined the Lewis Wetzel pool for the Parks and Recreation Department and new lights for the Bruce Park Ball Fields.</p> <p>During the 2023-2024 the city has assisted the Parks and Recreation Department with the demolition of Bruce pool. With the pool no longer there, the city is able to help fund the new construction of the splash pad.</p> <p>During the 2024-2025 the city is continuing to pave streets, adding a full-time receptionist at city hall, added a full-time police clerk, added two part-time maintenance positions for city hall, maintaining upkeep of city hall and the city complex, as well as the historical Lincoln theater.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during the implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p>

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.

Initiative: "Business and Occupation Tax" For purposes of decreasing the rate of taxes established therein.
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <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 9, 2019
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
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. The City of New Martinsville received \$1,874,767.44 in the fiscal year 2019-2020 The City of New Martinsville received \$1,468,609.77 in the fiscal year 2020-2021 The City of New Martinsville received \$1, 657,213.16 in the fiscal year 2021-2022 The City of New Martinsville received \$1,773,583.30 in the fiscal year 2022-2023 The City of New Martinsville received \$1,612,207.39 in the fiscal year 2023-2024 The City of New Martinsville received \$1,613,065.28 in the fiscal year 2024-2025
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.
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.