

Council to Consider Henry Hotel Funds

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Martinsville City Council on Tuesday will consider appropriating \$95,000 toward the city's purchase of the Henry Hotel uptown.

The issue will be discussed during council's Uptown/Druid Hills Neighborhood Community Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at J. Frank Wilson Park.

In August, the Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority — which is the city council seated as another panel to handle housing and redevelopment matters — bought the old hotel for \$425,000 during a public auction.

Officials said the city wants some control over the development of the building as part of efforts to revitalize uptown.

According to Martinsville Community Development Director Wayne Knox, The Harvest Foundation agreed to loan the city 80 percent of the cost or \$248,000 — whichever was greater — toward buying the building.

The authority will ask the city for \$95,000 toward the purchase. That sum will include expenses such as recording fees, insurance premiums and other closing costs, a council report shows.

Harvest will loan the city the rest of the money needed, Knox said.

Following its consideration of the request, the authority will reconvene as city council to hold a public hearing on the hotel's purchase and consider appropriating the money requested, the meeting's agenda shows.

Council holds a Neighborhood Community Meeting each quarter somewhere in the city to try and make it easy for neighborhood residents to take part in city business. After the hotel issues are decided, residents of Druid Hills and uptown will be able to share their opinions on city issues with council.

The meeting at the park off East Church Street Extension will be held under a picnic shelter near Oakdale Street, behind the Virginia Museum of Natural History, officials said.