

December 6, 2022

The Regular December meeting of the Danville City Council was held on December 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

Staff Members present were: City Manager Ken Larking, Deputy City Manager Earl Reynolds, City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi.

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member J. Lee Vogler, Jr., gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones thanked the Rotary, Parks & Recreation and all city employees for the work that went into the Christmas Parade, it was fantastic. Mayor Jones also thanked all the sponsors and partners that participated, especially to Caesars for bringing the A&T band to the Christmas Parade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Presentation: Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority
By: Larissa Deedrich

Ms. Deedrich noted she had left invitations for the Council Members from the DRHA for the scholarship advancement fundraiser. The fundraiser will be held on March 6th at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research; it will support eight scholarships for students from public housing and Section 8, ranging in the amounts of \$500 to \$2,000. The scholarships were for two year and four year colleges, as well as trade schools. For more information, citizens can go to www.drhava.com.

Presentation: Neighborhood Parks
By: Director of Parks & Recreation, Bill Sgrinia and
Parks & Recreation Facilities and Services Planner Dr. Stephanie Lovely

Director of Parks & Recreation, Bill Sgrinia, thanked Council for having them this evening, and thanked Council for being a part of the parade. There were a lot of people and a lot of city departments that worked together to put that on; it was a fabulous event. Mr. Sgrinia noted he had also left Council an invitation to the light show which starts this week, as well as this year's ornament, done by a local artist. There were more entries this year to the light show than in the past, and it will be a good show. This Friday was the deadline to be registered to have phone calls from Santa; they call about 600 children each year.

Tonight's presentation was a follow up to the meeting they had in July when they presented all their projects to Council; they wanted to single out the neighborhood parks and follow up on that. The parks they will be looking at tonight were Coates, Doyle Thomas and Pumpkin Creek, and they will be showing conceptual designs. They have gone through a resident-led design process where the residents around these properties came together and talked about what they would like to see in their parks; they don't necessarily have budget numbers for these because they were high level concepts. Mr. Sgrinia noted when he went to the public input session, he expected to

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talk about picnic shelters, tables and basketball courts; that was not what they heard. They heard that citizens wanted a place for the community to come together, a place for a neighborhood festival, to gather with family; multi-generational use spaces. The designs reflect the community's desire to be together and use the spaces. Dr. Stephanie Lovely is the City's Facilities and Services Planner and she will review each of the concepts. Dr. Lovely explained the process took place over the last year, with Virginia Tech landscape architecture doing a design chart with stakeholders in the community, including residents and local organizations. That turned into recruiting events to get people aware of the process, coming out to let them know what they thought about the parks. They then held a series of meetings for each of the parks; this lasted from January to August when they got to the point of the professional design. Community was a common theme, as well as quality of life, and healthy life.

Dr. Lovely began with a review of Coates, with the new design including a focus on multigenerational recreation and accessibility. Coates was the only park in the Westover region and serves a large and diverse population, so the park needs to be functional for a lot of different focuses. There will be a walking track along with fitness stations, a playground for the older age group as well as the existing younger age group playground. There will be space for biking and skating, a sports court and also spaces for community gatherings. A large picnic shelter with rest rooms can be used for city programming events and other people can rent out that space. Staff was still working on how the community was going to recognize its history. The history of Coates Elementary School was a big part of this community and was something staff wanted to recognize; hopefully having this park as a place that can be a community hub for Westover.

Dr. Lovely noted Doyle Thomas Park currently includes a fairly new playground and the PEACE center. The resident design focused again on community; people wanted a place to gather, to have events and celebrations and to meet neighbors. There will be the playground along with swings and the splashpad. The south end of the park will have additional seating, and additional walkways throughout the park that connect it to the basketball court which has seating around it. This leads to a community plaza with picnic shelters and tables to play chess or checkers or meet for lunch. There was an extended large shelter with a small lawn with smaller events or performances, and also permanent lawn games and a quieter, reflective space. People wanted at the Five Forks end, a space to remember the history of the park and community, and also to reflect, meditate and remember people who had been lost in the community.

The current view of Pumpkin Creek showed the maintained area with the softball field, the basketball court and the forested area surrounding it which was also part of the park. There were walking trails throughout the forested area that can be used for walking or mountain biking, it was unpaved. Dr. Lovely noted the softball field was now used for kickball programming and softball practices, the community liked having that activity there but also wanted the space to be useable for them, their community and their needs. They ultimately decided to remove that, leaving a large space for a variety of sports and events to gather. There will be larger shelter to serve those purposes and improved basketball courts that have been moved across the street with their own parking and shelter, and an extended parking lot. This area will have some unique features that will facilitate learning through nature, a playground grade zipline, a misting station, swings and a free play court area.

Dr. Lovely explained they have twenty-four neighborhood parks they were looking to address in the same way over the next several years; anyone interested can find out more by going to PlayDanvilleVA.com. The plans, timelines and evaluation to those plans were all there, as well as ways to sign up to become part of the process; citizens can also contact Dr. Lovely directly. The kickoff for the next three parks, which were Camilla Williams Park, Camp Grove Park and

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Cedarbrook Park, with Virginia Tech landscape architecture coming back for the third time to help reimagine the spaces for the community. They also have ongoing meetings for Doyle Thomas, Coates and Pumpkin Creek to help put community fingerprints, personal touches and recognition in these park spaces.

Mayor Jones noted the changes in the parks were amazing, as well as what the community has done. Was there any way that citizens could get copies of the plans and Dr. Lovely noted they will all be up on the City's website tomorrow and invited citizens to come to any of the meetings, they were open to the public and they would love to have more people involved.

Council Member Whittle asked if the parks were tied in some way to the Riverwalk Trails and Dr. Lovely noted not now; they do have a Riverwalk Extension Plan they were working on implementing with people across the City, which would reach out to the neighborhood parks. Vice Mayor Miller questioned in Pumpkin Creek, were they going to do away with the softball field and Dr. Lovely noted they were. Mr. Sgrinia explained they do have other facilities, this one was really only used for practices, it was never used for games. They have the fields at Dan Daniels and others throughout the City.

Council Member Hood noted he was glad to be involved in the planning process especially for Doyle Thomas Park and see the community come out and put their thoughts into this plan. Each park reflects a quality of life, that was one of the goals, and thanked Dr. Lovely and Mr. Sgrinia for what they were doing for these parks. Council Member Saunders questioned the park hours and Mr. Sgrinia noted they were open dawn to dusk, daylight hours, and all parks were city parks and open to everyone.

Council Member Vogler thanked Dr. Lovely and Mr. Sgrinia for the presentation and the work that went into them, and noted looking at the plans, it was the return of the neighborhood park and what a great thing that was. Council Member Mayo noted the plans were phenomenal; back when he was a child, in the summer Parks & Rec would put staff in a lot of parks and have activities, was that something that may come back. Mr. Sgrinia noted it will, but not the same as it used to be. Community Recreation, one of the Parks & Rec divisions, was already looking at how they were going to put programming back in the neighborhood parks. The programs Mr. Mayo remembered were very popular at the time, it was a different time now, and they may not work now, but they were definitely going to program back into these spaces. Council Member Campbell noted the Parks & Recreation department was outstanding and commended them for the work they did on the parks to create a good quality of life. Council Member Buckner thanked Dr. Lovely and Mr. Sgrinia for the presentation and looked forward to the future of the City Parks.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Alice Willingham, Craghead Street who spoke regarding collective bargaining.

Mayor Jones recognized Henry Walker, 2212 Spencer Street, who spoke regarding collective bargaining.

Mayor Jones recognized Tommy Bennett, President of the Danville Chapter of the NAACP who discussed partnering with the Danville Police Department to collect toys for children for Christmas. Citizens can drop off toys at the Police Department, at 407 Holbrook Street at the NAACP office, or at the PEACE Center on Green Street.

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Mayor Jones recognized Michael Takes, 163 Lynch Street, a private contractor with Unique Plumbing who was working on a project on Main Street. He had the water pressure tested, and it was too low for the requirements of the project. Mr. Takes asked the City to reinstate a previous program which funded installations of booster pumps.

Mayor Jones recognized Kacey Cunningham who stated on December 22, 2022, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., they will be hosting a Christmas Dinner for the homeless and less fortunate at the Lazy Bee, 616 North Main Street.

Mayor Jones recognized Lieutenant Hodges of the Salvation Army who thanked Council for their support of the Red Kettle Campaign. The need in the community was even greater this year.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes of the November 1, 2022, Regular Council Meeting were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 216 COLLINS DRIVE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 216 Collins Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 22, 2022 and November 29, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12.01

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ22- 00219, FILED BY EQUITABLE PROPERTY COMPANY, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO AN AUTOMOBILE AND LIGHT VEHICLE REPAIR ESTABLISHMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 3.N.C.2. OF THE DANVILLE ZONING ORDINANCE AT 216 COLLINS DRIVE (PARCEL ID #77774).

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle.

Council Member Saunders noted he supported the motion, the item states it would have two shifts and six employees, management and workers, and questioned how that would work. Mayor Jones recognized John Byram, attorney with Woods, Rogers, appearing on behalf of his colleague Will Shumate, representing Equitable Properties in this matter. Mr. Byram noted there will be six employees, two shifts. The high volume shifts were twice during the day, eight customers served in each high volume shift, as he understands it. It was a two bay limited facility in keeping with the recommendations of Planning. Mr. Saunders questioned how many hours per shift and Mr. Byram noted eight.

Mr. Saunders noted it talked about ten minutes per vehicle, with a list of services to be provided, and wondered how all of it could be done in ten minutes. Mr. Byram explained most customers do not get all the services in the ten minutes, most were there for an oil change or one of those

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services. This was set up to run as a drive thru service; there were no vehicles allowed to be kept at the facility overnight, there was no body work allowed to be done, no engine work, just the limited services listed.

Council Member Vogler noted there was a business in this space previously, and that traffic was heavy in that spot, has the City planned for potentially more cars coming in and out of that site. Director of Planning Renee Burton noted that has been planned for; staff worked with Public Works Engineering Division and believed that the volume of traffic this business will produce can be handled in that area.

The **Motion** was carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)
NAY: None

CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 4750 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 4750 Riverside Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 22, 2022 and November 29, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12.02

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ22- 00199, FILED BY GERRICK GANN ON BEHALF OF HOMETOWN SHEDS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW OUTDOOR DISPLAY IN EXCESS OF 15% OF THE NET DEVELOPABLE ACRE ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 3.M.(H.)(7.) OF THE DANVILLE ZONING ORDINANCE AT 4750 RIVERSIDE DRIVE (PARCEL ID#72296).

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Buckner and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)
NAY: None

CONSIDERATION OF A GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS TO THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Tax Exempt Status to the Wednesday Club. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 29, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12.03

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AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE WEDNESDAY CLUB AS BEING EXEMPT FROM LOCAL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXATION.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)
NAY: None

CONSIDERATION OF DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Declaring Certain City-Owned Property to be Surplus. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 29, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12.01

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONVEY SUCH PROPERTY TO THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (8)
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Jones (1)

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CITY-HELD LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #24577 – CABELL STREET

Council Member Campbell **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12.02

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CITY-HELD LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #24577 CABELL STREET TO FACILITATE ITS DONATION TO THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (8)

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NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Jones (1)

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CITY-HELD LIEN AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #21801 – STOKES STREET

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12.03

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CITY-HELD LIEN AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #21801 STOKES STREET TO FACILITATE ITS DONATION TO THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (8)
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Jones (1)

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CITY-HELD LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #21579 STOKES STREET

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12.04

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CITY-HELD LIEN AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #21801 STOKES STREET TO FACILITATE ITS DONATION TO THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (8)
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Jones (1)

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING CROSS-PARKING EASEMENT

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12.05

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A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING CROSS-PARKING EASEMENT RECORDED BY THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, INCORPORATED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AS INSTRUMENT #92-3669.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle and carried the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)
NAY: None

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY ANTICIPATING THE PROCEEDS FROM THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Vogler and **second** by Council Member Whittle, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-12.04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY ANTICIPATING THE PROCEEDS FROM THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND APPROPRIATING SAME FOR ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney or City Clerk.

Council Member Buckner reminded citizens about the holiday light show, and thanked Bill Sgrinia and the staff at Parks & Rec, and organizations that put in the time to making this event so special for everyone in the City. The light show was December 8-23, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. nightly, \$10 for cars, \$20 for vans or minibuses; they will be accepting credit and debit cards. The Children's Village will be open until 9:00 p.m. nightly with photos with Santa, refreshments and activities.

Council Member Campbell thanked the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority for their invitation to the fund raising event. Sunday for his family was a great day and the DRHA for what they did for Apostle Campbell, his family wanted to say thank you to them.

Council Member Hood noted the date for the Kazelle & Co. and Stayhood Foundation dinner was Thursday, December 22nd at the Lazy Bee Restaurant at 616 North Main Street. Mr. Hood thanked DRHA for everything they do; the Parks & Recreation presentation was phenomenal. The quality of life was key when speaking on that. Mr. Hood thanked the citizens who attended the Christmas parade, seeing a community and city coming together; it showed Danville strong and he appreciated that.

Council Member Mayo noted the turnout for the parade was phenomenal, encouraged citizens to participate in the toy drive, and noted they will be there to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

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Danville Community College will have two food drives this month, one with Tyson's and the other with Southwest Food.

Vice Mayor Miller commended Parks & Rec for the best in the south light show and also all the groups that come out to volunteer. Dr. Miller noted the Parks & Rec presentation, what he has heard was that people want to get back together with their community members and meet. This will give them the opportunity to get back with their neighbors.

Council Member Saunders noted he was looking forward to ringing the bells for the Salvation Army; the Road Soldiers Motorcycle Club will be out ringing the bells as well. Mr. Saunders noted former City Manager Frank Faisson was in an assisted living care facility and asked for prayers for him. Mr. Saunders thanked the housing authority for what they do every day; the partnership they have with the City and looking after people was amazing. Mr. Saunders noted a special thank you to the City Manager, Ken Larking, he does a great job every day, and thanked him and Deputy City Manager Earl Reynolds for what they do every day.

Council Member Vogler noted the parade was a lot of fun, he and his son rode together in a car, and his wife and daughter were in the parade with her dance class. Mr. Vogler reminded citizens of the Holiday Light Show on December 8-23, there were a lot of great displays this year; it was a great community light show right in their back yard. Mr. Vogler encouraged citizens to come out and support the businesses and groups that took part in it. The Harry Johnson Holiday Classic was coming up on December 27, 28 and 29 and believes this will be the biggest and best basketball tournament yet.

Council Member Whittle noted he was invited to the event at Bibleway and it was outstanding; it was a beautiful community.

Mayor Jones noted he was so excited that they were all able to give Bishop Campbell, who had seventy years in the ministry, his flowers while he was able to see it, and thanked the housing authority for what they were doing in the community. Mayor Jones noted Christmas at the Plaza was great, and the parade was phenomenal. Mayor Jones thanked Mark Aron for his coverage of the parade, he does a great job, and does it by himself. Mayor Jones thanked the NAACP for making Bishop Campbell the Man of the Year and for all that they do, and thanked them for being a part of that.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK