

November 17, 2020

The Second Regular November meeting of the Danville City Council was held on November 17, 2020, 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., Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Samuel A. Kushner, Barry P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, and J. Lee Vogler, Jr., (8). Madison J.R. Whittle was absent. (1).

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Proclamation: Danville Entrepreneurship Week
November 16-22, 2020

Presented to: Jessica Edwards
Dan River Region Entrepreneur Ecosystem Principal Coordinator

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Appropriation Ordinances. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 10, 2020. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Campbell **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda Items:

Approval of Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on October 20, 2020. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for HUD Funds in the Amount of \$1,197,477

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-11.08, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Projects to be or Being Undertaken to Improve the Danville Community Financed with Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Estimated Program Income for a Total Appropriation of \$1,197,477.00.

Amending the Fiscal Year Budget Appropriation Ordinance for the Proceeds of the Issuance of Bonds

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-11.09, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Anticipating the Proceeds from the Issuance of Bonds and Appropriating Same for Anticipated Expenditures.

Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Food Service Operations at W.W. Moore, Jr., Detention Home in the Amount of \$51,491

November 17, 2020

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-11.10, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Federal Grant in the Amount of Approximately \$51,491 to aid the Food Service Operations at W. W. Moore, Jr. Detention Home and Appropriating Same.

Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Electronic Monitoring and Outreach Detention Programs and Prevention Services in the Amount of \$126,829

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-11.11, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Grant from the Department of Juvenile Justice in the Amount of \$86,999 and a Local Share of \$39,830, for a Total Appropriation of \$126,829, to Provide for the Electronic Monitoring and Outreach Detention Programs and Prevention Services for the City of Danville at the W. W. Moore Jr. Detention Home and Appropriating Same.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

Director of Finance Michael Adkins gave the Financial Report as of October 31, 2020 marking 33% of the fiscal year complete as they compare that to the budget. Revenues were still doing well and tracking well according to budget. At this time of year, they look at their delinquent tax collections as the current tax collection period has not started. The Delinquent Real Estate tax was at 41% of budget, running ahead of budget expectations; Personal Property Delinquent collections were \$83,000 over last year. The current tax bills went out the first week of this month with a due date of December 7th; Mr. Adkins noted he will be able to report on those in the next couple of months.

Under local taxes, Sales Tax continues to exceed budget; at the end of October, they were at 35.5% of budget, 2.5% ahead of budget and \$264,000 more than last year at this point. Hotel/Motel Lodging taxes were running behind the end of September, however, the City made up some ground and were at 34% of budget at the end of October. They were 1% ahead of budget; it was small, but significant for that line item, and \$14,000 more than last year. Meals Tax continues to lag behind a little, which was understandable with restaurants having limited seating; they were at 31.4%, consistent with the first few months of this year. They were running about a percent and half behind budget, but that was only \$145,000 less than last year, and the increase in Sales Tax more than makes up for that difference. The only other significant items in the Revenue section were timing; the City's State revenues, especially related to reimbursement of the Social Services expenses, were a timing difference. The end of October fell over a weekend, so their reimbursement for September did not come in until the first week of November.

On the Expenditure side, the Departmental Expenses were doing well at 31%, trailing budget which was what was typically seen. Under Non-Departmental, the two big items there were Group Health Insurance and Debt Service. The Group Health Insurance claims were up over last year, but last year the City had a very significant positive variance according to budget. Expectations

November 17, 2020

of claims were lower last year, so although the City was seeing an increase this year, they were on track with budget at 33% at the end of October. Another variance was transfers to Schools; the first part of the academic year, where there has not been any in person instruction, the school system has not needed the funding as quickly as usual, so the City was seeing about a \$4M lag behind last year. As a reminder, 100% of that budget will either be expended by the schools or carried over at the end of the year.

Mr. Adkins stated the General Fund was performing as expected at this point. The Audit for Fiscal Year 2020 was just about over and the report from the auditors was scheduled for December of each year, however the final report will be delayed because of the CARES Act Funding. The Auditors were still waiting for guidance on how to audit the money the City received in Fiscal 2020 from CARES Act. The City Manager had informed Council last week that the City received its credit rating from the bond rating agencies and all three upheld the City's AA rating. The bonds will go out for competitive bid the next day and he will be able to let Council know what kind of interest rate the City received.

Council Member Kushner questioned the lag in school funds, what was the mechanism by which the City recoups the savings the school board realizes, or understanding that once the funds were appropriated, the City effectively loses control over the funds. Mr. Adkins explained, historically, the City has allowed the School to carry over any unspent money into the next year; that was a discussion the budget team and Council could have as they approach the end of this fiscal year, as a clear picture was available as to how much money was left over. Mr. Adkins noted he was sure there were some costs related to distance learning that the School has not spent yet but were incurring, so they may see some of the necessary transfers incurred later than usual. They do handle that on a year to year basis; staff will analyze the unspent budget for schools at the end of the year and see what the appropriate action would be at that point.

City Manager Ken Larking stated they received information from the school system related to their capital improvement program; it was a five year program they want to give to the City in the near future, and believes that would be an appropriate discussion at that time. Mr. Larking noted there were a lot of needs related to roofs, HVACs, and painting, and any additional carry forward money they have left, they were hoping to use toward those expenses.

Council Member Saunders stated with regard to the money given to the school system from the State, they get so much per student. Some students may be at home learning and not in the classroom, was that money being impacted negatively in terms of Danville's allocation from the State. Mr. Larking stated he did not believe it was impacted; from what he has heard, enrollment was up over the previous years and the school system was anticipating additional dollars from the State. Mr. Whitfield stated whether they were at home or in the classroom, as long as they were enrolled, they will get funds for them.

CONSIDERATION OF THE SALE OF PARCEL #22434 ON SPRING STREET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the Sale of Parcel #22434. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 10, 2020.

Mayor Jones recognized Joy Ford, Danville, who stated they want to purchase this piece of property; they own 510 Spring Street next door and were currently rehabbing that location for a potential restaurant space. Right now there was a lofted space that will add additional dining inside in order to accommodate social distancing. They were under contract to purchase 508

November 17, 2020

Spring Street from Movement Bank to extend dining seating or food preparation. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11.05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY AND APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CITY PARCEL NUMBER #22434, SPRING STREET, FOR A SALES PRICE OF \$4,000.00.

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

VOTE: 7-0-1-1
AYE: Campbell, Jones, Kushner, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders and Vogler (7)
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Buckner (1)
ABSENT: Whittle (1)

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I, James B. Buckner, do hereby state that I have a conflict of interest regarding the consideration of a Resolution declaring Parcel #22434 located on Spring Street to be surplus to the needs of the City and authorizing its sale, listed on the Agenda as New Business Agenda Item B. Therefore, pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, Virginia Code §2.2-3112, I must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Witness my signature this 17th day of November, 2020.

s/James B. Buckner

CONSIDERATION OF THE SALE OF PARCEL #72866 ON MOUNT CROSS ROAD

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the sale of Parcel #72866. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 10, 2020. 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. 2020-11.06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA DECLARING CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY AND APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CITY PARCEL NUMBER 72866, MOUNT CROSS ROAD, FOR A SALES PRICE OF \$850.00.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1

November 17, 2020

AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Jones, Kushner,
Mayo, Miller, Saunders and Vogler (8)
NAY: None
ABSENT: Whittle (1)

ESTABLISHING JUNETEENTH AS AN OBSERVED HOLIDAY FOR CITY OF DANVILLE EMPLOYEES

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11.12

AMENDING THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE PROVIDING FOR THE CLASSIFICATION, COMPENSATION, AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS OF THE CITY.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Miller.

Council Member Vogler noted he had received questions from citizens and asked what was the total estimated cost for this holiday and how was that being paid. Director of Human Resources Sara Weller explained there was not really an additional cost because the City budgets salaries annually, but if they were looking for the cost of a day, what they pay employees, the total for the nonexempt and exempt employees was \$253,000. The cost for a holiday comes from the loss of productivity; the employee was not working and was being paid to do so. Mr. Vogler noted the Commonwealth of Virginia has 15.5 paid holidays in total and if this was approved would put the City at 15.5; how many did Pittsylvania County have, and Ms. Weller stated per their HR Manager, the County has 15.5 as well.

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

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

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE INFRAMARK WASTEWATER AGREEMENT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11.07

AUTHORIZING THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH INFRAMARK, LLC OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE'S WASTEWATER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH INFRAMARK, LLC.

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

Council Member Kushner requested clarification for this item. Director of Utilities Jason Grey explained the City would be receiving the biosolids from the Chatham Wastewater Plant, mixing

November 17, 2020

them with the City's biosolids and then land applying them. The additional revenue was not a lot of revenue, and it was not a lot of biosolids compared to what the City produces. Mr. Grey noted they would have to give mutual notice, either 60 or 90 days to discontinue the contract. Mr. Kushner questioned what would happen in the future if the County's needs exceed 150,000 gallons per year, was the City obligated to take such additional solids and Mr. Grey noted they would work within their current land use application permit.

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

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

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGENCY DESIGNATION AGREEMENT WITH AMP

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11.08

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGENCY DESIGNATION SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER FOR THE PINNACLES HYDRO METERING AND BILLING

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

Council Member Kushner noted he believes the public needs to know what the consideration was for the sale of Pinnacles and Mr. Grey noted it was \$8.2M; they anticipate closing in the first part of 2021. They were currently waiting on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve the license to transfer.

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

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

AMENDING CHAPTER 34 OF THE DANVILLE CITY CODE TO REVISE THE SEWER CODE

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11.13

AMENDING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 34 ENTITLED "SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, 1986 AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF CITY, STATE, AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

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

November 17, 2020

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

AUTHORIZING A REQUEST FOR A FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION TO ENTERPRISE ZONE 57B

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11.09

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AN ENTERPRISE ZONE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR THE CITY'S PORTION OF THE JOINT ENTERPRISE ZONE WITH PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY (ENTERPRISE ZONE #57B).

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

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

AMENDING THE CITY MANAGER'S CONTRACT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11.10

AMENDING SECTION 11 ENTITLED "RETIREMENT" AND AMENDING SECTION 12(B) ENTITLED "TERMINATION BY THE CITY AND SEVERANCE PAY" OF THE CITY MANAGER'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT.

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

Council Member Vogler noted he has received questions from citizens and would like to get those answered. He thinks the City Manager has done a fantastic job for the City and thinks Danville was very fortunate in having one of the best city managers in the country. Mr. Vogler questioned if there was an estimated cost for this and if so, where will that be coming from. Ms. Weller stated the City does not have that at this point. North Carolina, if Mr. Larking chooses to roll his service over, will provide the City his assets which will be the equivalent of contributions made on his behalf for his years of service. Once the City receives that amount, they will be able to roll that into the City's system and determine what the cost was for those years.

Mr. Vogler questioned how many of the previous city managers had a similar contract clause and were they negotiated up front or were some of them done later on. Mayor Jones asked Ms. Weller to yield to Council Member Saunders. Council Member Saunders stated this was basically not a precedent, managers before him had the same thing in their contract. Mr. Vogler questioned if most of them were done initially, were some done later on, or revised and Mr. Saunders stated

November 17, 2020

he did not recall exactly but does know that one was revised after he had been hired. Mr. Whitfield noted as far as the retirement rolling over, Ray Griffin, Jerry Gwaltney, Lyle Lacey and Joe King all had that; the one time it was addressed after, was allowing a city manager that had first exempted himself from the retirement system to become a member of the retirement system; this was very standard.

Council Member Saunders stated he has worked with five different city managers and the precedent had already been set by the former city managers. The City Manager has been with the City for about five years, and he has been getting good annual reviews from Council. He keeps Council informed and Mr. Saunders stated he believes he was respectful to each of the nine Council Members. In his view, he has, and continues to perform well in all areas. Downtown and the River District continue to grow, and economic development continues to thrive. His hiring practices in key positions have proven to be very good; for example, the Utility Director, Deputy City Manager, Fire Chief, and Police Chief. He has proven to be a good listener and problem solver, and he has great relations with the school system and the community.

Council Member Buckner thanked Mr. Larking for everything he has done; Council should realize this was about retention and retaining a good man in the right position. Danville was extremely fortunate to have Mr. Larking here; there were other cities that would be interested in him. Vice Mayor Miller noted he has been on Council for twelve years and can remember extending these after the fact to city managers. He assumed this was in the contract from the beginning and was surprised to find out it wasn't. This was something Council needed to do. Council Member Campbell noted his agreement with what has been said. There hasn't been one time they have called him and he did not respond, he has an excellent personality and he appreciates working with him. There were a lot of things happening in the City because of his effort and vision and Danville was heading in the right direction. Mayor Jones also noted his agreement with what has been said, and cannot say enough how much he appreciates what the City Manager does.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$201,640 FOR UPGRADES TO THE E-911 CENTER

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-11.14

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$179,560.25 AND LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,078.10 FOR EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE UPGRADES TO THE DANVILLE 9-1-1 EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNICATION CENTER FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$201,640, AND APPROPRIATING SAME

November 17, 2020

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

AUTHORIZING MAYOR ALONZO L. JONES TO EXECUTE THE CITY'S POST REFERENDUM LETTER OF CERTIFICATION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11.11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION § 58.1-4109, FORMALLY CERTIFYING CAESARS VIRGINIA, LLC AS THE CITY'S PREFERRED CASINO GAMING OPERATOR AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR ALONZO L. JONES TO SUBMIT THE CITY'S POST-REFERENDUM LETTER OF CERTIFICATION OF CAESARS VIRGINIA, LLC AS THE CITY'S PREFERRED CASINO GAMING OPERATOR TO THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH ANY OTHER RELATED INFORMATION AS MAY BE NEEDED CONSISTENT WITH THIS RESOLUTION.

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

Council Member Vogler credited the hard work of every Council Member along with the City Manager, the Economic Development Director and staff, and everyone who worked on this. Council feels very good about the way Danville went through this process and he thought Danville did it the best of anyone in Virginia. There was an article in the *Washington Post* yesterday that talked about the four localities. Mr. Vogler read a quote from the article: "Of the four Virginia cities currently moving forward with casino projects, only Danville followed state auditor's recommendations that they award the project to developers through a competitive bidding process." Mr. Vogler noted that Danville was the only one that did the bidding process and the proof could be seen in the final results. Mr. Vogler thanked everyone who worked on this, Danville did a tremendous job.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted he wanted to express his sincere appreciation to City Council for the vote of confidence in adopting the changes to his contract; he was humbled by the comments made by Council Members. It was important to recognize the good work of Earl Reynolds as well as Clarke Whitfield and Sue DeMasi. He appreciates his department heads and City Council; as has been mentioned before, he believes they have a great team. It was a team, all working together with a vision to help improve the City of Danville for all the people who live there. He does appreciate everything Council has done for him, looks forward to continue working for the City and do what they can together to make things better for everyone.

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

November 17, 2020

Whitfield wished everyone a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Kushner noted this was his last meeting on Council and wanted to express his very deep appreciation to each Council Member and members of City staff. The public should know, if they don't already, that this has been an exceptional City Council. Council Members have different backgrounds and life experiences and yet they all work together for the betterment of the community. Mr. Kushner thanked Council for their courtesy and assistance; it has been a wonderful experience, congratulated Mr. Hood and wished him nothing but good things. He hopes the community works to support City Council and the City's missions. It was a wonderful time to be a Danvillian.

Council Member Mayo thanked Mr. Kushner for his service and time; it was a pleasure to get to know him. Mr. Mayo welcomed Mr. Hood to Council and looked forward to working with him. The IDDU graduation ceremony of Danville City Police Department was a milestone success. IDDU stands for Incarceration Doesn't Define Us; citizens in local jails as well as DOC come out and plan a future for themselves. Mr. Mayo tipped his hat to Chief Booth, Ashton and staff, and wished the eight graduates success.

Vice Mayor Miller noted his goodbyes to Mr. Kushner, he did a good job stepping in when Council needed him, and welcomed Mr. Hood. The Radford University Center for Police Practice Research gave an Excellence in Policing Award to Chief Booth; other cities were coming to Danville to see what they were doing right in community policing. Danville's crime rates have gone down, it was a safe City, and they were an All American City as well. Dr. Miller encouraged people to get their flu shots, and to continue to social distance and wear masks.

Council Member Saunders welcomed Mr. Hood and looked forward to working with him, and asked Mr. Buckner to say more about the housing shortage in Danville. Mr. Saunders thanked Mayor Kushner for what he has done for this City for many years; he answered the call to come sit in temporarily until a replacement was elected. Mr. Kushner noted he and Mr. Saunders have been friends and colleagues for many years, they served together in the past. Citizens should be aware of the many contributions Mr. Saunders has made; he was a treasure and hopes he will make himself available in subsequent elections. Mr. Saunders thanked Ms. Weller for all that she does with regard to the personnel management of the City. There were 1,100 city employees and she manages them well.

Council Member Vogler wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Back in the summer, Council learned there would be a vacancy on Council, they were thankful former Mayor and current Council Member Kushner stepped up to the task. Mr. Vogler noted he was honored to have been able to serve with him these last four months and appreciated his service. Mr. Vogler welcomed Mr. Hood and looked forward to what he would bring to Council.

Council Member Buckner noted the Danville and Pittsylvania County area typically has a surplus of housing, for the past few years of 400-600 properties. Right now, that number was below 200 which speaks volumes to things happening in the community. There were redevelopers who were buying up properties and buildings, and rehabbing them. Properties were selling, people were moving here and investing in the area. This month was about thanks and thanked the Council Members he has the honor of serving with, and thanks to the City Manager and his family for all he does; thanks to the staff, the 1,100 employees that make this City run and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Council Member Campbell noted his agreement with what has been said and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving; enjoy their families and pray for the peace of the State and the Country.

November 17, 2020

Mayor Jones thanked Council Member Kushner for his experience during the short time he has served. To have two former Mayors on Council, he wanted to thank them both for all they have done. To the City Manager, one of the things he admired when he spoke, he spoke about his staff, that was true leadership. Council Member Buckner and others mentioned Thanksgiving, and they hear the same thing each year, enjoy your families, Happy Thanksgiving. It has been a heck of year, COVID 19 was not expected and hopes this Thanksgiving was different from others. When Thanksgiving arrives at their dinner table, when people say their prayers, Mayor Jones asked that citizens put in a special prayer or thought for someone other than their family. Mayor Jones noted to Mr. Hood he looks forward to him joining Council.

ADJOURNED: 8:02 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK