

November 4, 2021

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on November 4, 2021 at 7:34 p.m. in Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. Council Members present were: James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo Jones, Barry P. Mayo, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller (1) was absent. *Mr. Campbell left the meeting at 8:30 pm.*

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

Mayor Jones presided.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on October 7, 2021 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

PROGRAM UPDATES

City Manager Ken Larking noted he had sent information to Council regarding the property discussed by the citizen on Green Street. The City tries its best to save every house in the Old West End if they can, but at some point, the City, unfortunately, cannot, and that was after a lot of trying to make it work. This was a last effort to try to preserve that building. There was an agreement in place where the owners will have six months to have the exterior renovations complete; if they can't do that, it will revert back to the City. Council Member Vogler noted he hoped this worked out; once they get to the six-month period, and it turns out it did not happen, he hoped the City would be ready to demolish the building and stop kicking it down the road. Mr. Larking explained the person looking at doing the work has done some work elsewhere in the Old West End, it seemed to be quality work and the City was hopeful that it would work out, but if it doesn't, they will hold them accountable.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Director of Economic Development Corrie Bobe thanked Council Members for attending the Schoolfield community event on the 28th; they will share the data collected once it was put into print form.

Ms. Bobe explained a survey was sent out on the future use of the Lou's Antiques building; they have an architect that took the survey results and created some ideas on how that area can be used. Project Manager Kelvin Perry explained they engaged Moore Architectural in Lynchburg, Virginia to put some conceptual renderings together for the City. Kelvin Moore, owner, and Marques Moore will share some of their thoughts for that. Once it was presented to Council, as well as to the IDA, they will have a community engagement event on December 3rd, during Christmas on the Plaza.

Mr. Kelvin Moore explained their process and he and Mr. Marques Moore presented several concepts via Zoom.

Council Members thanked the Moore's for their presentation.

November 4, 2021

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Vogler questioned when Council would get an update on the splash parks and Mr. Larking explained he and the Director of Parks & Recreation had a discussion on it and were evaluating a request of Council on the two potential sites for the park on the Southside. They will be bringing that back to Council in the near future. Mr. Larking explained it was his understanding that the sites on the Southside will require a lot of vegetation removal in order to fit something there; that poses a challenge.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:00 p.m., Council Member Saunders **moved** that this meeting of the City Council of the City of Danville, Virginia be recessed and that Council immediately reconvene in a Closed Meeting for the following purposes: Discussion or consideration of the acquisition and/or disposition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely impact the bargaining position of the City as permitted by Subsection (A) (3) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider: Discussion regarding the sale and/or potential purchase of a specific parcel of property for use by prospective industrial, commercial and mixed use projects looking to locate to the City; and an Economic Development discussion and update concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made and/or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made as permitted by Subsection (A)(5) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider: an update on multiple prospective commercial and mixed use and industrial projects considering locating within the City and the region; and consultation with legal counsel retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as permitted by Subsection (A)(8) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1986 as amended.

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

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

Upon unanimous vote at 8:55 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Council Member Saunders **moved** for adoption of the following Resolution:

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Council convened in Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a Certification by the Council that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each Member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of Virginia Law under Section 2.2-3711 were heard, discussed or considered, and

November 4, 2021

(ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Committee.

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

VOTE: 7-0-2

AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)

NAY: None,

ABSENT: Campbell, Miller (2)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:59 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones

MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC

CITY CLERK