

July 19, 2022

The Second Regular July meeting of the Danville City Council was held on July 19, 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, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Barry P. Mayo was absent (1).

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

INVOCATION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on Danville Public Schools
By: Dr. Angela Hairston, Superintendent

Dr. Hairston began her presentation by reviewing non-bond projects which included the track at George Washington High School. They did find some major sinkholes that had to be addressed, and there will be an underground retention pond that will help keep water off the track; they expect this to be finished by the first of October. Another non-bond related project was the Langston track which was repaired with FEMA dollars; it was marked off and in use. There were some water retention issues on the right side of the field that they were working through, but it was in very good shape. They used their ARP funds for Taylor, to make sure they had room for teachers, renovated with new roofing, HVAC, paint and getting it in good shape for the Virtual Academy which continues to serve students. They also envision part of the school being used for swing space, if needed, with the GW renovations. The bleachers at OT Bonner gymnasium were unsafe and not handicapped accessible, so they finished painting all of Bonner, and the bleachers should be arriving within the month. Forest Hills Elementary had asked for a new paint job; they have been able to paint the school, as well as repair the roof near the auditorium.

Dr. Hairston noted relative to the 1% sales tax and bond, Dewberry was the architect approved to move forward with the design of Langston. They were moving along very well with some adjustments, and will be putting out the RFP for the contractor who will be handling that work. The lighting for the track will be moved off the field, and some work will be done to make that track ready for competition. The gymnasium and classrooms will be used for Galileo with the central office using the "F" building. Dr. Hairston explained they don't see a need to build a new administrative building, but maybe an attachment for some offices and board meeting space.

There were two major projects, Johnson PPEA and George Washington High School PPEA, in addition to Langston. With the Johnson PPEA, the School Board approved BranchBuilds Construction and Dewberry for the detailed design, and for George Washington High School, Blair/English Construction and RRM Architects with the detailed design. There will be a public hearing on August 4th and this will be for anyone to come and share ideas about the work going forward. They will continue to work with the proposer and begin to execute agreements, and contracts being assigned in September. For GLH Johnson, they knew the site work would be expedited because they already have the property. They also knew that going to the other projects, they definitely need swing space; Taylor can handle some so the quicker they can move on Johnson Elementary, the better they will be with swing space and having opportunities with other schools as well. With George Washington, they do plan on executing this project with

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children on site, with most of the demolition work in summer and moving that front office to the front area.

The next steps will be meeting with staff, parents and community members for in person sessions; they had the same process for GW, Langston, Galileo and Johnson. They will meet with the parents of the four elementary schools, Forest Hills, Woodberry, Gibson and Park Avenue, because the goal was to get the children out of mobile units and into classrooms. At Forest Hills they need to look at the cafeteria and external classrooms, at Park Avenue, cafeteria and external classrooms, and Woodberry needs an entire lift. In April they will come back with feedback on some possible design work, will put out bids for architects and begin the design work. They were also planning a ten year facilitated Program of Facilities; things that need to be renovated, maintained and new construction so it was well organized as they move forward.

Mayor Jones noted he wanted to share a concern, and how Council can help with the school system. Mayor Jones commended Dr. Hairston for addressing all the concerns that have been in the community and the miscommunication; he has received emails from employees who recently resigned from DPS, and every time he gets calls, he sends them to Tyrell Payne. In 2006 citizens decided they wanted to go to an elected school board, and he ran for the school board in 2006; those were elected officials on the school board and City Council supplied funding. Before 2004, City Council had all kinds of hands on/hands into the school system. He had been a member of the appointed school board and they reported everything to Council. What he wanted to figure out, as a Council, was how do they strategically plan together, and ways to shift the morale of the employees of Danville Public Schools. The new school year was rapidly approaching; it would be great hearing about the kick-off, that the teachers and other staff walked away excited and looking forward to the young people entering the buildings. This Council set their three strategic goals, to reduce violent crime, to support education and to grow Danville; it was his idea to move Education as their number one priority because crime was down to a thirty year low. Council asked several times what can they do, how can they help, how can they change the morale. Mayor Jones noted he respected the protocol of the board, but that had to change. They have to work together to change this, and it was changing on his part because he was going to become more engaged with Dr. Hairston, because she cannot do it all.

Dr. Hairston noted what she would say was their district, as was known, was the last performing district in the state, and that did not occur overnight, it occurred over five or six years. The district did not fall into disrepair overnight and it will not fall where they want it to be overnight. She was confident, and had put in the folders she gave to Council, their school climate survey because she wanted them to be really clear about how people were feeling. She attended a Responsive Classroom Training last week and there was excitement and energy. If anyone attended their graduation, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian both said two things, they were tired of people bad mouthing their school, and they love their school. Dr. Hairston noted she thinks what they have to do was take time to hear some voices that may not be so ready to get on Facebook and speak negatively; some of those people don't even live in the city and were commenting about their schools. She believed in looking at their staffing, and they did have people resign, but their expectations were now much higher. In the folder was the Corrective Action Plan; the Corrective Action Plan was significant, and it was a lot of work. At some point, they have to fight for the children. Northside Preschool, Grove Park, Forest Hills, Taylor, Park Avenue, Galileo and WW Moore were fully staffed. And the schools with greatest number of vacancies were Gibson and Schoolfield with four; the others have one or two vacancies. They fully expect energy this year that they have not seen before. With the passing of the referendum, there was belief out there for the children and wished everyone would believe in the children. The next time people go on and on about themselves, she has to ask what exactly were they doing for their children. She

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had a great meeting with Parks & Recreation and the Library director looking at things and activities they need to do for children outside of school; there were great things going on in the district. When they see the test scores and how they have increased, she cannot share those right now, but when she shared them with the board members, they were amazed. Their kids performed this year. Unfortunately, they cannot share that information until it was time to share it; Council would see a significant gain from the children. At some point, the community has to come around to the children, because she could not imagine as a child listening to the negativity about the schools, when the children were working so hard. Mayor Jones stated if there was anything Dr. Hairston needed Council to do with regard to morale, they will be glad to help.

Council Member Campbell noted on behalf of Council Member Whittle and himself, they were in a session with Dr. Hairston for the first time, saw the capital improvements and noted to Mayor Jones that he appreciated his words, because those were the sentiments of the community, where the schools were and where they were going. He has made it one of his priorities to do all that they can. Reverend Campbell noted he cannot accept that Danville was 132, and sees them being number one. If they put their minds together, they can make a difference in the community, and Dr. Hairston noted her agreement.

Council Member Vogler noted he felt somewhat bad that Dr. Hairston came into a situation that was in some cases, years of built up frustration and concerns and she was inheriting that. One of the things that really hurt the schools over the last ten years was a lack of continuity; he believed Dr. Hairston was the fifth superintendent over the last ten years he has been on Council, and there were children who have had a different principal each year they have been in school. It was incredibly hard to build success with that much turnover, and was hopeful that the beginning of that continuity was underway. Mr. Vogler stated he thought it was important that they address the issues and how to work to improve them, and at the same time, talk about the successes and the good things; he was glad to hear that the students were tired of hearing about the bad things. Mr. Vogler noted the thing that has bothered him over the years was that sometimes in the past, the school system was almost afraid to talk about the successes of some of the schools; that if they talk about them, it will make the other schools feel bad. They should want all their schools to be extraordinary and the ones that were getting recognized, that should be the model for the others. Mr. Vogler stated Council has three strategic goals, and he thinks the frustration on Council's side was that of the three, the only one they haven't really been able to see significant improvement with was the school system. It was the only one that they were not really directly involved with, yet citizens asked them, can't they do something. Mr. Vogler noted he was paraphrasing: protocol be damned, Council had to get more involved, and he was dedicated and committed to doing that. It was time for Council to stop worrying about stepping on toes because it wasn't the traditional approach; these weren't traditional times, these were important times for the children. Council needed to be arm in arm with the school system, the superintendent and school board, and stop worrying about procedure. Council was ready to get in the trenches, do what they needed to do to help and thought the children deserved nothing less. Mr. Vogler noted to Dr. Hairston to please don't think this was directed at her, but Council was ready to help.

Vice Mayor Miller noted when Council set their priorities, they had three and at the bottom of the pyramid was education; the City's economic development was vitally dependent on the school system. There were so many businesses that come to look, and individual families, and the first thing they do when they come here was how was the school system. In the past, they have lost prospects who didn't come because of the school system. It was vitally important they have a good school system. It was wonderful to see all these projects making the schools look so much better; it was a better learning atmosphere when the facilities look new and were well taken care of. Dr. Miller noted one thing people were complaining about were all the teachers that were

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leaving; Dr. Hairston showed Council a few months ago that it wasn't that many in relation to other years. Three or four years ago the number of teachers that left was a deluge; and the numbers he saw don't come close to that. Dr. Hairston noted they did have a significant migration out of the district, but they have been able to hire staff, and they feel good about the people they were hiring; they have hired Dr. Haynesworth to work on teacher retention. Speaking of principals, she had a great principal almost quit in July because of the negativity. What they have to do was to highlight the positive, provide support for children, highlight the children who were doing well, and talk about those things. If they want to keep good people, they need to show positivity about their work and support them. They need the parents in the schools supporting the teachers, it was not just the teacher's job to educate children; that would be what she would ask. Dr. Hairston noted in the folder was their five year strategic plan, their three year corrective action plan, and the school climate scores which tell a bit about how the teachers who may not speak up, were feeling.

Council Member Saunders noted in terms of consistency, ten years with five superintendents, there was no consistency there. People talk about the City's demographics in terms of high poverty, crime and single households; while the numbers may be true that does not mean that the children cannot learn. Mr. Saunders noted his question was how can they best work together; he does not know the last time City Council and School Board met to talk about improvement. Communication has to improve; there were issues that needed to be addressed. They have to ask the tough questions, it doesn't mean they were arrogant. His last question would have been, before he and Dr. Miller were replaced, what can they do together. He kept asking for a plan so they could come together and wouldn't have to debate about where the money was going to go because it had been discussed. Mr. Saunders noted he supported the students, and their address does not determine whether they can learn.

Mayor Jones noted he and Council Member Saunders attended an event with Senator Kaine and asked Mr. Saunders to elaborate on what was said. Mr. Saunders noted people were talking about Danville, about how Danville was going through a renaissance. They were the lowest in the state in terms of economic development, education, housing and others, but they have turned around. The population was growing because people were working together and listening, and he hears this all the time, from the two senators in Washington, from Governors, of Danville being an example because City Council works closely together. Mr. Saunders noted he was very proud of Council.

Mayor Jones asked Council Member Vogler to repeat something he said earlier, and Mr. Vogler stated, protocol be damned, Council was ready to help, to do whatever they had to do. Council Member Whittle questioned the Strategic Plan for 2021-2026, was that what Mr. Saunders had been looking for, and Dr. Hairston stated before she came to the district, she contacted DRF to fund a strategic plan. They spent about four months developing a plan involving the community, that plan was published and has been out in the community. Council Member Hood noted the retreat with everyone focused on education was exciting, to be able to observe what was said, putting education first. He was very optimistic of them working and progressing together, and putting in support. Council Member Buckner noted every Council Member was dedicated to the education of the children of the city of Danville and moving the Danville Public School system forward; Council was there for her and encouraged her to use the them.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Sean Barker, speaking on behalf of the Save the Vacs movement, 312 Marshall Terrace. Mr. Barker spoke about the relationship between healthcare, medical experimentation and social justice. Council Member Saunders questioned Mr. Barker about the

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vaccine for Covid, and asked if Mr. Barker was speaking in favor of it or against it; Mr. Barker noted he was speaking against it, would like to see it banned, and noted he does not believe they help Covid in any way.

Mayor Jones recognized Reverend George H. Lovelace, Danville, VA who noted the school system was not doing well, stating there were students reading on the 1st and 2nd grade level, in the 5th and 6th grade, talked about teachers quitting and what was Council doing to help them. Mayor Jones reminded Mr. Lovelace the School Board was a separate elected body, they give the same opportunities for citizens to speak as Council. Mayor suggested he go to the School Board, that should have been his first move.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the Budget Items on the Consent Agenda. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 12 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Campbell **moved** for approval of the Consent Agenda:

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on June 21, 2022 and Regular Work Session Minutes held on June 21, 2022. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Budget Appropriation – Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Tobacco Revitalization Funds for Construction of a Shell Building in the Cyber Park

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2022-07.04 Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for One Southern Virginia Program Grant #3360 in the Amount of \$1,000,000 from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and Appropriating the Same.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE US DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA TO CONDUCT HEARINGS AND TRIALS AT THE JAMES F. INGRAM JUSTICE CENTER

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07.04

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANVILLE AND THE

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, DANVILLE DIVISION, TO CONDUCT HEARINGS AND TRIALS AT THE JAMES F. INGRAM JUSTICE CENTER.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF VDOT SMART SCALE PROJECT APPLICATIONS

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A SMART SCALE APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROPOSED RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FROM PINEY FOREST ROAD TO AUDUBON DRIVE

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07.05

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENDORSING OF A SMART SCALE APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FROM PINEY FOREST ROAD TO AUDUBON DRIVE

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SMART SCALE APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FROM AUDUBON DRIVE TO ARNETT BOULEVARD

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07.06

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENDORSING OF A SMART SCALE APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FROM AUDUBON DRIVE TO ARNETT BOULEVARD.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A SMART SCALE APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROPOSED RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FROM ARNETT BOULEVARD TO MAIN STREET

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07.07

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENDORSING OF A SMART SCALE APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF RIVERSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS FROM ARNETT BOULEVARD TO MAIN STREET.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A SMART SCALE APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS ALONG PINEY FOREST ROAD FROM NOR DAN DRIVE TO BEAVERS MILL ROAD

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07.08

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENDORSING OF A SMART SCALE APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS ALONG PINEY FOREST ROAD FROM NOR DAN DRIVE TO BEAVERS MILL ROAD.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A SMART SCALE APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF PIEDMONT DRIVE PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07.09

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENDORSING OF A SMART SCALE APPLICATION BY THE DANVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF PIEDMONT DRIVE PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A SMART SCALE APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A CONNECTOR ROAD EXPANSION AT BERRY HILL MEGA SITE

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07.10

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENDORSING OF A SMART SCALE APPLICATION BY THE DANVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A CONNECTOR ROAD EXPANSION AT BERRY HILL MEGASITE

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

Mr. Saunders noted Council just approved several resolutions with regard to transportation, and his question was, did the City have funds allocated already for all these projects, or were these a procedure the City has to follow and the funds may come in over a period of time. Assistant Director of Public Works and Chief Engineer Brian Dunevant noted these were applications applying for funding; the City currently did not have funding for any of these projects.

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

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR A GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000

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Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Vice Mayor Miller, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-07.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FOR A DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES GRANT TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT IMAGINE SPORTS BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Council Member Buckner thanked the Danville Police Department for the invitation to the memorial for Officer Bonnie Jones that took place this morning; it was a group from Washington State that came to Danville, riding motorcycles the entire way. It was a very beautiful tribute to 608 fallen officers in 2021 and was very honored to be a part of it.

Council Member Campbell noted it was a great conversation this evening and believed every Council Member here believed that education was their top priority, and that it will take the entire community to come together. Smart Beginnings program was for Pre-K to third grade, Stayhood Empowerment Apprenticeship Program and Kenny Lewis' program of a Six Book Summer Reading program were programs already in place. These programs can make a big difference when schools start back up and keeping the children on track.

Council Member Hood noted they were in their third week of the ACE Academy and using poetry as lyrics to build a song about Danville, that will be the ending part of the program. They were watching youth that were able to express themselves creatively, speaking out loud in front of a group for the first time. Mr. Hood congratulated KaZelle & Co for their youth talk show which was very informative, and noted he supports that whole movement. Tomorrow, at OT Bonner Middle School from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. God's Final Call and Warning will have a free food giveaway; it was amazing the amount of items they give away to the entire community. DPS Parent and Student Community engagement event was today and he had the opportunity to attend.

Vice Mayor Miller noted he does not think any member of Council was happy with the school system's performance over the last several years, and they all want to work together to improve it. It was important to have good facilities, but there were many programs going on as well. The School Board has been working very hard to improve children's education; they want all children to get a good education. For years there have been children that have made it to the eighth grade and were reading at the second grade level; this was not unique to Danville. Council knows there were problems and they want to help, but the School Board was at the forefront. Dr. Miller recognized Charlene Pressley from Parks & Rec; there was a concert at the Community Market when an emergency occurred in the ladies' room, Ms. Pressley took charge and got the woman help; there were so many good people that work for the City and bend over backwards to help others. Dr. Miller also spoke about Joe Mantiply a relief pitcher for the Arizona Diamondbacks who made it to the All Star Team; he used to pitch for Tunstall.

Council Member Saunders noted people have the opportunity every two years to serve on the

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Danville School Board, it was an elected body; it was a very important job, and thanked all those that have served, were serving and will serve. Mr. Saunders asked all citizens to say encouraging words to the students and teachers, to be supportive of them, thanked Mr. Whittle for his questions about the school plans, and Mr. Vogler's statement about consistency. The City Council and School Board working together was important and does not remember the last time Council and School Board met jointly. Danville has some great students, they were the present and the future, economic development was thriving in the City and will continue to need trained, educated workers for those jobs. Mr. Saunders encouraged students to stay in school, learn all they can and asked citizens to encourage students, teachers, and everyone involved in moving the City forward.

Council Member Vogler thanked the Mayor for tonight's meeting noting he started the night with a prayer talking about the City's young people and Council all spoke about the young people. Council often gets asked what things were there for the young people to do, and there were many and some were free. The Dan River Church has a free indoor playground that was available to anyone, Parks & Rec does a number of programs throughout the year and had some free programs at the Library, a lot of people don't realize they were there. Youth football and Youth cheerleading sign ups were going on right now and encouraged citizens to sign their children up. Mr. Vogler noted this City Council was ready to get in the trenches to help the schools; protocol be damned, they were going to do whatever it takes to get it right.

Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Vogler for his prayer, praying for the youth was a very affirming and effective prayer. Today was the graduation for the police officers, they had nine candidates graduate and congratulated them. Mayor Jones recognized Tyrell Payne from the Danville School Board, noting that being on the school board was not easy. Dr. Hairston had talked about negativity; he wanted the school board members to be encouraged and thanked them for what they were doing for the students. Mayor Jones asked the Deputy City Manager to speak with the City Manager to bring back the Youth Council; he wanted to get more partners involved and have it grow. Also, what can Council do to help the morale of Danville Public Schools; if Council has to lead the way on telling about the great things teachers and staff were doing in the Danville Public Schools, they will do that. Mayor Jones noted there were appreciation days for Danville City staff and questioned if Danville Public Schools could partner with the City for appreciation days; anything they can do to let the school staff members know that Council was going to help change the morale in Danville Public Schools.

ADJOURNED: 8:30 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK