

July 16, 2019

The Second Regular July meeting of the Danville City Council was held on July 16, 2019, 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, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, Fred O. Shanks, III, Adam J. Tomer, Vice Mayor J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

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.

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was given by L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Jasmine Lipscomb who noted she has not been before Council for several years and wanted to see how things were going. Ms. Lipscomb noted there was a cosmetology club at DCC and a cosmetology cohort that opened in January; the day program will finish in December.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Shanks requested Item B on the Consent Agenda be pulled for discussion. Mr. Shanks noted this was a wonderful project serving Route 29 North and Route 58 East with Regional Bus Service. Mr. Shanks noted this was a Demonstration project, do they consider Demonstration funds to be temporary. Director of Transportation Marc Adelman noted they do, and were conditional upon receiving future local governments support, in this case from the counties; this project had funding for three years. Mr. Shanks stated when the funding stops after the third year, who will pick up the difference that will cover the employee cost. Mr. Adelman explained the employees that will work exclusively related to the grant fund would be informed when they are interviewed, it would be contingent upon funding from the counties to support the project in the future. If the counties do not want to support the operation after the three year period, then those positions would not be available. Mr. Shanks noted it was a great project and was glad Danville was able help the counties with it, but wanted to make sure Danville citizens are not caught funding something that may dry up in years to come. Right now, it would be up to the other localities to pick up funding if it were to stop from other places and Mr. Adelman noted that was correct.

Council Member Campbell questioned the shortage of drivers and Mr. Adelman stated, across the United States there was a driver shortage, it was a challenge having enough drivers to support the level of service the City would like to offer. Danville had to reduce their service for the Reserve a Ride operation in March, and in order to restore that level of service and also offer service to the counties, the City needs to hire eleven full time drivers. In response to Mr. Shanks, Mr. Adelman noted those full time positions do come with full City benefits. People can contact the Human Resources office at 799-5241 and make application on line. If they don't have a computer to make application, they can coordinate with Human Resources or Transit to help them out.

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

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 18, 2019. Draft copies of the Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Budget Appropriation – Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for State Demonstration Grant Funds Related to Regional Bus Service

An Ordinance entitled Ordinance No. 2019-07.01, Presented by its First Reading on July 2, 2019, Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for State Demonstration Grant Assistance Funds Related to the Provision of Regional Bus Service by the Danville Transit System to Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties in the Amount of \$183,275, Cash Fare Revenues in the Amount of \$24,192 and for the Local Share in the Amount of \$45,819 for a Total Appropriation of \$253,286 and Appropriating the Same.

Budget Appropriation – Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for State Department of Aviation Maintenance Grant Funds

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2019-07.02, presented by its First Reading on July 2, 2019, Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for State Department of Aviation Maintenance Grant Funds Related to the Maintenance of Certain Airport Properties in the Amount of \$100,000 and for the Local Share in the Amount of \$52,750 for a Total Appropriation of \$152,750 and Appropriating the Same.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING OF DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 6, 2019

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-07.03

CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING OF DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019 AND SCHEDULING A SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019.

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

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

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CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE CITY MANAGER'S CONTRACT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-07.04

AMENDING SECTION 4 ENTITLED "AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE" AND AMENDING SECTION 8 ENTITLED "VACATION AND SICK LEAVE" OF THE CITY MANAGER'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE CITY ATTORNEY'S CONTRACT

Vice Mayor Vogler **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-07.05

AMENDING SECTION 7 ENTITLED "VACATION AND SICK LEAVE BENEFITS" OF THE CITY ATTORNEY'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

ROLL CALL

Council Member Tomer gave a brief update on his health situation; he will be having surgery on August 6, 2019, will remain hospitalized for several days and will miss the August 8th meeting.

Vice Mayor Vogler noted Virginia was recently named the best state for doing business in America, which presents Danville and Council with an opportunity to do everything they can to make Danville the most business friendly city in the most business friendly state in America. Danville needs to do more to reach out to the small business owners, to hear from them, and get their ideas and concerns. Not only do things to make it easier for a small business to start in Danville, but not forget those that have been here for a long time, to see if there are opportunities to help them grow and thrive. Mr. Vogler stated he would like to have a

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conversation with the Director of Economic Development, his staff and Council about having a position in Economic Development that was solely focused on working with small businesses, a small business liaison. They would work with small businesses in the area, and provide resources and information to those who are looking to start a business.

Council Member Whittle noted the heat index will be over one hundred degrees and people needed to get under some cover. Danville Utilities has a peak power alert; electric customers should curtail usage from Tuesday through Friday, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Buckner noted citizens have seen the news about IKEA shutting down in December and would like to keep those employees in their thoughts and prayers. The City and the City Council are working hard to find someone to take over that building and hopefully there will be very little down time for the employees of IKEA. There was a lot of good news in the City, Rick Barker has announced several new ventures opening up downtown, the Lynn Street Market was opening and the Axe Throwing venue and the escape room was coming in the next month or two. Melissa Rose, from Union Church on Main Street, on July 26th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., was hosting a community block party with games, food and activities, and has invited organizations in the community to attend.

Council Member Campbell asked the City Manager about utility rates for churches, will the rates increase for smaller churches, and will there be weatherization programs to assist them. City Manager Ken Larking explained the Utility Commission discussed this and asked staff to reach out to all the churches in the community to make sure they are as efficient as possible. Every church had the opportunity to request someone from utilities to walk through their building, and offer advice on how to be more efficient; this was whether the rate was projected to go up or down. Some churches will experience decreases and some will experience increases depending on how efficient their use of power was. Staff was targeting the ones that were projected to have increases, to go to them first and help them mitigate that as much as possible. Mr. Shanks noted there was going to be a rate increase this year which was recommended by the consultant, but the Utility Commission delayed it so churches could be put on notice and staff could reach out to them to help mitigate some of the issues. There are about fifteen churches that could see a substantial increase, those churches need to do some work and are the first ones that are supposed to be contacted by staff. Mayor Jones requested a list of those fifteen churches that will receive those substantial increases and a time line of when they were contacted by the City.

Council Member Miller noted they will be thinking of Council Member Tomer on National Night Out. Dr. Miller noted there was an article in the paper of a woman who died after being bitten by a kissing bug on the Riverwalk Trail. This has caused some panic and people are afraid to go on the trail. Dr. Miller noted it was unlikely it was the Reduviidae Bug which was common in South America, but not here; its bite doesn't kill by causing immediate death, it takes months to years after the bite. The woman did have a reaction to some kind of insect; whatever bit her caused an allergic reaction and cardiac arrest. People should not fear walking on the Trail. Dr. Miller noted Litehouse had their opening, employing 160 workers, PRA will soon employ several hundred workers, Rick Barker was going to open two new restaurants downtown and Ed Walker will open two new boutique hotels, including one on Main Street; there are a lot of good things happening in Danville. Dr. Miller noted Angie Dickerson, from Hoops Don't Shoot was doing a great job working with the youth in Danville and the banquet Saturday was excellent; Mayor Jones did a great job with his speech.

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Mayor Jones thanked Jasmine Lipscomb for attending the meeting tonight. The Hoops Don't Shoot banquet Saturday was a great event. Mayor Jones noted everyone's thoughts and prayers will be with Mr. Tomer, and thanked everyone who has been praying for him and his family. Mayor Jones encouraged citizens to check on their neighbors during the high heat temperatures.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/ Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/ Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK