

July 6, 2021

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on July 6, 2021 at 8:17 p.m. in the 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, Vice Mayor 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 B. Reynolds, Jr., City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield Jr. and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi.

Mayor Alonzo L. Jones presided.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and second by Council Member Mayo, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on June 1, 2021 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

CONSIDERATION OF THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE WEST FORK SUBSTATION

Director of Utilities Jason Grey explained AEP was building a substation in that area as well as the City upgrading their substation, so they will need the property for this upgrade and expansion.

Council Members agreed to put this on a business agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Director of Economic Development Corrie Bobe noted the Governor issued a press release that the City was to receive \$500,000 from the Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund, or VBAF. This money will go towards the remediation of lead-based paint in the White Mill. Ms. Bobe explained several years ago, the City engaged a group called Cardno to seek out and apply for Brownfield grants on the City's behalf. They were the City's official Brownfield's consultant and their fees were based on the grants they secure.

Ms. Bobe stated at the August 5th business meeting, there will be an item on the agenda related to appropriating incentive funds for MEP which was announced several weeks ago; the City will be appropriating funds for the Commonwealth Opportunity Fund Loan and a Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund grant. There will be an additional item appropriating funds from the Tobacco Commission for Kyocera, an older grant that the City needs to appropriate the funds for.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Vogler questioned the status of the commercial revitalization zones project. Mr. Larking explained the intern from Longwood University has been working with the City for the past few months. She has done very efficient work in inventorying areas of the City, whether they were vacant or not vacant, their condition and a variety of other factors, and she worked with Economic Development to produce a report. They were now taking that data and looking at what they can do next as far as implementing some strategies to help some of the less desirable commercial areas. Ms. Bobe noted that report will be discussed at the August work session.

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CLOSED MEETING

At 8:22 p.m., Vice Mayor Miller **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 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, mixed use, and industrial projects considering locating within the City and region; and consultation with legal counsel employed or 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, 1950 as amended and more specifically to consider: Legal advice on possible Council action in response to newly adopted State Legislation.

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

Upon unanimous vote at 9:28 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor Miller **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 (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 Mayo and carried by the following vote:

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

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MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:29 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK