

June 16, 2020

The Second Regular June meeting of the Danville City Council was held on June 16, 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, 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: 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 Dr. Gary P. Miller.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones noted City Council received twelve comments submitted through the City's website and two telephone messages. Transcripts of all messages received were distributed to Council Members and would be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Mayor Jones recognized Marc Gignac, Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research who recommended City Council appoint Fred Shanks in the interim role to fill the vacancy that will be left with Adam Tomer's resignation.

Mayor Jones recognized Lewis Garnett, Danville, who noted on November 12, 2019 he sent a letter to the City to not violate his Constitutional rights or there would be a cost. The cost would be \$25,000 every time he had to go court for the violation of his Constitutional rights. Five times he went to Court, he sent the City a bill for \$128,120; the City sent the bill to their insurance company. He had contacted the City Manager who refuses to get back in touch with him. He believes a federal injunction should be in place for the violation of his rights. He asks the City Manager to get in touch with him, he has 48 hours before Mr. Garnett files a federal injunction.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the Budget Appropriation Ordinances. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on June 9, 2020. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 21, 2020. Draft copies had been provided prior to the meeting.

Budget Amendment – Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Department of Justice Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-06.01, presented by its First Reading on June 2, 2020, Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenue from the United States Department of Justice Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) in the Amount of \$110,452 for use in Preventing, Preparing for, and Responding to Coronavirus.

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Budget Amendment – Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for CARES Act Funds for Mass Transit

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-06.02, presented by its First Reading on June 2, 2020, Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenue from the CARES Act Funds in the Amount of \$2,299,878 to be used to cover Operating Expenditures for the Transportation Fund Appropriation.

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

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, THE CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS PLAN AND THE BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Approving the Budgets of the Various Funds of the City of Danville for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021

Council Member Tomer **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled, Resolution No. 2020-06.01, presented by its First Reading on June 2, 2020, Approving the Budgets of the Various Funds of the City of Danville for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.

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

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

Approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital and Special Projects Plan for the City of Danville, Virginia

Council Member Tomer **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled, Resolution No. 2020-06.02, presented by its First Reading on June 2, 2020, Approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital and Special Projects Plan for the City of Danville, Virginia.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Shanks 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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Budget Appropriation Ordinance For Fiscal Year 2021

Council Member Tomer **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-06.03, presented by its First Reading on June 6, 2020, Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021.

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

Council Member Shanks noted looking back at this item last year, the City had a very difficult budget season and the Mayor appointed him and Mr. Tomer to work out some of the details. Council did pass the Budget Appropriation Ordinance, and what were the compromises, they cut the proposed real estate tax increase in half, eliminated another tax and other budgetary decisions were made. There were concerns at the time that Council was not being as responsible as they should be. Council created and voted on a compromise, and as a result, those taxes didn't increase last year and Council was not increasing any taxes this year. Mr. Shanks stated he thought the City Manager and staff were very responsible in developing a budget this year; each budget was very important because they cascade into future budgets. Mayor Jones thanked the City staff for their hard work on the budget.

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

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

APPROVAL OF SELLING THE PINNACLES HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX TO NORTHBROOK ENERGY

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the sale of Pinnacles. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on June 8, 2020. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Reconsideration of Approving and Authorizing the City of Danville, Virginia to Sell the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Complex to Northbrook Energy for the Amount of \$8,200,000

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06.04

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA TO SELL THE PINNACLES HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX TO NORTHBROOK ENERGY FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$8,200,000

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

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted this motion needed to be made by someone who voted in opposition to this issue at the prior meeting.

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

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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06.04

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA TO SELL THE PINNACLES HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX TO NORTHBROOK ENERGY FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$8,200,000

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

Council Member Whittle noted he had had concerns and the City Manager put together a meeting with Council Member Shanks, Director of Utilities Jason Grey and an engineer to help him through the process. The upside to the project was the City was willing to retain ownership of the transmission lines, getting the benefit of no spikes in transmission costs. They also have the right to sell the renewable energy credits which will drive the cost down. By entering into the contract, the City would have certainty on their costs for the portion of the power, which will be below market for the near future and was protected to remain that way in the ongoing years. The company that was purchasing the facility has the ability and the efficiency to run it, and that changed his mind.

Dr. Miller noted the transmission lines were a big deal, 25% of a customer's bill for power comes from transmission lines; if the City owns the transmission lines, they won't raise the rates. The City has five aging substations, and to replace those was about \$3M each; he hopes some of the \$8.2M will be used to purchase a new substation. Also the City can pay down its power cost adjustment and possibly reduce power bills a small amount for the citizens.

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

VOTE: 7-2
AYE: Campbell, Jones, Miller, Saunders,
Shanks, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY: Buckner, Tomer (2)

Approving and Authorizing the City of Danville, Virginia to Enter into a Purchase Power Agreement and Interconnection Agreement with Northbrook Energy

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06.05

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE POWER AGREEMENT AND INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT WITH NORTHBROOK ENERGY FOR THE ENERGY, CAPACITY, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FROM THE PINNACLES HYDRO FACILITY.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Shanks 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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APPOINTMENTS

Vice Mayor Vogler **moved** for adoption of the following Appointment Resolutions:

Resolution No. 2020.06.06 - A Resolution Reappointing Stephen Daniel as a Member of the Airport Commission.

Resolution No. 2020.06.07 - A Resolution Appointing Robert Jiranek as a Member of the Airport Commission.

Resolution No. 2020.06.08 - A Resolution Appointing Toshia Fitzgerald as a Member of the Danville Community College Board.

Resolution No. 2020.06.09 - A Resolution Reappointing Tammy Warren as a Member of the Danville Community Policy and Management Team.

Resolution No. 2020.06.10 - A Resolution Reappointing Demetrius Crews as a Member of the Danville Community Policy and Management Team.

Resolution No. 2020.06.11 - A Resolution Reappointing Rufus Fuller as a Member of the Danville Pittsylvania Community Services Board.

Resolution No. 2020.06.12 - A Resolution Reappointing Helm Dobbins as a Member of the Danville Utility Commission.

Resolution No. 2020.06.13 - A Resolution Reappointing Vanessa Cain as a Member of the Danville Utility Commission.

Resolution No. 2020.06.14 - A Resolution Reappointing Kathy Andrews as a Member of the Social Services Advisory Board.

Resolution No. 2020.06.15 - A Resolution Reappointing Clarice Coleman as a Member of the Social Services Advisory Board.

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

AMENDING THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06.04

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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 Council Member Shanks and carried by the following vote:

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

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF EDEN FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES FOR BERRY HILL INDUSTRIAL PARK

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06.16

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF EDEN, NORTH CAROLINA (EDEN) TO PROVIDE WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES FOR THE BERRY HILL INDUSTRIAL PARK IN PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY.

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

Council Member Shanks noted this was a fantastic opportunity for regional cooperation working with Eden on this contract; it involved a lot of parties including the Virginia Tobacco Commission and the equivalent of that in North Carolina. Berry Hill Park was big, both for Virginia and North Carolina, the cooperation there was very important.

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

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

AMENDING DANVILLE CITY CODE DESIGNATING SEATS UNDER THE CARRINGTON PAVILION AS A NO SMOKING AREA

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06.05

AMENDING CHAPTER 25 ENTITLED "PARKS AND RECREATION" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, 1986, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING SECTION 23-13, ENTITLED "REGULATION OF SMOKING IN OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATERS OR CONCERT VENUES; AND CIVIL PENALTY."

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

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Mr. Tomer questioned how the City could expand this not just for the covered seats. People smoke all over the place during events, there was no designated area, why was the City limiting this just to the seats in front. Can the Ordinance be amended to include the Carrington Pavilion as a whole. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield explained the Ordinance was drafted to track the state law; state law does not allow the City to make it completely non smoking.

Mr. Tomer suggested having a smoking section over to the side. Mr. Saunders noted he would be in favor of asking staff to study this and come back with recommendations. The City has a lot of events at the Pavilion, people come from all over and the City raises a lot of money.

Mr. Whitfield stated he did not see in the Ordinance itself where it says it was just under the tent. The actual Ordinance itself just says, "the City shall install adequate signs within each outdoor amphitheater or concert venue that designates non-smoking areas within such amphitheater and concert venue." Mr. Tomer noted the staff recommendation and all the other documentation he has seen has specifically mentioned the seating area. Mr. Whitfield stated that was the Council Letter and that may be what they do. Virginia allows designation of non-smoking areas assuming that the rest of the area was a smoking area. What they were recommending was that Council designate under the tent as a non-smoking area because that will capture more of the smoke. That was something staff can look at and doesn't believe they necessarily have to amend the Ordinance itself, it might be something to talk to Parks & Rec about. Mr. Tomer stated Mr. Whitfield was saying the Ordinance itself was the park overall, and noted he was fine with that.

Dr. Miller noted he agreed with Mr. Tomer; there were people who were very sensitive to smoke, and the City needs to restrict where people can smoke. Mr. Shanks noted he agreed with designating a place in the facility to have a smoking area and designating under the tent to be non-smoking. When discussing under the tent, the Ordinance refers to all the park, that creates a little heartburn for him; it doesn't have a carve out. Mr. Whitfield explained the Council Letter speaks of under the tent but the Ordinance itself does not; what it said was by doing this, the City has to require some sections to be non-smoking. It was creating the authority to making sections non-smoking as opposed to smoking. Mr. Shanks noted the carve out area should be something the experts in Parks & Recreation choose. He doesn't want to eliminate or define the carve out tonight.

Mr. Vogler noted Mr. Whitfield mentioned with the state, it basically says the locality can carve out a section that was non-smoking, rather than smoking, was any percentage given and Mr. Whitfield stated it was left to the venue. Council Member Campbell questioned if it was mandatory by the state to do this and Mr. Whitfield noted the City had to adopt this Ordinance in order to be able to have the non-smoking sections. Mr. Tomer noted this gives the Parks & Recreation department the ability to put a smoking and non-smoking section at the Park. He trusts the City staff; he does not think they will go and carve out a tiny non-smoking that impacts the revenue. Unless the City passes this ordinance the staff will not have that option and the whole tent and the rest of the area will be smoking.

The **Motion** was 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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COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the Deputy City Manager, or City Clerk. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted he would like to thank Mr. Shanks and Mr. Tomer for their service. He has enjoyed working with both of them.

Mayor Jones read a Certificate of Recognition for Adam Tomer for his service on City Council. Mr. Tomer stated, "He was born and raised in Danville, graduated from GW High School and was part of this community. It was tough to walk away from something you have a hand in, just a small hand, in helping to recreate, as a part of the team, as part of a great City Council, a great City staff. When he came onto City Council in 2006, it looked a lot different than Danville looks right now; the City was riddled with unemployment, the River District didn't even exist back then. All the countless companies we have recruited and all the things we have done to try to help people here, I can't thank the citizens enough for giving me this opportunity. I ran as a 25, 26 year old and they believed in me back in 2006 and they believed in me again in 2010 and when I ran again two years ago. I will say that leaving this position, this area, was one of the hardest decisions of my life and this will always be my home. To the Danville citizens, thank you for this opportunity, to City Council, thank you for serving with me. Thank you to the ones that convinced me two years ago to get my butt off the couch and run again; thank you for that. These past two years have been wild, from the work we did on the casino, to further planning of the River District to other areas in the City we want to improve. Partnerships with our neighboring counties, we have done so much these past two years and really past 14 years overall. So, I say goodbye, but I'll be back, this is my home, this will always be my home. Thank you guys so much and I appreciate the honor, and I appreciate being able to serve with such a fine group of individuals."

Mayor Jones read a Certificate of Recognition to Fred Shanks. Mr. Shanks stated, "Thank you Mayor, members of City Council, City staff that have been so wonderful to work with over the last twelve years. And thank you to the citizens of Danville for supporting me through three elections. When my wife and I re-met a few years back, we began dating, City Council was not a thought on either of our minds. As it turned out, the whole time we have been married, I have been on City Council, so I owe a great deal of thanks to Kathy for putting up with all she puts up with as part of this job. Serving on City Council this past twelve years, and on the Planning Commission twelve years prior to that has been a tremendous, tremendous pleasure to me. This month has been like a typical month over the last few years: May 28th a meeting about the Pinnacles Hydro Plant, May 28th, the West Piedmont Planning District Executive Committee meeting and a full committee meeting later that night. June 2nd, City Council business meeting and work session, June 8th, RIFA meeting, for two to three hours once a month. June 9th, we had the presentation on the regional economic development strategic plan, of which I was a member on the steering committee; you were all there to hear about the plan, there is a lot to implement on that plan. Then June 16th there was another City Council business meeting and work session, June 22nd Danville Utility Commission, June 23rd will be the Staunton River RIFA, June 24th will be the Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting; so its been a pretty solid ride. I have been fairly involved and felt very passionate about many of those organizations, or all of them that I have been a part of. So I would like to say once again, thank you for this opportunity. I'd like to make a few comments at the end of this meeting about possible other opportunities. But for now, thank you very much."

Mayor Jones welcomed Council Member Elect Barry Mayo, newly elected school board member Tyrell Payne and school board member Ty'quan Graves.

Council Member Campbell noted to Mr. Tomer and Mr. Shanks, Council appreciates their years of service; they have served from their hearts. Rev. Campbell stated these are praying times within

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the nation and community. The atmosphere within the nation was very serious, but thinks Danville was a great community, a great City. He commends Chief of Police Booth, the way he has carried himself and the relationship with the community and citizens. Danville was blessed to have the peace they have even with the marches and protests about what was going on in the nation. Mr. Campbell noted he wanted everyone to continue to pray that God will bring peace for the nation that they move to the next level. Mr. Campbell noted all lives matter, not only black lives matter, but all lives matter. Changes must be done, and Council supports what needs to be done to make sure they move in the right direction.

Council Member Miller noted Council will miss Mr. Tomer and Mr. Shanks. Dr. Miller stated the City had eight overdoses, one death and requested an update from the City Attorney on the status of the opioid lawsuit. Last week for the first time Pittsylvania County edged ahead of Danville in COVID cases, other states have increased cases as citizens lessen their social distancing and masks. People need to be diligent and keep social distancing and wearing masks. There are also some common drugs in short supply and the country needs prayers.

Council Member Saunders thanked Mr. Tomer and Mr. Shanks for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Saunders thanked citizens for complying with orders coming down from the Federal, State and local governments, and thanked the City employees for what they do in the City, all the first responders, healthcare workers, Life Saving Crew and a special thanks to the Danville Police, for what they do everyday, and the Chief and the Sheriff's department, they appreciate them as well. Mr. Saunders encouraged citizens to stay safe, continue to reflect and continue to think about what all this means for mankind, and the future. The world has changed, not only regarding the pandemic, but other things as well. People can agree and disagree, and encouraged citizens to love and respect each other and remember they all belong to God.

Council Member Shanks noted working with the Mayor for a few years now, he realized the Mayor believes in putting together teams of people to work out issues. He and Mr. Tomer worked together off and on for twelve years, worked on the budget committee and Mr. Shanks had a great deal of respect for him, and has enjoyed working with him on other duties on City Council. He wished him the best of luck in his ventures and hopes everything turns out well for him. Mr. Shanks noted he would like to continue with the second half of his comments from the presentation.

"Needless to say, we all know we have been busy accomplishing things in economic development, things downtown, planning and putting together a fire station and putting together programs for our employees, the public safety employees. It has been a busy time and much has been accomplished but there is much left to do. As I stated in the RIFA meeting last week, being an active member of RIFA has been a true highlight of my time on City Council. I can't help but think back and recall the negotiations for the Hairston property, consideration of what other properties to purchase and then before we could close on the properties, during a closed session meeting with bond lawyers and lenders in 2008, the bond market fell apart. The financing for the property we had been working so hard to purchase became nearly impossible. Needless to say, and Sherman was in that closed session meeting that day, that devastated me; we were this close to closing and the bond market fell apart. The lenders we were working out the details with, during that meeting, pulled off the offer. Well, today, we are on the cusp of seeing the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill transformed into the regional game changer we have all envisioned. We have had so many other successes along the way, not the least of which were announced this past year: Gerfertec, Morgan Olsen, Dominion Energy, and Aerofarms, have committed investment just in those three of \$401.7M and a promise of well over 800 employees. Although I'm not a golfer, I can tell you that I see many things on the horizon that are like a golf ball sitting on a tee. My biggest regret is that I may not be around to take part in the putt. Having said all that, it is possible, it is possible, that tonight may not

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be my final farewell. With the help of five council members, I could possibly be right back in one of those positions in these seats next month. City Council could if they choose to on July 2nd, choose me or appoint me to serve as Councilman Tomer's interim replacement until an election can take place which would be in November. This would be consistent with the wishes of the voters in the May election that was held one week before Mr. Tomer's resignation letter was submitted. It would be consistent with what is in the City Charter and the City Code and it would be in compliance with the State code. If City Council were to choose to follow that route, it would ensure a seamless transition for the next five months and put the final decision of who will fill Mr. Tomer's final two years of his unexpired term in the hands of the citizens. I respectfully request that my fellow Council Members to make that appointment as soon after July 2nd as possible. So while I may be saying goodbye tonight, I hope next month to be here in one of these seats and say hello. Again, I really appreciate the opportunity to serve on City council, to serve the citizens of Danville and to work with City staff and other staff members of the several organizations on which I serve. I close with sincere thanks.

Council Member Tomer noted he wanted to thank everyone again; it was unfortunate that he will be unable to fulfill his term. Council has a decision to make on how that appointment process will work; he leaves that decision up to Council as it was their decision. He hopes when coming to that decision Council understand the items that were important to him. Whoever they appoint, make sure they appoint someone that shares his vision of fiscal responsibility and being a voice for all citizens, of caring about the future of Danville. Mr. Tomer thanked his family for all the support they gave him over the ten years he has been on Council, he could not have done it without his wife. Mr. Tomer thanked his father, he wouldn't be there and be the person he was without him. He was a very important person in his life and he pushed him in every campaign. Mr. Tomer thanked Council, best wishes in the future, keep doing the good things they have done, and listening to the people. Danville was in good hands.

Vice Mayor Vogler noted Mr. Tomer and Mr. Shanks have meant so much to this Council and the City, both were passionate about the things they believed in, always did their homework and he enjoyed working with them. Mr. Vogler reflected on the past two years, what a great time it was for the City. The things that were accomplished during the past two years included implementing paid family leave for City employees, the anti-tethering law which has been used as model for other localities across Virginia, the opening of a health clinic for City employees, reducing regulations on Airbnbs, made transportation services free on election day, expanded the usable space homebased businesses have, passed tax cuts on data centers, creation of the land bank, and some of the new businesses locating in Danville. Mr. Vogler noted he cannot say enough how much he respects each member of Council; this City has improved so much over the past decade, he was proud to serve on this Council.

Council Member Whittle noted Mr. Tomer was prepared when he joined Council and worked hard. When they disagreed on a vote he would ask Mr. Tomer why, he always had a good reason and Mr. Whittle respected that. He appreciated all the work Mr. Tomer has done, he has a wonderful family and Mr. Whittle will see him soon. Council Member Shanks had encouraged Mr. Whittle to run for Council. The process as he understood it, as Mr. Tomer resigned his position, Council has forty-five days or a judge will appoint if Council did not; the good thing was no one has told him that there was anybody in line for this appointment. Just to be clear, when they go into a meeting, and there were people there, he wants to give them a look, but Mr. Shanks was a qualified person for this appointment and he appreciates everything he has done. Mr. Whittle noted the Field of Honor was on Memorial Drive with 600 flags; the slogan this year was "Flying Freedom in the Face of Adversity." Citizens can get a flag from the Rotary, they were \$40.

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Council Member Buckner noted his agreement with everything that has been said, and thanked Mr. Tomer and Mr. Shanks for their many years of service. Mr. Buckner stated he looked forward to the future to see what it holds.

Mayor Jones noted Council received a letter from the School Board Chair, about the Superintendent resignation; the letter was about the great job the City Attorney and his Deputy City Attorney did during that process. Mayor Jones noted there were some tough decisions to make going forward, but there were new school board members and the Education Compact Committee which Mr. Saunders and Mr. Miller serve on, along with the Virginia Department of Education. Mr. Tomer and he had the pleasure of meeting Reverend Samuel Griffin; he had a radio show on WILA and he and Mr. Tomer were invited to that radio show when running for City Council. Reverend Griffin gave them a name, Ebony and Ivory; from those years, they worked together and it has been great over the years. Mayor Jones noted he watched Council Member Saunders when he was Mayor and how he handled things, then Mayor Gilstrap. One thing he refused to do that he watched Mayor Gilstrap do, was argue with Mr. Shanks when Mr. Shanks knew what he was talking about; Mr. Shanks studied his subjects. What makes this Council as strong as they were was the staff; the staff knows what each one was like, what they will be asking for. The City Manager and Deputy City Manager know the personalities, talents and gifts of each Council Member. Each Council Member brings something different to the table. Mayor Jones noted he appreciated the service of both Mr. Tomer and Mr. Shanks, and thanked Council and staff for all they do.

The meeting adjourned at: 8:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK