June 2, 2020

The Regular June meeting of the Danville City Council was held on June 2, 2020, at 7:01 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, and Vice Mayor J. Lee Vogler, Jr., (8). Madison J.R. Whittle was absent (1). Council Members attended the meeting via Zoom.

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. Staff members attended the meeting via Zoom.

Mayor Jones noted*, "I want to thank our citizens who are tuning in tonight to watch our City Council meeting. I want to cover the following items before we begin the meeting tonight. Notice for this meeting was posted on May 22, 2020 in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The Agenda was posted on the City's website on May 27, 2020. The agenda for tonight's meeting may be found online at www.mydanvilleagendas.info. This meeting is being broadcast live on both River City TV and the City's Facebook page. As you know, declarations of emergency have been declared by the President, Governor, and City Manager. Because of this State of Emergency and the need for social distancing, the Council is conducting this meeting electronically under the authority of the City's Continuity of Operations Ordinance. Public comments and comments for public hearings were solicited prior to the meeting, copies were provided to each Council member before the meeting, and will be included with the meeting minutes. Also, all Council members are attending tonight's meeting electronically via Zoom and I will ask them at any time they wish to make comments to raise their electronic hand to be recognized and to identify themselves when speaking. All votes will be by roll call and recorded in the minutes as usual."*

City Manager Ken Larking made the following statement: "I would like to take this moment to share my thoughts about the protests that are occurring in cities throughout the country. First, I want to say that I am shocked and saddened by what happened to George Floyd and the many others before him who experienced similar tragic ends to their lives. Second, I'd like to acknowledge that, while I have been very bothered by events like these in the past, I've never taken the necessary step to say publically what I am about to say and that is a failure on my part. In my role as City Manager, I have responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the City. This includes the delivery of public services and the hiring of employees tasked with performing those services. I have confidence that most, if not all, of our employees work here because they are public servants who want to do what's best for all the people of Danville. We have many opportunities to interact with the public and each other and it's important to me that these interactions are always handled professionally and respectfully. This is accomplished by creating and maintaining the right kind of culture, hiring good people, and providing training and coaching that encourages all of us to do our best.

I am proud of our City employees, of our Police Chief and the police officers who serve our community. When it came time for me to hire a new police chief, it was important to me to find someone who would be the right fit for Danville. Since beginning his role here, he has implemented a strong community policing program that builds trust and connections throughout the City. The time taken to make these connections has enabled police officers, Council Members, and community leaders to come together over the past few days in a peaceful way to show solidarity and support for those working to fight systemic racism. Thank you to those who have organized these demonstrations and have made sure that they remain peaceful.

In my role, it is simply not enough to know in my heart that racism exists and that it is bad. Obviously, I condemn it in all its forms. I have a special responsibility to ensure that this institution of City Government works to eliminate barriers of opportunity that disproportionally impact people of color. I am committed to do what I can to break down these inequities. I look forward to taking time to listen and to think about how we can work together to build a stronger community for everyone."

Mayor Jones shared his prayer for the City, the Country and all its citizens.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by J. Lee Vogler, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Jones read a Proclamation entitled, *Business Appreciation Week*, noting the week of June 8, 2020 through June 12, 2020, was Business Appreciation Week in the City of Danville.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

All Communications from Visitors are received by telephone or by submission of a form through the City of Danville website. City Clerk Susan DeMasi read one comment received by the City's Website from Gary Uitto, Danville, suggesting Fred Shanks replace Adam Tomer on Council. Three messages from Gordon Lyles were received by phone and played for Council Members. Transcripts of all messages received were distributed to Council Members and a copy was attached to these minutes.

AMENDING THE AGENDA

Mayor Jones noted there was an item to be added to the agenda. Council Member Buckner **moved** to add an item to the Agenda as New Business Item D. The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Vogler and carried by the following vote:

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

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on May 7, 2020, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

AMENDING DANVILLE CITY CODE TO MAINTAIN THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell and **second** by Council Member Miller, an Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-05.04, presented by its First Reading on May 21, 2020, Amending

and Reordaining Sections 37-27, 37-28 and 37-29 of the Danville City Code thereby Maintaining the Real Estate Tax of Eighty-Four (84) cents on every One Hundred Dollars of Assessed Value Effective July 1, 2020,

was **adopted** by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Vogler, and **second** by Council Member Saunders, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06.01

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

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CARES ACT FUNDS FOR MASS TRANSIT

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06.02

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, THE CSP 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

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Approving the Budgets of the Various Funds of the City of Danville. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on May 22, 2020.

City Manager Ken Larking stated he wanted to make a point of clarification, there was an error in the Ordinance that was attached to the Agenda. Number 18 in the Ordinance should exclude the language regarding the limitation on the amount of carryforward funds that the School System can carryforward. This was shared with Council Members via email this morning; he was making sure the public and Council were aware of that before they move forward with the First Reading. In the next agenda, the corrected attachment will be included.

No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Vogler and **second** by Council Member Campbell, a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06.01

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BUDGETS OF THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.

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

APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Vogler and **second** by Council Member Buckner, a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06.02

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

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

BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Vogler and **second** by Council Member Saunders, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06.03

BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE FORMALLY SELECTING CAESARS VIRGINIA LLC AS THE CITY'S PREFERRED CASINO GAMING OPERATOR

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020.06.03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, FORMALLY SELECTING CAESARS VIRGINIA, LLC AS THE CITY'S PREFERRED CASINO GAMING OPERATOR, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A NON-BINDING LETTER OF INTENT WITH CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT CORPORATION AS THE PARENT COMPANY OF CAESARS VIRGINIA, LLC, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT TO THE VIRGINIA LOTTERY THE CITY'S PREFERRED CASINO GAMING OPERATOR AND RELATED INFORMATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES CONSISTENT WITH THIS RESOLUTION.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Vogler and carried by the following vote:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Council Member Shanks noted regarding the Resolution City Council just passed, it was important that citizens recognize that it was passed by unanimous vote with one absentee who supported the Resolution as well. It was important they understand how much work has been done behind the scenes by City staff, consultants, lobbyists, local legislators and most importantly by the City Manager and what has been accomplished in the last two and half years. Mr. Shanks encouraged the citizens of the City of Danville to come out and support what comes out of this letter of intent.

Vice Mayor Vogler noted there was an historic cemetery in the City, Ms. Patricia White and some of her family, the Southside African American Cemetery Society, took him to the Flippen Family Cemetery on Mayfield Road. It was an eye opening education about the history of that site; there were at least two hundred people buried there, many of whom were slaves. He was interested in seeing if the City can have a role in giving that site the historic designation it deserves. Mr. Vogler noted there were several marches the day before, the one earlier in the afternoon, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Buckner and himself were there along with the City Manager and the Chief of Police. He listened to the young people who were speaking at this event; it was completely peaceful, very inspiring and made him think about what was happening across the Country. There was common decency and respect that people can have and it starts by listening to people. They need to start listening to people who have different life experiences than themselves; that was the beginning of the healing process. Mr. Vogler noted the City was looking at the historic bus wrap for next year for Black History Month; there will be a lot of great suggestions, but one of his would be Council Member Sherman Saunders. Mr. Saunders was one of the longest tenured Council members, has served

the City for a number of years and that was worth recognition.

Council Member Buckner noted his agreement with Vice Mayor Vogler, yesterday was extremely well done; it was a very peaceful day. A lot of things were said that needed to be said, a lot of good conversations were started, and had, by a lot of people. Mr. Buckner noted he sent Council an email on something people have reached out to him about - the stretch of road between Girard Street and Purnam Woods on Richmond Boulevard. Valerie Cook, the wife of Pastor Adam Cook of Union Church reached out to him stating there were no sidewalks for people to walk on. Mr. Buckner asked the City Manager to look into adding a sidewalk to that stretch of road.

Council Member Campbell commended the City Manager for the outstanding words he expressed to Council this evening from his position as City Manager; he stands with everything Mr. Larking said. They were all praying for the nation, the state and also for the city. Mr. Campbell commended all of the marches, the way they carried themselves peacefully and commended Chief Booth for the outstanding way he has been doing community policing and the relationships he has established within the community. It was disturbing to see what was going on in the nation and Danville was blessed that what was happening in the nation was not happening in Danville. It was not happening in Danville because of the relationships and the work they have done in the past. They must continue this path not only to make good relationships but also to establish more opportunity for all sections of the community.

Council Member Miller noted his agreement with Mr. Shanks on the amount of work and the people who worked to get Danville included in the casino bill, all the efforts from the lobbyists, City people, Council, the hours they spent. Dr. Miller noted Council Members went to Richmond over the last two years to lobby to make sure Danville stayed in the bill as one of the five cities that will be allowed to vote in a referendum this November. The citizens will decide if they want a casino and encouraged citizens to vote in November. In 2017, members of Council worked to a get a bike share program in Danville, with 25 bikes and five sites, thousands of rides each month, it was an outstanding success. It became a casualty of the COVID pandemic, not only in Danville, but in Roanoke, Suffolk and other cities across the country; Zagster was not doing well and may go out of business entirely. He has spoken with the Vice Mayor, they have worked before to get the bike share in Danville and will work to get another one. Dr. Miller noted nothing divides this country more than racism and citizens cannot and must not let that happen.

Mayor Jones noted he and the City Manager have been on several Zoom meetings with business leaders, Robert David and the people he has been talking to. Mayor Jones stated to the City Manager, let them start having conversations when talking to business leaders, on some ideas on race relations and how they can better that.

The meeting adjourned at: 7:44 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK