

May 7, 2020

The Regular May meeting of the Danville City Council was held on May 7, 2020, at 7:04 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). 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 April 22, 2020 in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The Agenda was posted on the City's website on April 30, 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."*

Mayor Jones noted the community lost another icon, Ms. Mary Farlow, one of the owners of Mary's Diner. Not only was Council praying for Ms. Farlow, but for citizens throughout the community.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Sherman M. Saunders.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

City Manager Ken Larking explained Make Danville Shine has been an event in the City of Danville for many years, and it was great that they could continue to do it this year despite all the challenges. Staff initially was worried that the City would not be able to have Make Danville Shine, but found they had the resources to hold it. Mr. Larking noted a lot of citizens were home doing spring cleaning, and reviewed the flyer for Clean Up Fix Up month for Make Danville Shine. Mr. Larking encouraged citizens to participate and thanked the staff of Public Works, Community Development and others throughout the City that worked to put this together. He appreciated the citizens taking the time to clean up and fix up their homes, and help beautify the City.

Mayor Jones noted it was Teacher Appreciation Week this week and to all those teachers, they sincerely appreciate all they do.

Mayor Jones read a Proclamation entitled, *National Hospital Week*, noting the week of May 10-16 was National Hospital Week and recognized the employees and medical staff of SOVAH Health Danville.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

All Communications from Visitors are received by telephone or by submission of a form through the City of Danville website. No submissions were received for the May 7, 2020 meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

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

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING - DENYING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 401 SOUTH RIDGE STREET FOR COMMERCIAL RECREATION (INDOOR)

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Denying a Special Use Permit at 401 South Ridge Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 23, 2020 and April 30, 2020. City Council did not receive any comments through their on line portal or telephone call in line, and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05.01

DENYING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PLSUP20190000386, FILED BY JUSTIN WILLIAMS & MICHELLE ADKINS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR COMMERCIAL RECREATION (INDOOR) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.K, SECTION C, ITEM 5 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA 1986, AS AMENDED, AT 401 SOUTH RIDGE STREET, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS GRID 2713, BLOCK 021, PARCEL 000008 OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ZONING DISTRICT MAP.

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

Council Member Shanks noted the General Assembly has studied these gaming facilities and during the veto session they extended it for one year. Council had asked the Planning Commission to come up with some regulations for this type of use, and assumed that was put off because the General Assembly was studying this, and it looked like they were going to outlaw the machines. Ken Gillie, Director of Community Development noted that was true, and the Planning Commission has not developed guidelines. The Legislation, as passed, was for one year only, it requires them to be an ABC Licensed facility and the City was waiting for guidance from the ABC before they proceed with guidance on the City's end. They do not want to create a definition until the ABC tells them exactly how they are going to handle this situation. Mr. Shanks noted, assuming it was impacted by the ABC regulations, the desire to have a 24 hour facility would be disadvantageous and Mr. Gillie stated it would and also unless it was already a licensed ABC facility that was operating 24 hours, it would not be allowed under the approved legislation.

Council Member Whittle questioned what happened after this year, and Mr. Gillie explained the legislation was good for one year, until July 2021. At that point, the Governor has said he will not approve the extension, so any bill that would come to him to allow it, he would not sign. It was

May 7, 2020

overwhelmingly denied by both houses, they have only done this to try to plug the COVID funding gap they will have.

Vice Mayor Vogler noted the City needed clarity on this and to make sure they were sending a clear message on what their intentions were to the business owners who were thinking about doing this. Mr. Gillie noted the legislation requires that they be an ABC licensed facility; some of the requests the City had were for these facilities only, not ABC licensed. They already had to have their ABC license by June 30th, which they won't be able to obtain at this point. Anyone who has applied to the City and did not already have an ABC license will be told they will not comply under the regulations and shouldn't go forward. Those ABC licensed facilities were waiting for guidance from the ABC board; once staff has that guidance, they will sit down with all the applicants who have applied, hopefully with the help of the ABC agent, and explain the process from there.

Mr. Whittle noted the ones that were grandfathered, were they going to fall under what the Governor was going to do and Mr. Gillie noted the only one the City had that had a permit to operate would have been Kickback Jacks. The ABC will have to establish who and how many can operate; the way the legislation reads was they had to be in operation under an ABC licensed facility by a certain date. The City didn't have a grandfathering issue, this will not allow someone to continue to operate past a certain point because they can't say they were in operation before this. The machines in Kickback Jacks would fall under the same regulations because they are an ABC licensed facility.

Mr. Shanks noted the ABC license was one that involves onsite sales and Mr. Gillie stated it says, ABC retail licensed facility. Mr. Shanks noted it could be an offsite facility and Mr. Gillie explained that was the guidance they were looking for; the legislation says, available for play in ABC retail licenses and truck stops on June 30, 2020. Dr. Miller noted he was very disappointed with the Governor's action and thinks what the legislature did initially was appropriate. Even if they don't want to serve liquor they still have to get an ABC approval to have gaming in their establishments. Mr. Gillie explained they would have had to have been an ABC licensed facility for this to count, and have that ABC license by June 30th which facilities are not going to obtain; they either have one by now or they are not going to be able to. From his understanding, the ABC was not issuing new licenses because they cannot go out and do their field inspections and everything else necessary because of social distancing.

Mr. Saunders questioned if he was correct that the motion he made was not an arbitrary decision by the City staff or the Planning Commission; the bottom line was, the City was following State guidelines and needed more clarity from them before they can do anything and Mr. Gillie noted he was correct. They were waiting for guidance, and the cases that were remanded back to the Planning Commission, he would like to have ABC guidance to tell those people which way to go. Council Member Campbell questioned with respect to the ABC license does this involve all people with convenience marts and Mr. Gillie stated it would apply to anyone who has an ABC license. Convenience markets are licensed through the ABC board if they sell beer and other things off premise. Mr. Campbell stated if they have one now would they continue with one or two machines and Mr. Gillie noted that has not been decided by the ABC board yet.

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

May 7, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING - DENYING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 2980 WEST MAIN STREET FOR COMMERCIAL RECREATION (INDOOR)

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Denying a Special Use Permit at 2980 West Main Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 23, 2020 and April 30, 2020. City Council did not receive any comments through their on line portal or telephone call in line, and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05.02

DENYING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PLSUP202000004, FILED BY SHAZAD TAHSEEN ON BEHALF OF AANT INC, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR COMMERCIAL RECREATION (INDOOR) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.M, SECTION C, ITEM 4 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA 1986, AS AMENDED AT 2980 WEST MAIN STREET, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS GRID 0617, BLOCK 007, PARCEL 0000015 OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ZONING DISTRICT MAP.

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

PUBLIC HEARING - GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 1041 PINEY FOREST ROAD

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Granting a Special Use Permit at 1041 Piney Forest Road. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 23, 2020 and April 30, 2020. City Council did not receive any comments through their on line portal or telephone call in line, and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-05.01

GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF YARD REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.M; SECTION C, ITEM 21 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, AT 1041 PINEY FOREST ROAD.

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

May 7, 2020

**PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021
DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET**

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Approval of the Fiscal Year 2021 Danville Public Schools Budget. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 27, 2020 and May 4, 2020. City Council did not receive any comments through their on line portal or telephone call in line, and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05.03

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE SCHOOL BOARD 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.

Vice Mayor Vogler questioned if anyone was available from Danville Public Schools to answer questions, and Mr. Whitfield noted the School Board was currently having their meeting. Mr. Vogler noted he had some questions and would like to get information when the opportunity presents itself. Mayor Jones noted he and the City Manager have been in contact with the Chair and the Superintendent and they will get information to Council.

Mr. Shanks noted the School Board passed their budget earlier tonight, will Council have any meetings as he feels very uninformed with a lot of this year's budget, including the School Board. Mayor Jones noted it would be up to Council, if they felt they should, they could do a virtual meeting. Mr. Shanks noted he was not sure that was necessary, but maybe some background as he feels uninformed about their budget. Mayor Jones noted both Council Member Saunders and Miller have been assigned to work with the Education Compact Committee, would that suffice if they asked them to get information back to Council.

Mr. Shanks questioned if anyone knew if they were asking for an increase in City funding. Mr. Larking noted they did request an increase. He has been working with the Superintendent for the past several months, and informed him that the City's budget would accommodate a \$150,000 increase to their budget from the current year, and believes that was what was adopted by the school board this evening. Mayor Jones noted what was asked for in their draft budget, he and the City Manager explained they could not give to them, because they did not want to increase any taxes. The early versions of the budget for the school board did not have up to date information from the state and federal government on the funding they were going to receive; as they got further along in the budget process, their needs were clearer to the City. He was informed the \$150,000 increase will meet their needs for next year. Mr. Shanks asked if that \$150,000 was supposed to cover raises, do they know the intended use of the additional \$150,000 and Mr. Larking stated as originally proposed, it was in place to help cover some raises for staff. Mr. Shanks noted he feels Council owes the citizens of Danville the opportunity to know what that was to be used for and would like to hear back from someone with more information on the budget. Dr. Miller noted he thought the original proposal was several million dollars more and commended the City Manager for getting that down. They had some things in their budget that he thought were perhaps unreachable. They have pared down their initial requests considerably, however, he has not seen what they passed tonight. Council needs to see it before they formally approve

May 7, 2020

it. Vice Mayor Vogler noted he would like to know what the \$150,000 was for so they can inform the citizens.

Mr. Saunders noted his agreement with Mr. Shanks and Dr. Miller; as a member of that committee, they haven't met in a few weeks, but at the last meeting they talked about the budget and the resolution. He has not seen any information since they had the Compact meeting. He was glad to see this was the First Reading and Council was not taking final action. Mr. Saunders asked before Final Adoption, that Council receive a copy of that budget to see what was being proposed, and to look at the Resolution with regard to what the City and the School Board would like to do to further improve the school system. Mr. Shanks noted in the last three or four years it seems there have been some high paying support personnel added downtown, that was one of his concerns, he would like to know what positions were being added, whether the money was going to step raises or something else. Mr. Campbell noted accountability was very important; there were problems within the school system with accreditation and agreed with all the statements, that Council try to be thorough and make sure they are moving in the right direction.

APPROVING A MORAL OBLIGATION WITH AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK FOR LITEHOUSE FOODS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05.04

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MORAL OBLIGATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AND AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

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

Mr. Shanks noted he wanted to go on record in support of this Moral Obligation and believes it was a very good company. They have a unique product and a good market share; he was comfortable with increasing the ability for the refrigerated storage area and feels it was good investment. Vice Mayor Vogler noted his agreement with Mr. Shanks; Lite House was a fantastic company and the City was very fortunate to have them here in Danville. Their products can be found in grocery stores throughout America; it was a great thing for Danville. Mr. Buckner noted his agreement; this was huge opportunity for the region, for the company to expand and for Danville to be a part of it was an honor.

Mr. Whittle noted he understood it was a great company; it was still the taxpayer backstopping a \$15M loan, those were his concerns. He was hoping that Danville would be able to move away from having to backstop these big loans. Since these companies they were bringing in were so good, they should be able to pay their own way. Mr. Tomer noted his agreement with Mr. Whittle, this was probably the largest Moral Obligation loan that they have done in his ten years on Council. It was a great project, and he does not think American National Bank needs the City to backstop them; they were a big bank with plenty of assets, they should be able to underwrite without putting the taxpayers on the hook. While he supports the project, he does not support the Moral Obligation for the taxpayers; he will be voting against it.

Mr. Vogler asked Mr. Larking to give an explanation why the City was doing this. Mr. Larking explained the company was located in an IDA owned building. In order to do the upgrades to the building, the City had to get the Moral Obligation from City Council. There was a ten year lease

May 7, 2020

for this building with Litehouse and they have the option to purchase it after the lease term. Staff feels very confident with the ten year lease on this loan which was amortized over twenty years; by the time they are finished with the ten year lease, a good portion of the cost of the building would be paid for. Should there be any issue, the IDA would own a building that could be easily marketed to other companies. The City has had a lot of success getting companies into buildings in the community because of the good work of the Economic Development office and the support of City Council. Staff feels it was a low risk venture. If the building was owned by the company, then they should get their own loan and they wouldn't need a Moral Obligation from the City. Dr. Miller noted he liked this because it was a nationally known company with a large market; at the end of the day, if things didn't work out, the City would end up owning the building which was very marketable and very valuable in the food processing and storage business. Dr. Miller noted he believed the risk was small.

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

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

**BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020
BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR A GRANT FOR THE VICTIM WITNESS
PROGRAM**

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Saunders and **second** by Council Member Shanks, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-05.02

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR A VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$177,083 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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 A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM PROGRAM
GRANT**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-05.03

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,635 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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

May 7, 2020

CANCELING THE REGULAR MAY 19, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05.05

CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 AND SCHEDULING A SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020.

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

City Manager Ken Larking noted earlier this afternoon, Council probably received an email regarding an Economic Development announcement. The Staunton River Regional Industrial Facility Authority will be having an economic development announcement tomorrow, May 8th at 1:00 p.m. in the Town of Hurt. There are three members of City Council who are on SR RIFA, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Shanks and Mr. Vogler. It was great news for the Town of Hurt, for Pittsylvania County, and the region. The region, despite the issues related to the Corona Virus, was still an attractive region to do business and they were seeing a lot of activity of people wanting to be here.

Mr. Larking noted, the City has been working hard to make sure they were as prepared as possible dealing with the current pandemic. They have been proactive with their response serving the employees to make sure their needs are met, so they have the proper equipment to serve the community and essential workers. They have tried to be helpful to the citizenry as they have dealt with challenging times by changing some policies and relaxing items such as the utility bills and cut offs, and that sort of thing. They have been very innovative through the Economic Development department in supporting small businesses, and have done a lot of things as a City to help support the community. A few weeks ago, he had a conversation with Dr. Spillman, the local health director and asked him, at some point in the future, Virginia was going to open up for people to start going back to work, and wanted to know from him what can the City do to best prepare itself so that when it does happen, they do it as safely and as quickly as possible. Earlier this week, he and the Mayor, and several other leaders in the community, met and spoke about the activity being done to be ready. They are working on a plan to share with the community when it was time to open so they do it in the best way possible. Part of the process will involve a marketing campaign to promote what people, businesses, everyone in the community can do to make sure they were able to safely recover from this corona virus issue. He has been impressed to see people wearing masks; it was an important part of how to keep each other safe. When people wear masks, they do it for each other. If citizens can keep the transmission rate of the virus down, then the community will be successful going through this pandemic in as safe a way as possible. Mr. Larking noted he was imploring the community to be as vigilant as they could until there was a vaccine, wear a mask in public, separate themselves by six feet, wash hands frequently or hand sanitize; do all the things that Council has talked about over the last few weeks. People have to keep it up for the next several weeks, and several months probably. Mr. Larking shared the marketing campaign called, *Standing*

May 7, 2020

Together Six Feet Apart, reviewed the partners involved in this campaign and encouraged citizens to share this information.

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

Vice Mayor Vogler reminded citizens it was Make Danville Shine month and commended City employees and staff for making this happen. The Farmer's Market at the Community Market will be opening up soon, they are putting precautions in place to make sure that was still able to happen. Mr. Vogler reminded citizens that on May 19, 2020 were School Board and City Council elections and encouraged citizens to vote. They can either vote on the 19th or prior to that, at the City Registrar's office; it was not too late to get a mail in ballot by calling 799-6560. Mr. Vogler noted tomorrow they will have the Economic Development announcement at 1:00 p.m. and encouraged citizens to tune in and see what that was. Mr. Vogler thanked all the Council Members for what each one does, especially during this time, they have stepped up to be great leaders for the City. Mr. Vogler thanked the Mayor for his steadfast leadership and the City Manager for the work he does to make sure the City operates day in and day out; he has done an amazing job. Mr. Vogler thanked the citizens for stepping up with safety precautions and coming together; these are unprecedented times and he was very proud of the City. Mr. Vogler thanked all the small business owners, those who have been able to stay open during this and those who will be opening back in the weeks ahead, and asked the citizens to support them.

Council Member Whittle thanked all the staff for the work they were doing. Mr. Whittle reminded citizens there was an election coming up, and encouraged them to stay safe, they will all come through this.

Council Member Buckner noted he wanted to thank all the teachers and nurses, and asked citizens to keep them in their thoughts and prayers; the past few weeks have been tough on them.

Council Member Campbell commended the City of Danville, the citizens practicing social distancing in the stores and how they are moving forward. There were citizens that were experiencing difficult times, but things will get better. Mr. Campbell commended the City Manager for the efficiency and concern he has shown for the City. He was sad to hear today, a great musician, Eric Adams has passed away; he was praying for his family during their bereavement. Make Danville Shine was this month and he encouraged citizens to continue to make things look better.

Council Member Miller noted Council passed a Resolution at the last meeting on recommendations for stores and believes he has noticed a difference, they are putting up six foot signs, employees are wearing masks and cleaning the grocery carts between customers. Many stores have implemented some of the suggestions from the Resolution and he appreciates that. Dr. Miller noted the City Manager was doing a great job in preparing the City as things were relaxed, but there were still many cases of COVID 19 in the community. This week started Nurses' Week, and he had the utmost admiration for the nurses taking care of their patients and ICU nurses taking care of COVID patients. Dr. Miller stated if you know a nurse, thank him or her.

Council Member Saunders thanked Mayor Jones for his leadership, and noted the City has first responders out there everyday who do not think twice about going to help those in need. A special thanks to all first responders, police, public service workers, nurses, fire fighters, anybody who goes to the call when the emergency has been expressed. With regard to Mary's Diner, an icon, Ms. Elene Farlow, it was very sad to hear of her passing. Council thanked her and her family for the years she served so many people and appreciated her work; prayers to her and her family. Special thanks to the citizens for their cooperation, the City was going through some very tough times right

May 7, 2020

now, people were looking for direction and thinks the City was doing very well and sought guidance on how it could do things better. Council knows a lot of businesses have been suffering and there may be questions on will some businesses resurface when this was over; he appreciates them for their understanding and asked that citizens pray for them and support them.

Council Member Shanks sent out his best wishes and appreciation to all the teachers, it was National Education Week; their hard work was appreciated in the community. In April, Galileo School was ranked as 193 out of 24,000 high schools in the country, and in Virginia was ranked number 45 by US News and World Report. Congratulations to the faculty and staff and especially the students; Galileo has been one of the top high schools in the country for several years. There was an article in the Star Tribune about this, but has not heard anything from the Register & Bee, the School Board or Superintendent, about this fantastic news. Mr. Shanks noted tomorrow there would be an exciting business announcement in Hurt, and feels there will be some exciting times during the next several months. Danville was a participant in SR RIFA, this was a great opportunity for regional cooperation and it will pay big dividends with the announcement tomorrow. Mr. Shanks thanked the City Manager and all City employees who work their way through this pandemic, adjusting work schedules and locations, doing everything they can for the community.

Mayor Jones thanked the Council Members for being leaders during this pandemic; there was a lot of panic, questions and calls coming to Council and City Hall. These were unprecedented times. They were getting information from the President and the Governor; the City and City staff, City Manager, Council, School Board and Superintendent, everyone was trying to figure out what to do. To the citizens of Danville and the region, who come in and out of the City, who were listening and following the instructions, Council wanted to say thank you. This was serious; the City still had workers out in the field each day, as well as the hospital, the colleges, banks, businesses, schools and others. There were businesses who did not know how they were going to come out of this, people don't talk about the beauty shops and barbershops and other small businesses. On behalf of Council and City Staff, he wanted to say thank you to everyone, together they will get through this. Mayor Jones encouraged citizens to vote on May 19th and encouraged citizens to fill out their census forms.

The meeting adjourned at: 8:28 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK