

May 3, 2022

The Regular May meeting of the Danville City Council was held on May 3, 2022, 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., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Update on Caesars Virginia

By: Robert Livingston

Mr. Livingston noted that Whiting-Turner has been selected as the general contractor for the casino. Any contractor or vendor interested in contacting Whiting-Turner can email them at caesersva@whiting-turner.com. As part of the development agreement, a fully equipped ladder truck has been purchased for the Danville Fire Department, discussions have started on purchasing a new EMS vehicle for the Danville Life Saving Crew, and a commitment has been made to Averett University to support their hospitality management curriculum. Other forms of support include sponsorships to the Goodyear, Boys and Girls Club Golf Tournament and the Excellence in Virginia Governor Awards; additional donations were made to organizations doing important work within the community. In April, they welcomed a group including representatives from Averett, DCC, the City of Danville, City Council, the school system and other organizations to the Harrah's Cherokee property to experience firsthand how operations worked, and hear directly from their Cherokee team what skills and training were needed for a property to operate at a high level. The timeline for the Danville Caesars project has been pushed back due to supply chain issues, material costs, labor issues, and some site-specific issues. These factors make the December 1, 2023 anticipated date unrealistic, and Mr. Livingston noted they were confident that the doors will open in 2024. The City will begin receiving subsidy payments from Caesars before the resort opens based on a provision in the development agreement. Currently, citizens can see continued demolition of the finishing plant, Whiting-Turner laying groundwork to begin building the hotel, and they will continue to design the interior of the resort. Preparations of the high bay warehouse will also begin, to store items that will be needed. An official groundbreaking ceremony will be held in late May or early June. The vast majority of hiring will be done several months before the resort opens, therefore, until they have a definitive opening date they cannot say when hiring will take place. Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Livingston for the update.

Council Member Campbell asked to go to the podium and stated he had met with Mr. Livingston and learned more about the opportunities in the City with Caesars. From day one he had expressed to everyone his objectives. He kept saying that this was a golden opportunity, that prosperity can be shared in all areas of the community. He stood on two points, contracts and unions; he stood on what he saw was important for the community. He met with Mr. Livingston, Mr. Gould and some of the union people. Tonight, he would like briefly for the union leaders to

May 3, 2022

come forward, express who they were, and what they want to happen in the community. He believes that they should be unified; they have a great city, but they could have a better city.

Mayor Jones recognized the following:

Vincent Brown – 709 Industrial Avenue, SPM Empowerment and Skills.

Tim Kelly - District Council 53 representing the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.

Jeremy Jeffreys - with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Luke Bayridge - the Carpenters Union, who noted there were lawsuits against Whiting-Turner.

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted those were open legal issues that could not be discussed. Mayor Jones asked Mr. Livingston if he would speak with these individuals and Mr. Livingston stated that they had previously met with them however, he would be happy to meet with them now as well.

Recognition: Chief Scott Booth, Danville Police Department

By: Ken Larking, City Manager

Mr. Larking noted it was his pleasure last week to join with several members of the community and City Council to go to Richmond to celebrate Chief Scott Booth, who received the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government, Excellence in Virginia Government Award. Mr. Larking played a video that was shown at the event, noting it captured very well why the Chief and the Police Department received this award. Mr. Larking stated he was proud of the Chief and all the work he has done to help drive down crime in the community, to help implement community policing, doing an outstanding job, resulting in more trust in the community. Mr. Larking invited Chief Booth and his team to the podium. Chief Booth stated, "It's not about me;" his name was on the award but he had a great staff, Mayor, City Manager and Deputy City Manager, that came together to create what was going on in the community. They have been able to accomplish a lot regarding crime reduction, building trust, starting community policing, and seeing the police and the community work together. Chief Booth thanked Council for their recognition. Council Members congratulated Chief Booth on the award, noting the Danville Police Department was the best in the world. The ceremony in Richmond was a great event and Danville was well represented.

Update on the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research

By: Dr. Betty Jo Foster, Interim President

Dr. Betty Jo Foster gave an update noting the Institute opened in 2004, funded by the Tobacco Commission and federal, state and local dollars, and their mission was to be a catalyst for economic transformation. Dr. Foster reviewed the facility and noted the Center for Manufacturing Advancement building was being constructed and should be opened by October. Dr. Foster reviewed the different programs including Advanced Learning, Applied Research, Advanced Manufacturing, Economic Development and Conference Services. Dr. Foster announced that Telly Tucker will be the new President of the Institute, thanked Council for supporting the Institute and invited everyone to come out and visit.

Update on the Pittsylvania County Community Action

By: Everlena Ross

Mrs. Ross gave Council an update on Pittsylvania County Community Action reviewing the various programs, and their mission. Mrs. Ross thanked everyone for their donations and support, and explained that May was National Community Action Month, and reviewed the

May 3, 2022

weatherization program, tax, rental assistance, utility assistance, and seniors' programs, as well as future goals including Project Discovery with the Danville City Schools. On Saturday, May 14th, the Serve 365 Resource Fair will be held and information about all programs will be available. The first Mutt Strutt will be a PCCA fundraiser day held Saturday, May 21 from 9am to 12pm at Chatham High School. Mayor Jones thanked Mrs. Ross and her board for all they do.

Update on the Southern Area Agency on Aging

By: Andre Bethea and Teresa Fontaine

Teresa Fontaine, Executive Director of SAAA and Andre Bethea, one of the Board Members gave an update to Council. Ms. Fontaine stated the agency provided services related to helping older individuals maintain their independence for as long as possible, with programs such as Meals on Wheels, Case Management Services, a home repair program and personal care services. Senior Cool Care was a program to purchase air conditioners and fans for individuals 60 and over, who may not have the ability to cool their home and Senior Café was a congregate meals program providing meals to individuals sixty and over in community locations throughout the service area. Senior Transportation was available to those sixty and older who lack the means and the ability to transport themselves. Ms. Fontaine provided their toll-free number 1-800-468-4571 and local number 276-632-6442; anyone can contact the agency and request help for an older individual. Mayor Jones thanked Mrs. Fontaine for all that the agency was doing and for their presentation.

Proclamation: Make Danville Shine

Presented to: Ken Gillie and Chasta White, City of Danville

Director of Community Development Ken Gillie noted this was the tenth year they have established May as the Clean Up, Fix Up, Make Danville Shine month. During that time, Public Works will waive some bulk collection fees, and do larger pickups including home improvement debris. The kickoff will be held Saturday, May 7th from 8am to 12pm at the Community Market. Mayor Jones thanked them for all the work they do.

Mayor Jones asked that Patrick Dewberry, the Area Manager working with the Best Western, the Quality Inn, and the Hampton Inn to come to the podium. Mr. Dewberry thanked Council and noted one of their goals was to make sure they were reaching out to the community. Small efforts have been put into place and they would like to be part of the initiative of giving out fans. Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Dewberry and commended him on everything that has been done.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Patricia White, President of the Southside African American Cemetery Preservation Society who spoke about concerns regarding the updated plans for Baker Street where the Flippen Cemetery was located. Ms. White asked if it would be possible for the City to pave the road. Mayor Jones directed her to the City Manager and Deputy City Manager, and asked her to take a card from the podium; someone would contact her regarding her questions.

Mayor Jones recognized Pastor Rufus Fuller of East New Hope Baptist Church who spoke about concerns related to the growing of Danville. Mr. Livingston stated that Whiting-Turner was the general contractor, they will be hiring everyone else and that was a concern. The other concern was that when Caesars was up and running, what will be the criteria for minority businesses to be inside. Mayor Jones noted that the City Manager would put him in contact with Steven Gould so that his questions can be answered.

May 3, 2022

Mayor Jones recognized James Dalton who stated he lived in Dry Fork and has owned a business in the City for thirty-seven years. He spoke about the proposed changes to Piney Forest Road, and thinks that measures like rumble strips would be more effective than a concrete divider. Mayor Jones asked that he take a card and contact the City Manager. Council Member Vogler noted this was still in the feedback-discussion part of the planning, and Vice Mayor Miller noted that it was an information session; there was a website to go on to make comments and suggestions.

Mayor Jones recognized Wayne Alan, North Main Theatre, who thanked Council Member Hood for bringing a great Michael Jackson tribute show to the theatre. Mr. Alan noted he was supporting a Theatre and Arts District designation for the City, on North Main, noting these districts were a great way of bringing people into the City. He had sixteen signed petitions from businesses showing support for naming the area the Theatre and Arts District; Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Alan for appearing.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on April 5, 2022, and Regular Work Session held on April 5, 2022, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING DANVILLE CITY CODE REGARDING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION AND DEFERRAL FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Real Estate Tax Exemption. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 19, 2022 and April 26, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING SECTION 37-62, ENTITLED “GENERAL RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS” AND SECTION 37-66, ENTITLED “AMOUNT OF EXEMPTION AND/OR DEFERRAL” OF ARTICLE IV, ENTITLED “REAL ESTATE AND MOBILE HOME TAX EXEMPTION AND DEFERRAL FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS,” OF CHAPTER 37, ENTITLED “TAXATION,” OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, 1986, AS AMENDED.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF REZONING 239 EASTWOOD DRIVE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Rezoning 239 Eastwood Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 19, 2022 and April 26, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

May 3, 2022

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.02

AN ORDINANCE REZONING 239 EASTWOOD DRIVE (PARCEL #76494) FROM A-R ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL TO TO-C TRANSITIONAL OFFICE AND PARCEL #'S 76493, 76492, 76307, AND 76306 FROM A-R ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL TO M-I MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIAL.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 126 EAST THOMAS STREET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 126 East Thomas Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 19, 2022 and April 26, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.03

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ22- 45, FILED BY SOAP SUPPLIES LLC, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A DUPLEX RESIDENTIAL DWELLING ACCORDING TO ITEM 2, OF SECTION C., OF ARTICLE 3.E. OF CHAPTER 41, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF THE DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, AT 126 EAST THOMAS STREET (PARCEL ID # 03962).

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT ON DUDLEY STREET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit on Dudley Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 19, 2022 and April 26, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

May 3, 2022

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.04

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ22-50, FILED BY YEON HEE KIM AND HAE CHOI KIM, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR AN ACCESSORY BUILDING OR ACCESSORY USE WITHOUT A PRIMARY BUILDING BEING LOCATED ON THE PARCEL ACCORDING TO ITEM 23., OF SECTION C., OF ARTICLE 3.E. OF CHAPTER 41., OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, ON DUDLEY STREET (PARCEL ID #'S 25094 AND 25091).

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

In response to Mr. Whittle, Mr. Plachcinski explained there were several properties behind the Bentto Japanese Restaurant on South Main. The owners built a small deck with some access from their parking lot on the properties they own on Dudley Street behind the restaurant.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF A ZONING CODE AMENDMENT REGARDING PARKING SPACE SIZE INSIDE BUILDINGS AND ON BUILDING ROOFS

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Zoning Code Amendment. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 19, 2022 and April 26, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 41 ENTITLED "ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO ADD AN ITEM 5., TO SECTION D., OF ARTICLE 8., ESTABLISHING THAT INSIDE BUILDINGS AND ON BUILDING ROOFS, THE MINIMUM PARKING SPACE WIDTH IS EIGHT (8') FEET SIX (6") INCHES AND THE MINIMUM DEPTH IS 18'.

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

In response to Mr. Whittle, Mr. Plachcinski explained inside a building, a parking deck or on a roof of a building or parking deck, this allows a narrowing and shortening of parking spaces. The guidebook on designing parking suggests that inside these areas it was okay to have smaller parking spots. Vice Mayor Miller questioned the average SUV and Mr. Plachcinski stated the study noted that even with larger SUVs, they navigate these spaces better, and people were more careful.

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

May 3, 2022

VOTE: 8-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, and Vogler (8)
NAY: Whittle (1)

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE ZONING CODE FOR ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Amending the Zoning Code. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 19, 2022 and April 26, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 41, ENTITLED, "ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, BY REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY THE EXISTING SECTION C. ENTITLED, "ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT", OF ARTICLE 2. ENTITLED, "GENERAL REGULATIONS", WITH A NEW SECTION C. ENTITLED, "VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT", AND REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY SECTION X. ENTITLED, "VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES", OF SAME SAID ARTICLE 2.

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

Mr. Plachcinski explained the City's zoning code doesn't really prescribe the steps for zoning code enforcement; staff pulled language from other cities' codes, such as Lynchburg and Roanoke. It explains the City's responsibilities enforcing the zoning code, the property owner's rights when it comes to enforcing the zoning code and the third thing it does was convert zoning code penalties from being criminal to civil. This allows them to be enforced through the City Attorney's office rather than relying on the Commonwealth's Attorney.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE ZONING CODE FOR CAMPGROUND STANDARDS

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Amending the Zoning Code. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 19, 2022 and April 26, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.07

May 3, 2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING, REPEALING, AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 41. ENTITLED, "ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 2.AA "CAMPGROUNDS", IN ARTICLE 2. "GENERAL REGULATIONS", AMENDING ARTICLE 3.A: - SR-R, SANDY RIVER RESIDENTIAL AMENDING ARTICLE 3.B: - T-R, THRESHOLD RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, REPEALING AND REORDAINING THE DEFINITIONS FOR "CAMPGROUNDS" AND "CAMPING UNITS" IN ARTICLE 15, "DEFINITIONS" TO REFERENCE THE VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

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

Mr. Plachcinski explained the zoning ordinance had a definition for campground and camping unit, but it did not assign any locations in the city for such uses; this ordinance allows campgrounds and camping units in the Sandy River Residential and Threshold Residential Districts by special use permit.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 School Budget. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 22, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-05.01

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

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

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-05.02

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FOR WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMUNITIES.

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

May 3, 2022

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

**BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022
BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR SCHOOL BONDS**

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell and **second** by Council Member Vogler, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05.08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY ANTICIPATING THE PROCEEDS FROM THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND APPROPRIATING SAME FOR ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

ROLL CALL

Council Member Campbell thanked Caesars, City Council and the Ministerial Alliance which allowed them to speak on this situation. They had a meeting in the back, a lot of good questions were asked and discussed, and they were looking forward to moving forward in Danville.

Council Member Hood noted last Thursday he had the honor of being asked by the Governor's office to read a letter of acknowledgement to Mr. Ralph Lang and staff from God's Final Call Ministries for the outstanding work on food banks throughout the community.

Council Member Mayo stated to all those who came and presented, it was a wealth of knowledge, and to know that so much was going on in the City. Mr. Mayo encouraged citizens to come out and participate in the Mutt Strutt in support of the PCCA.

Vice Mayor Miller noted there was a Utility Commission meeting last week, and the good news was the battery storage project, despite supply issues, looks like it will be opening on July 1st of this year; this will help with the peak flow in the City. Dr. Miller noted the bad news was natural gas, the prices have more than doubled over the past year due to increased demand, decreased production and the conflict in Europe. Jason Grey, the Director of Utilities has done a good job of contracting fixed rates and they were doing everything they could to keep the cost down. Dr. Miller encouraged citizens to continue to take precautions against COVID.

Council Member Saunders expressed his condolences for the family of Ms. Linda Smith Massey, a former school teacher; her late husband Sammy Massey was a principal at Langston, and asked Council to pray for their family. Mr. Saunders noted he has had people contact him from Seminole Drive and again from Midland Street; people were still speeding through the neighborhood. The City had a reduce sign on Midland and thinks that helped, but he was still getting some complaints.

May 3, 2022

Mr. Saunders thanked Bryant Hood for all that he has done promoting the City and bringing all kinds of talent here, he has been doing this for years, and thanked Mayor Jones, for all the good he does for the City.

Council Member Vogler thanked the Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk for the work they do, to make sure the Council agenda gets put together and gets out to all Council, usually about a week in advance, which gives Council plenty of time to review it, do research on it and make sure they were ready to come to Council and do the work.

Council Member Whittle noted he appreciated all the Mayor does. Mr. Whittle stated they went to an event at the Institute for the students that were graduating, it was part of the STEM program; it was great to see that work. To the School Board and Superintendent, Council puts their trust in them, and they want to do whatever they can to help make it work correctly. Make Danville Shine was wonderful to help clean up your house and yard.

Council Member Buckner noted their trip to Richmond, their dear friend Hakim Abdul was riding with them. Every time you saw him he was full of joy, life and love. Mr. Buckner noted he googled something that he hopes brings some peace and comfort to his family; this was very commonly said at Muslim funerals, noting he has family members and friends who were Muslim, and it says, *Surely we belong to Allah and to him we shall return. Almighty Allah, dwell in him, so lose not heart nor despair.* Hakim Abdul touched lives in Danville, he was a very gentle man. Mr. Buckner noted he looked forward to seeing everyone this weekend at the kick off to the Make Danville Shine event at the community market.

Mayor Jones noted his thanks to all the speakers that came tonight, and thanked the Council Members for the work they do. School graduations were about to start and noted his congratulations to all the graduates, a Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, and encouraged citizens to celebrate their mothers.

The meeting adjourned at: 9:31 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK