

March 1, 2022

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on March 1, 2022, at 8:24 p.m. in Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. Council Members present were: James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo Jones, Barry P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

Staff Members present were: City Manager Ken Larking, Deputy City Manager Earl B. Reynolds, Jr., City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi.

Mayor Jones presided.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Hood, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on February 1, 2022 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

CONSIDERATION OF RENAMING STONEWALL RECREATION CENTER TO CAMP GROVE COMMUNITY CENTER

Vice Mayor Miller noted some time ago, Tommy Bennett and he discussed renaming the Stonewall Recreation Center to the Camp Grove Community Center; that was their proposal tonight for Council to consider. Mayor Jones noted they were proposing not to name it after a particular person, but name it the Camp Grove Community Center.

Council Members noted their agreement and to put it on an upcoming business agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Director of Economic Development Corrie Bobe noted Dr. Miller had shared marketing materials he collected from other communities as examples of what Danville should be doing in order to promote their assets. Several months ago, Lisa Meriweather started as the City's new tourism manager; she has been working at building a new tourism program for both Danville and Pittsylvania County. In addition to the advertising that has taken place since she started, she has been very active in engaging various organizations in the City and the County, building special programs and applying for grant funding to better promote these assets. Based on Dr. Miller's request on enhancing marketing efforts, Ms. Bobe stated she wanted to share the five publications the City has been printed in; they have also has purchased space in this year's Virginia travel guide, and they gave Danville the cover feature of the Southern Virginia section, for the Food Truck Rodeo.

Ms. Bobe explained the City was going through a strategic plan where they have sent out and received proposals for consultants to guide the City through a regional tourism strategic plan as well as a regional tourism branding strategy. They finished the final interviews and will come back to Council with an update on who the selected consultants were and their timeline for beginning the process. Ms. Bobe questioned if a quarterly update from the Tourism Director be helpful for Council to keep track of how the program was growing, and Council indicated it would.

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Ms. Bobe noted they were starting a citywide branding process as well as the redesign of the city seal. They received five proposals from consultants last week and will be revealing those; the top three consultants will come back in March for interviews.

The Mayor had shared the Ma's Cakes opening and Ms. Bobe stated she wanted to give a special shout out to Kelvin Perry who has been with the City for about 4-5 years; this was the second project that he started working on while here. Economic Development does not happen overnight and every step of the way, from connecting them with the Longwood Small Business Development Center, encouraging them to participate in the Dream Launch Program, guiding them in their process of selecting a contractor, and guiding them through the process of seeking out financing for the project; he was there every step of the way as they established their opening.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted Council received a few emails from him, one was to invite Council to some groundbreakings that Danville Public Schools was conducting. The first was March 16th at 2:00 p.m. for the groundbreaking at Langston School; all Council Members were encouraged to attend. The other was the groundbreaking for the track on March 22nd at noon, the Mayor has been invited to speak at both events.

Mr. Larking explained he would be calling each Council Member to discuss the other email regarding the challenges of the City's payroll system; it had a couple issues that need to be corrected in order to be more efficient and to follow best practices. The City was implementing a new system and there was an opportunity to make things right, but it poses some challenges.

Mayor Jones noted there has been a young man that has been watching Council and has moved to the community; Tommy Bennett introduced Brandon Cardwell. Mr. Cardwell stated he was from Connecticut and moved to Danville about a year ago; it has been a pleasure to see how the City operates, to witness the meetings and great staff. He was happy to see all the great things come to the City; a city on the rise, setting itself up for long term success.

Council Member Miller advised Council Members that it was the time of year to evaluate their three employees, the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk; they will be receiving information in the next week.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:39 p.m., Vice Mayor Miller **moved** that this meeting of the City Council of the City of Danville, Virginia be recessed and that Council immediately reconvene in a Closed Meeting for the following purposes: discussion or consideration of the acquisition and/or disposition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely impact the bargaining position of the City as permitted by Subsection A(3) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, and more specifically to consider a discussion regarding the sale and/or potential purchase of a specific parcel of property for use by prospective industrial, commercial, and mixed use projects looking to locate in the City; and an Economic Development discussion and update concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made and/or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made as permitted by Subsection (A)(5) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider: an update on multiple prospective commercial, mixed use, and industrial projects considering locating within the City and/or locating within the region in cooperation with the City's regional partners; and

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consultation with the legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice to such council as permitted by Subsection (A)(8) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended.

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

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

Upon unanimous vote at 9:26 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of the following Resolution:

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Council convened in Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a Certification by the Council that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each Member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of Virginia Law under Section 2.2-3711 were heard, discussed or considered, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Committee.

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

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:27 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK