

February 1, 2022

The Regular February meeting of the Danville City Council was held on February 1, 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 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 F. Larking, Deputy City Manager Earl B. Reynolds, Jr., City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones asked Council Member Saunders to go to the podium and noted he wanted to honor Council Member Saunders for all he has given the community. Mayor Jones discussed Mr. Saunders' work with Pittsylvania County Community Action, on City Council, and the Boards he has served on. Tommy Bennett, President of the Danville Chapter of the NAACP presented Mr. Saunders with the NAACP Man of the Year Award. Council Member Saunders invited members of his bike group to the podium. Doc Brown, president of the club, noted Mr. Saunders always encouraged their group to participate in events around the City and get involved; they were honored to have him in their group. Mr. Saunders thanked the Mayor, Council, Tommy Bennett, Danville Public Schools and everyone attending.

Mayor Jones asked Dr. Hairston and Dr. Mickels to come forward and presented them with City Seal pins; Dr. Mickels thanked Council, and noted she looked forward to working with them. Dr. Hairston thanked Council and stated she felt the support of City Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Jones recognized Austin Scher, General Manager of the Danville Otterbots who noted they have had a great first ten months and continue to look forward, with a goal of being a community champion, and being visible both at the ballpark and events in the community. They wanted to focus on entertainment and a ballpark that was welcoming, inviting and fun not just for the people that lived there, but the people that would eventually be coming to visit the City. Mr. Scher reviewed the organizations they have partnered with, and celebrations and events they hosted. In the last eleven months, they have put together both cash and in-kind donations of over \$100,000 to local organizations, provided almost 270 hours of community service, and have attended and hosted over 95 events. Mr. Scher noted he was proud to be a member of the After-Hours Rotary Club, Danville Public Schools Education Foundation Board, and was the 2021-22 United Way Campaign Chair. They partnered with Danville Public Schools, putting bat and ball sports back on the PE curriculum for elementary school students. They have a reading program kicking off in the spring where every elementary, and both middle schools, will receive presentations encouraging students to read 360 minutes minimum over the course of the summer, and get prizes along the way. They want to be part of the development of the community and education of the students moving forward. Council Members thanked Mr. Scher for his presentation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Kimberly Baldrige, Executive Director for Danville Pittsylvania County Habitat for Humanity, who was there with several board members, including Charles Crumpler, Deborah Sievert and Barry Richmond. Ms. Baldrige discussed the beginning of the construction

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of Habitat Village North, in late March of this year. This neighborhood will house up to thirty homes and will include a community space. This was a significant program for DPHH due to the positive impact it will have for those thirty families in the community by offering them a decent place to live. In the last thirty years they have built forty seven houses in Danville and Pittsylvania County and have renovated five; that has helped over two hundred family members. Ms. Baldrige discussed the timeline to build all the homes and would love to have them all done in ten to fifteen years. In response to Mr. Whittle, Ms. Baldrige explained they have a partnership with Danville Community College on the HVAC program. Council Members thanked Ms. Baldrige and Mr. Crumpler for coming and letting the citizens know what Habitat was doing.

Mayor Jones recognized Rusty Lovell from Southside Area Tennis Association who wanted to let Council know what their organization has accomplished since its inception over the last four years. SATA was a nonprofit with a mission to build character, community, academic success and active living through tennis. Mr. Lovell explained they put free racket bins at all the public courts in the area at GW, Ballou Park, Bonner Middle School, that any kid can access, borrow and put back when they were done. SATA was approved to go in all the DPS schools, to reach kids at the elementary and middle school age levels; they saw 400 kids each week for tennis and educational enrichment in the PE classes. They started a program last year at DCC to teach tennis to twenty underserved youth; they provided 7,620 books to the Danville Public Schools last summer and provided scholarships for underserved youth and adults. They also work with Parks & Rec to serve youth in their after-school programs. They will have a tennis camp targeting kids in the public schools who weren't going on vacation during spring break. Mayor Jones noted he has seen them taking kids from the Housing Authority over to DCC to play on Tuesdays and he appreciated that. Council Members thanked Mr. Lovell for his work in the community.

Mayor Jones recognized Tommy Bennett who thanked the Mayor and City Council Members who attended the kickoff of Danville becoming a member of the United States Civil Rights Trail.

Mayor Jones recognized Robert David, Youth and Gang Prevention Coordinator, and noted Danville's Project Imagine has been recognized nationally. Mr. David explained the Urban Institute did a study starting in 2018 and completed in 2021, of innovative community violence intervention programs across the country; Project Imagine Danville was one of the programs in the study. From the study, a guide was created, they choose fourteen models from the United States and Danville was one of them. Anyone in the country, any municipality who was struggling with gang violence or something like that, can take that guide and pick one of those models. There were a lot of smaller cities that can take what Danville has done and apply those principals.

Mayor Jones recognized Jamie Brown, Greensboro, NC, a general contractor who was in Danville looking at a project. Mr. Brown noted he was on the Habitat Board of Greater Greensboro, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and was looking to possibly set up an office in Danville.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 4, 2022, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING CHAPTER 41 OF THE DANVILLE CITY CODE TO ADDRESS DIFFERENTIAL YARDS ON CORNER LOTS

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Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Amending Chapter 41 of the Danville City Code. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 18, 2022, and January 25, 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. 2022-02.01

AMENDING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 41, ENTITLED "ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, MORE SPECIFICALLY VARIOUS SECTIONS AND SUBSECTIONS OF ARTICLE 2, ENTITLED "GENERAL REGULATIONS", ARTICLE 3, ENTITLED "ZONING DISTRICTS, AND ARTICLE 15, ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS" TO ADDRESS DIFFERENTIAL YARDS ON CORNER LOTS.

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 REZONING 1113 FRANKLIN TURNPIKE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Rezoning 1113 Franklin Turnpike. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 18, 2022, and January 25, 2022. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02.02

REZONING 1113 FRANKLIN TURNPIKE PARCEL ID #70166 AND THE TWO ADJOINING PARCELS ON EITHER SIDE IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL ID #70046 AND PARCEL ID #70167 FROM N-C NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TO "CONDITIONAL" HR-C HIGHWAY RETAIL COMMERCIAL.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Buckner 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 AMENDING CHAPTER 41 OF DANVILLE CITY CODE REGARDING MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSING FACILITIES

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Amending Chapter 41 of Danville City Code. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 18, 2022, and January 25, 2022. Mayor Jones recognized Jon Puvak, attorney for the applicant, who noted this was a continuation of what City Council did back in July. They continued to refine their plans and gave a presentation to the Planning Commission; they received their support and

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were asking for Council's approval. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02.03

AMENDING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 41, ENTITLED "ZONING ORDINANCE" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, REMOVING CANNABIS DISPENSING FACILITIES AS PERMITTED USES IN THE N-C ZONING DISTRICT, ALLOWING CANNABIS DISPENSING FACILITIES AS PERMITTED USES ONLY IN THE HR-C ZONING DISTRICT, AND AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF CANNABIS DISPENSING FACILITIES TO INCLUDE ALL CANNABIS PRODUCTS.

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

Council Member Whittle questioned if it was a permitted use only in the HR-C zoning district, would that be in areas like the River District, which was a Tobacco Warehouse District. Director of Planning Doug Plachcinski explained this Ordinance would not allow it in any of the properties in the River District unless they were zoned HR-C; he was not aware of any that were.

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

CONSIDERATION OF RELEASING THE EXISTING LIEN AND ASSOCIATED COLLECTION COSTS AFFECTING PARCEL #25163 ON GRAY STREET

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02.01

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CITY-HELD LIEN AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #25163 GRAY STREET TO FACILITATE ITS SALE.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR STATE AVIATION CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02.04

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL STATE AVIATION FUNDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING RENOVATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$834,929 PLUS THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$227,321 TO BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS 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 FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING GRANT FUNDS

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO ANTICIPATE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING EFFORTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,124.00 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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.

Council Member Mayo noted it was a great night seeing so many coming out to introduce so many things to the citizens. Mr. Mayo congratulated Mr. Saunders on all his achievements, it was good to see what Habitat was doing and all the things going on in the City.

Vice Mayor Miller congratulated Mr. Saunders on his award. Dr. Miller noted with the passage of the school bond referendum, they were moving ahead with plans to renovate and upgrade the school system. Dr. Hairston gave a talk on Langston and GWHS; she did an excellent job outlining what benefits there would be for the neighborhoods. Dr. Miller noted in a welcome center he visited returning from Tennessee, there were many pamphlets from places like Martinsville, Galax, Blacksburg, but nothing from Danville; that was something the City needed to look into.

Council Member Saunders thanked the NAACP for the recognition; he and his wife were very proud to be lifelong members. Mr. Saunders thanked the Mayor for his gift, and recognized members of his biker club.

Council Member Vogler noted there was a great representation of Danville at the meeting tonight. It was exciting because there were a lot of people in Chambers that had done so many great things for the City and the region, and were continuing to do so. Mr. Vogler noted he has had people ask him about the bike share program. The City had a new company come in, and the program has been used 3,078 times in the last eleven months with 1,220 active users; it was doing very well. Mr. Vogler noted scooters were in town now and asked the City Manager to give a quick overview for the citizens.

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Mr. Larking explained the Bird Scooter Program approached the City, and Mr. Larking recognized Ryan Dodson from the City Attorney's office for taking point on the agreement with Bird to be allowed to operate within the City limits. It was basically a right of way use agreement; they can be located in certain areas and were starting out slowly to see how it goes. Part of the agreement was that the City will share revenues the company received from users.

Council Member Whittle noted it was a good learning experience sitting next to Mr. Saunders when he first came onto Council and appreciated his advice over the years.

Council Member Buckner noted he has learned a lot from Council Member Saunders; he was a wealth of knowledge, was always there to help and thanked him for helping him on Council. Mr. Buckner noted the last two items on the agenda, Item E was for a budget appropriation for the upfit to the Airport; there were a lot of other companies using the Airport from all over the world and he was very happy to see this coming about. The other item was the Recycling ordinance; Mr. Buckner noted in the near future he would like Council to bring up in a work session, the possibility of offering recycling to businesses in the area.

Council Member Campbell noted tonight was an interesting night, seeing where Danville was going; it was exciting. Council has come together as a team to move the City forward, but he wanted to make sure prosperity was shared in all areas of the community. Mr. Campbell noted his congratulations to Mr. Saunders for his recognition; he has learned so much from him.

Council Member Hood noted this has been a great night for the City and recognized Mrs. Saunders and the motorcycle club, Tommy Bennett, Southside Area Tennis Association, the Otterbots, Habitat for Humanity, and the Danville Museum being added to the Civil Rights Trail. Mr. Hood noted Mr. Saunders and Mayor Jones have influenced him to be of service to the City, and thanked them for their help; he would continue to learn from Council Members.

Mayor Jones recognized members of the Danville Public Schools and thanked everyone who attended tonight. Mayor Jones stated, people never know what a person was going through, and encouraged citizens to reach out to someone, listen to them, and ask how they can help.

ADJOURNED: 8:36 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK