

January 15, 2019

The Second Regular January meeting of the Danville City Council was held on January 15, 2019, 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., Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, Vice Mayor J. Lee Vogler, Jr., Adam J. Tomer and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Fred O. Shanks, III was absent. (1)

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 Council Member Sherman M. Saunders; the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Jones recognized Stuart Sutphin of the Danville Cooperative Extension who gave Council a report for 2018. Mr. Sutphin explained he worked primarily in the horticulture role and at W.W. Moore they have a greenhouse set up to teach the children various skills related to horticulture as a job skill. They also do pesticide safety training, have a Master Gardener program that works at the greenhouse at Gibson Elementary School teaching children about plants, and a Spring Fling Horticulture Symposium which brings in between 150-250 people each year. Mr. Sutphin noted they have served over 2,000 people in various capacities, have presented forty-three formal horticulture education programs, master gardener volunteers contributed approximately 2800 hours of their time and worked with approximately 3,000 area residents. Mr. Sutphin noted he has been in his position for the past eighteen years, will be retiring in May, and introduced the new unit coordinator who will be taking his place, Mr. Daniel Hale. Mr. Hale noted he would be giving two reports, the first for his colleague for Family, Consumer Sciences, and Nutrition Program with results showing of the youth who participated, 90% learned the importance of eating a healthy diet, 89% learned how to make healthy food choices, 85% reported that they ate more fruit and vegetables, 81% ate more whole grains, 75% ate less junk foods, 86% drank more water, and 95% encouraged their family to eat meals together. This was the goal of the program, not only to educate the youth but also get the youth to educate the adults they are with. Mr. Hale explained he serves the youth working with the school system, primarily with Bonner Middle School and Park Avenue Elementary to identify what needs they have. Currently he does STEM enrichment at Bonner, a reality store program where he teaches budgeting, financing and making life decisions, works with Park Avenue doing team building and communication, and also works with the Danville 4H Leadership Club, and does Junior 4H Camp. Mr. Hale noted he works with other community agencies such as the Boys & Girls Club, and City Parks & Rec with their afterschool program at Coates. In response to Mayor Jones, Mr. Hale explained he facilitates the science fair at Park Avenue Elementary School, and lets them participate in the 4H competition side of it. Those who scored high enough at Park Avenue were invited to participate at the district contest, which is competing against all the elementary schools in the twenty five counties that represent the central district of the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Out of those twenty-five counties, Park Avenue elementary had six students that took home the purple ribbon, meaning they beat the rest of the competition in the district in their categories and entries.

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Mayor Jones invited Mr. Sutphin back up and stated he has had the pleasure of working with him many times, congratulated him on his retirement and thanked him for all he has done for the City and the community. Council members thanked Mr. Sutphin for all he has done over the years.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Kelly Clay, Marketing Manager for SOVAH, who came before Council asking their support for the third annual Danville Heart Gala, to be held on February 9th, at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The event is to raise awareness for heart disease, and education on heart health. This year all proceeds will go back to the local youth. High school seniors in the State of Virginia have to be CPR certified before they graduate; money that is raised from the event will go back to buy CPR equipment for the schools and any AEDs the school may need. Ms. Clay encouraged Council and citizens to attend the event; Council Members thanked Ms. Clay.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 18, 2018 were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – DESIGNATING ASHLAWN VIEW, LLC, AS EXEMPT FROM LOCAL REAL PROPERTY TAXATION

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding an Exemption from Local Real Property Taxation. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 8, 2019. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-01.02

AN ORDINANCE EXEMPTING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ASHLAWN VIEW, INC. FROM LOCAL REAL PROPERTY TAXATION.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

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ROLL CALL

Council Member Miller noted next Monday was Martin Luther King Day and there were plenty of events planned; the March Against Violence will be Sunday night. Dr. Miller stated he went to Richmond on Monday and met with the coalition for the convention center and casino; Delegate Marshall spoke about the benefits to the Southside. All the representatives that spoke mentioned the importance of a referendum, letting the people decide if they want a casino in their area. Later, he met with Senator Ruff whose district includes part of Danville, and pointed out the benefits and the taxes that will be coming from this; there will be benefits to the surrounding communities and the entire Southside. Senator Ruff is on the Rules Committee which will be hearing all the gaming issues on Friday; there is still a long way to go on this issue.

Council Member Tomer noted he would like to recognize a special guest, his daughter who just turned seven. Mr. Tomer noted it was important to get children and family involved in local government at an early age.

Vice Mayor Vogler recognized his special guest, his mother. Vice Mayor Vogler stated he would like Council to discuss an Airbnb locality agreement, in terms of the way the revenue is collected. Mr. Vogler noted with regard to the casino, Council discussed it at the last meeting and Dr. Miller gave a great report. Council continues to get feedback from people, the majority of which is positive in support of it; it is now out of City Council's hands, it is in the hands of the legislators in Richmond. If citizens feel passionately about it, they can contact Senator Bill Stanley and Senator Frank Ruff and let them know how they feel. Mr. Vogler noted he trusts the voters of Danville; if this comes back to a referendum, the citizens will be able to vote on this. Mr. Vogler noted the City had a lot of good news last week, with some positive momentum about the White Mill, and the old Register & Bee Building has been sold to Ed Walker; the City is very excited about this particular project and what may lie ahead.

Council Member Whittle questioned the City Manager if he had spoken with Kathy Milam about the Sutherlin Mansion; Mr. Larking stated he has spoken with her and will follow up with her again. Mr. Whittle noted the retention pond on Orchard, when the water came up on the last rain, still had debris. The City crews were still down clearing it up, there should be an easier solution for that retention pond.

Council Member Buckner reminded citizens the Heart Gala at the hospital is Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to midnight, at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. Tickets are \$75 a person and citizens can contact Kelly Clay at 434-799-4260; Mr. Buckner encouraged citizens to attend. Mr. Buckner noted to the Sports Tourism Board, there is a local gentleman who has done baseball tournaments and would like to be a part of it, Mr. Sean Wesley.

Council Member Campbell questioned the City Manager when the bypass would be completed; Mr. Larking noted the latest he has heard is that VDOT is hoping to have two lanes of traffic on the southbound side starting later this week, or early next week, depending on the weather. They are creating a barrier for the traffic; once that is in place, it may be congested, but it will be better than a detour through the City. They have been working on the actual issue itself which are a couple sinkholes due to deteriorating pipes, that project is in the two to three month timeframe. Mr. Campbell questioned if there has been an impact on the roads in the City with the detour and Mr. Larking stated they believe there has been some impact,

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there has been more travel on the roads. Mr. Campbell noted the Martin Luther King activities begin Friday, the March is on Sunday and the Omega Phi Psi breakfast on Monday morning.

Mayor Jones wished Ms. Tomer a Happy Belated Birthday and thanked her for being at Council tonight, and thanked Mrs. Vogler for attending. Mayor Jones congratulated the City Attorney's daughter and asked him to share that good news. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield explained his daughter is a special ed teacher in Goochland County and today she received a congratulations and thank you letter from the Governor of Virginia. Mayor Jones noted his congratulations to Mr. Whitfield's daughter and thanked citizens for attending tonight's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/ Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/ Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK