

January 4, 2022

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on January 4, 2022 at 7:46 p.m. in Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. Council Members present were: Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo Jones, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (6). James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., and Barry P. Mayo were absent (3).

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

Mayor Jones presided.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Saunders and **second** by Council Member Vogler, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on December 7, 2021 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING PARCELS #20600, #20617 AND #22262 ON STOKES STREET

Council had no questions regarding this agenda item and agreed to put it on an upcoming business agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN LICENSE ON PARCELS #05001 AND #05005

Council had no questions regarding this agenda item and agreed to put it on an upcoming business agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF THE SALE OF A VACANT LOT ON FOX HOLLOW DRIVE

Council had no questions regarding this agenda item and agreed to put it on an upcoming business agenda.

DISCUSSION ON A NEW PROCEDURE FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BRING SUGGESTIONS TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION

Vice Mayor Miller noted they were thinking of how to bring suggestions of Council Members to staff, and not do it unexpectedly, in order to help the City Manager, Deputy City Manager and staff by bringing an item to them first before presenting it at a public meeting. They may not know the particulars of a situation and may need to study it first. Mayor Jones noted he spoke with Vice Mayor Miller regarding this and suggested to the Council Members that they bring their ideas back to the next Work Session when all the Council Members were present, on how Council wants to go forward with this.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Director of Economic Development Corrie Bobe noted each year the City submits their Community and Economic Development Strategy Priority Projects to the West Piedmont Planning

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District Commission to submit along with regional projects to the EDA. This item will be on an upcoming agenda.

Ms. Bobe explained the City will be going through a rebranding process and their office was finalizing the RFP which will go out for prospective consultants to bid on. Staff requested proposals be back by February 11th with the expectation that they will enter into a contract by the middle of March. This will include new taglines and a logo for the City, but they were not changing the River District tagline or logo. The City Manager has asked to have the consultant evaluate a mission statement for the City and they will also address the concerns of representatives of the community who spoke at the last City Council meeting, to include re-evaluating the City Seal.

Mr. Vogler noted the City Auditorium renovations were listed on the Priority Projects list; Council had looked at this several years ago and he thought that the result was that building had a lot of issues that renovations would not make usable. Ms. Bobe explained it was listed, and had been listed for the past several years, in case there was a decision to move forward with it. If it was not on the list then the City could not apply for any grant funding to help offset the costs.

Ms. Bobe noted in December, Governor Northam made an announcement related to the proposed budget including funding for industrial site development, \$100M toward Mega Site projects as well as \$50M towards mid-sized projects; that was part of a proposed budget and has not been approved. Ms. Bobe stated they needed to make sure they kept their elected officials at the state level aware of their support for this budget moving forward toward approval.

CLOSED MEETING

At 7:46 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 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.

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

VOTE:	6-0-3
AYE:	Hood, Jones, Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (6)
NAY:	None (0)
ABSENT:	Buckner, Campbell, Mayo (3)

Upon unanimous vote at 8:06 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of the following Resolution:

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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 Whittle and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 6-0-3
AYE: Hood, Jones, Miller, Saunders,
Vogler and Whittle (6)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Buckner, Campbell, Mayo (3)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK